Acknowledgment

I am very grateful to many people who have been helping me during the last three years of editorial work. But there are a number of persons who inspired and supported me most, and I want to refer to them in particular. Kristin Klinger was one of my angels. I want to thank her for trusting me, for accepting me as a collaborator, and for introducing me to Ms. Heather Probst. Kristin, without your trust, this project would never have been started. Heather, you are the other angel who has been watching over me, and encouraged me, and made me confident that I can do what I had to do. Your emotional support was superb and I will always be grateful for it. Without your efforts to support me, this editorial project would never have been possible.

I must say that Kristin Klinger and Heather Probst got me into the editorial activity that results today in this book. Other people, like IGI Global team members, colleagues, collaborators, authors, and guest editors, helped me along the way and I want to express my gratitude to them all. In the beginning of 2009, I had the opportunity to start an editorial project together with IGI Global, which was something that made me feel good and somehow important. I was very confident that I would be able to handle it, based on my previous 6 years experience in the area of managing academic journals, but the true challenge came along with the suggested topic for the new journal. When Kristin Klinger mentioned “Innovation in the Digital Economy,” I suddenly realized that things are not always that easy in life and that I was given the opportunity to take the challenge and to get into a new world and understanding, or to leave it and keep staying in my comfortable and often “easy to be theoretically understood” universe. I would like to have enough reasons to tell you that it was the courage that triggered me into the acceptance of the challenge, but looking back in time, I must admit that it was a kind of unconsciousness that made me focus on administrative details and not on the essence of what was going to begin. Nearly three years later, I can accept that managing the International Journal of Innovation in the Digital Economy challenged many things: my values in life, my understanding of the new trends in Economics, my interaction with the authors I was working with, as well as my whole perspective about how to run an editorial activity. For all these, I must thank all the people, known and unknown, who taught me that the real world is very often different than the world that we economists think it would be; that the simplicity of our theoretical approaches is actually stressed, challenged, or at least flavored by human feelings, hopes, pains and other valuable things that usually we don’t take into consideration as being uncomfortable and difficult to be captured in our standard models. The people I am going to write about in the preface, as well as their contributions to the International Journal of Innovation in the Digital Economy, are part of a world in which not only the scientific result is important, but also its impact on the society.
I want to thank Jamie Wilson, Greg Snader, Erika Carter, and many other IGI – Global team members, who worked hard to launch issue after issue of the first volume, and to promote the journal. I want to express my gratitude for the three very special collaborators, Subhajit Basu, Rohan Kariyawasam, and Stephen Mutula, as well as to all the authors who contributed with their knowledge to this book.

Before starting to present each chapter, it should be mentioned that in obtaining the majority of the scientific material included here, I felt fortunate to be able to rely on three good and very special friends. I will mention them in alphabetic order, as my heart cannot make a hierarchy based on other considerations. They are: Subhajit Basu, Rohan Kariyawasam, and Stephen Mutula. I met them all in September 2007, in Warwick, with the occasion of a conference in Digital Divide. Rohan had just published a book about the subject, and during the workshop where our chapters had been included, we discussed in detail some of the main challenges that he had had to face along the way. Rohan, I will never forget your humbleness, your modesty, and your deep respect for all those who had something to suggest you as further research topics. Stephen came from his country after a long trip and with many efforts. I will never forget his eyes. They were big, warm and determined. He was there with the main goal to get knowledge for his people, to share with us problems and concerns linked to the reality at his place, and to look together with us for solutions. The hope that I felt in your heart, Stephen, enlightened me in many difficult moments as the editor of this journal as well as a human being. I often told myself that if you had the courage to have faith for a better living for your co – nationals, for your students, for your society, I had no reason to complain for my own (unimportant) difficulties. Subhajit, your valuable scientific imprint inspired us, and many collaborators of the journal began to come from your country to contribute and to let the world know how your people deal with the new era of digitalization. Your support was incredible, and over the years you have been a permanent presence and a valuable gift, both for me as an editor and for the journal’s readers. About half of the chapters included in this book were selected by Stephen and Subhajit, who were guest editors of the International Journal of Innovation in the Digital Economy for two special issues in Digital Divide. For this reason I will preserve the description they provided for the contents of those chapters in the editorial preface.

Elena Druică
Universitatea București, Romania