It may be hard to believe, but the genesis of this project grew out of a series of questions. In April 2003, Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, Editor-in-Chief at Idea Group Publishing sent me an email asking if I would be interested in working on another project with the group. Since I was already involved in a research project on online assessment, I told him that it would have to wait until next year. Following this exchange, I resumed my work and soon realized that the type of information I needed on online assessment and measurement was not readily available, so I posted a query on a few listservs, asking for reading recommendations on the subject.

Most of the respondents had few titles to offer, and many writers wanted me to give them copies of the information I had compiled. One of the respondents who did offer several suggestions was Scott Howell. Scott provided me with several titles, but admitted that he was also looking for a good publication on the subject. As Scott and I discussed the limitations in research literature, somewhere along the way we talked about putting together our own book on online assessment and measurement. Recalling the earlier request from Idea Group Publishing, I mentioned to Scott that we might have a publisher. And so the project began.

When Scott posted the CFP for chapters, we received numerous responses, and in turn asked Idea Group Publishing if they would be willing to pursue three books on the topic of online assessment and measurement as a series. We had received so many outstanding submissions that it made sense to us to pursue this format. When Dr. Khosrow-Pour agreed, we asked David Williams to become a member of the team. Through Idea Group Publishing’s work and support, Online Assessment and Measurement: Foundations and Challenges became the first volume of the series. The next two books in the series have already been submitted for publication.

We would like to thank Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour for his belief that our prospectus was worthy of publication and for his willingness to pursue the expan-
sion of our initial project. His enthusiasm for the series motivated us throughout the process. I would also like to thank Jan Travers and Michele Rossi, our development editors, who tolerated our incessant e-mails of queries and comments regarding the status of the project. They kept the project on schedule, and we appreciate their patient reminders of all our deadlines. They were also very supportive and helpful throughout the process.

Special thanks goes out to all the staff and publishing team at Idea Group Publishing, whose assistance and efforts throughout the process of this project made us realize the value of collaboration and teamwork. The ongoing professional support from the editorial staff at Idea Group Publishing made this publication possible.

In addition to thanking the staff at Idea Group Publishing for all of their support and assistance, I personally want to thank Scott for all his work in the organization and recruitment of authors to participate in this project. As far as I am concerned, Scott kept the project moving. He is a great project leader and I enjoyed working with him. I also would like to thank David for his willingness to take on the third book in the series.

We both are so impressed with the quality of work our authors have presented and wish to express our gratitude for their excellent contributions to this book. We have learned so much from their insights and research and appreciate their commitment to participate in this project. It has been a privilege for us to work with each of them. Many of the authors that have written chapters are experts in the field of online assessment and measurement. This book also brings together many of the primary researchers of this topic. We are very pleased with the development of this first volume.

We also wish to acknowledge the work and assistance of the reviewers of the chapters. We appreciate their time and participation in the process of selection and revision. We appreciate their suggestions and advice in terms of making final decisions regarding the chapters and other materials needed to complete this project. Having additional readers for these chapters was very important to ensure the accuracy of information and verification of citations.

Scott and I would also like to thank our colleagues at Brigham Young University and Kent State University – Geauga. The support, assistance, and encouragement of our co-workers helped us complete this project. My library staff and Scott’s graduate assistants helped us with a variety of tasks, all necessary to complete this project. We appreciate all the time and efforts of these individuals who make our work so much easier.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the love and support of our families and friends. We greatly appreciate their patient understanding and tolerance during the process of completing this project.

Mary Hricko, Editor