Acknowledgments

Producing a book is like entering a long-term relationship with many partners, contributors, reviewers, editors and publishers. A collaborative project like this can not exist without enormous support and help. Here we acknowledge all those people who we know have directly or indirectly contributed in shaping this book, from stage one to the published form.

We would like to express our warm note of thanks to professor Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, Senior Editor at Idea Group Publishing, who made this project feasible by planting the seed of inspiration.

We wish to thank all the contributors for their excellent contributions and also for providing constructive reviews to enhance the quality of the book. In spite of having tight schedules, authors always responded promptly and enthusiastically to all our requests. However, Professor Ashima Goyal, Professor Luke Ho, Professor Anthony Atkins, Dr. Parthasarathy Banerjee, Professor Dr. Glauco De Vita, Professor Val Samonis and Professor Jurgis Samulevicius need a special mention as their help set the benchmark. Thanks are also due to Professor Ruzic and Professor Alev M. Efendioglu for encouraging us to persist with the project until its successful completion.

The journey on this path over the past two years has been very arduous. Dr. Kehal’s wife, Harbans Kaur Kehal, continued to encourage him to complete the work. His children, Harjinder Singh Kehal, Parminder Kaur and Harcharan Singh Kehal, his son-in-law, Dr. Kanwaljit Singh, and his daughters-in-law, Amanda and Paramdeep, played crucial roles in maintaining a cheerful and happy family atmosphere. Dr. Kehal is fortunate to be blessed with fine grandchildren — Sahil, Simrin, Sohan, Pia, Rohin, Cameron, Tej and Josh — and all of them enjoy the fruits of more and more developments, improvements, refinements and the worldwide spread and adoption of information communication technologies (ICTs) in the past centuries and the current 21st century, as well as they will share in the future benefits of the ICTs with members of the world population in developed and developing countries. Dr. Kehal takes this opportunity to express sincere thanks and gratitude to his family for their moral support, love, patience
and kindness throughout the gestation of this project; without their forbearance, understanding and enthusiasm, it would never have reached fruition.

Varinder P. Singh wishes to express his heartfelt gratitude to his family — his parents, for being the source of great inspiration and immense strength for his accomplishments, and his siblings, Manjinder and Teena, who have been a continuous source of encouragement and unstinting support. Varinder also wishes to acknowledge the understanding and patience of his wife, Dr. Kiran Kaur, during his nearly total absence in the last years as he buried his head into this project. Had it not been for his wife and family, this book would have been merely a dream.

We wish to acknowledge the unselfish help and support provided by friends and well wishers, particularly Dr. Tejpal Singh and Dr. G. S. Sidhu.

Finally, we are deeply indebted to the publishing team at Idea Group Inc., particularly to Jan Travers, Senior Director, and Kristin Roth and Renee Davies, Development Editors, who via their timely e-mails prompted us to always meet the deadlines and keep the project on schedule.