

Acknowledgments

First, credit goes to the senior academic editor of Idea Group Publishing, Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, for the invitation made to me to organize and edit this book.

Sincere thanks go to the other 50 authors, coming from 16 countries and regions (20 from Asia, 20 from Europe, four from North America, four from South America and two from Africa), who made their great contributions to this project by submitting chapters, and reviewing chapters, among other things.

Special gratitude goes to all the staff at Idea Group Publishing for their valuable communication, guidance and suggestions along the development process.

Last, but not least, I am indebted to my wife, my daughter and my parents for their encouragement, patience, support, tolerance, and understanding during the last two years.

Yu-Jin Zhang

Editor

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China