About the Editors

Stewart Marshall (PhD) is the director of the Distance Education Centre at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados. Previously, he was the foundation dean and a professor of the Faculty of Informatics and Communication at the Central Queensland University in Australia. Although originally an electrical engineer with the Central Electricity Generating Board in the UK, Professor Marshall has worked in higher education since 1973 in England, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Swaziland, and now in the Caribbean. Professor Marshall’s research interests are in the role of communication and information technologies in distance education, and also in the emerging research area of community informatics systems (CIS), especially in developing countries. He has published several books, and over 90 book chapters, refereed articles and conference papers.

Wal Taylor is the foundation professor of community informatics at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa. He is also a visiting senior research fellow at Monash University, Australia. Dr. Taylor’s research interests are predominantly in the social appropriation of information communication technologies with a particular emphasis on its interface with public agency service delivery. He is author and co-editor of two books, four conference proceedings, 10 book chapters and 45 papers on community informatics. He has more than 34 years public sector experience in rural and regional development in Australia and more than 35 papers in agricultural research and rural development. He sits on the executive of a number of international community informatics organizations including being co-chair of Community Informatics Research Network (CIRN http://www.ciresearch.net) which involves researchers and practitioners from more than 20 countries. He is an international research adviser on the Canadian Research Alliance for Community and Innovative Networks program (CRACIN; http://www.cracin.ca) and a leader for the Cape Technikon (Capetown, South Africa) community informatics initiative. He was a key note speaker at the Salzburg Seminar on Digital Inclusion in September 2003 and since 2001 he has been an invited keynote speaker and presenter at a number of Community Informatics international conferences in Australia, France, Austria, Italy, Russia, UK, United States and Canada.

Xinghuo Yu is professor of computer systems engineering and associate dean research & innovation of science, engineering and technology at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Melbourne, Australia. His research interests are predominately in the areas of information technology, intelligent systems and their applications in industrial, social and economic systems. Professor Yu has published over 250 refereed papers in technical journals, books and conference proceedings. He has co-edited seven research books including Variable Structure Systems: Towards the 21st Century (Springer Verlag, 2002), Applied Decision Support with Soft Computing (Springer Verlag, 2003), Chaos Control (Springer Verlag, 2003), Bifurcation Control (Springer Verlag, 2003), and Closing the Digital Divide (Praeger, 2003). Professor Yu is a fellow of Institution of Engineers Australia. He was made emeritus professor of Central Queensland University in 2002 in recognition of his significant contributions to the university.