Acknowledgment

I have been teaching Enterprise Integration courses at Penn State since 2001. I am truly grateful for students who attended my classes at Penn State. I am sure that some class discussions, examples, and students’ course works and projects contributed to part of the contents of this book. In addition, the textbooks used over the years in my taught courses also stimulated my thoughts and helped me develop this book. In particular, I am sincerely indebted to Dr. Waseem Roshen for his book entitled “SOA-based Enterprise Integration: A Step-by-Step Guide to Services-based Application Integration,” which provided me a great reference in developing this project. This project was partially supported by US NSF Grants (DMI-0620340, DMI-0734149), Department of Education Grant (08JA630040, China), Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics Endowed Professor Scholarships (1009-905346, 1009-908332), Chinese NSF Grants (70541007, 70772073, 70902026), IBM Faculty Award (2008-2009, China), IBM Grants (SYRTHU5, D07009SUR, JLP201111006-1), and Jiangsu STIA (JSTIA269008).

The author would like to acknowledge the help of all involved in the collation and review process of the book, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed. Special thanks also go to all the staff at IGI Global, Inc., whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular, I am very grateful for Hannah Abelbeck and Austin DeMarco, who continuously prodded via e-mail for keeping the project on schedule and their editorial support and encouragement. I want to thank two anonymous reviewers whose insights and criticisms helped substantially improve the quality of this book.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Lihua Zhang, and children, Lawrence and Jason, for their eternal love and support.

Robin G. Qiu
Pennsylvania State University, USA