Acknowledgment

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour and Jan Travers, whose enthusiasm motivated us to accept their invitation for taking on this project, for the opportunity they have given us.

Special thanks also go to all the staff at IGI Global, whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular, to Joel A. Gamon, Development Manager, and Myla R. Merkel, Development Editor, for their help in advising us how to solve some problems and for their guidance and professional support. As well, we thank our first assigned Assistant Development Editors, Hannah Abelbeck and Christine Bufton.

Most of the authors of the chapters included in this book also served as referees for articles written by other authors, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed. Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews.

Once again, as editors we would like to thank all the contributing authors for their excellent papers and patience with the process. Making this kind of compilation is a huge responsibility and involves people with very different experiences and analyses.

Finally, we want to thank our families and friends for their love and support throughout this project.

Patricia Ordoñez de Pablos
University of Oviedo, Spain

Héctor Oscar Nigro
Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Robert D. Tennyson
University of Minnesota, USA

Sandra Elizabeth González Cisaro
Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Waldemar Karwowski
University of Central Florida, USA

May 2012