

Acknowledgment

I strongly believe that no book project can be completed successfully by an author or editor without the support of a dedicated editorial team. This is especially true of a project of the magnitude of a volume with over 100 articles, such as the *Encyclopedia of E-Collaboration*. I would like to thank the team at IGI Global for their excellent editorial support for this Encyclopedia project. Special thanks go to Mehdi Khosrow-Pour for his editorial leadership, and for convincing me over a nice lunch a few years ago to work with IGI Global's team in this project. Many thanks are also due to Jan Travers, Kristin Roth, Michelle Potter, and Corrina Chandler.

Parts of the preface, as well as of the articles that I wrote for this encyclopedia, have been published before as sections of journal articles authored or co-authored by me. The preface contains revised text from an article in which I introduced, together with my friend John Nosek, the Special Issue on Expanding the Boundaries of E-Collaboration. That special issue was published in 2005 in the journal *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*. The articles that I wrote for this encyclopedia contain revised text from editorial essays that I have written for the *International Journal of e-Collaboration*. I thank the publishers of those journals for permission to use text from those articles.

Several years ago, my wife and I had been discussing the idea of living in a part of the United States that had a strong Hispanic, or Latin, influence. Both of us have been raised in Brazil, a country that shares many cultural characteristics with other Latin American countries. Among those is an optimistic view of life, a preference for warm weather, and an almost fanatical love for soccer. Southern California and Florida fit the bill nicely; and Southern Texas had a particular appeal to us. Having lived mostly in the Northeast, we have always seen Texas as a somewhat unique state in the United States. So, I joined Texas A&M International University, located in the city of Laredo, near the U.S. border with Mexico. We moved to Laredo with our four kids and have been having a great time since.

My impression is that my output in terms of scholarship has gone up since I moved to Laredo, which certainly goes against the theory that warm places make people lazy. I have been joking lately that since I came to Texas I have been working toward the goal of becoming the Stephen King of information systems!

But seriously, one of the key reasons for my increased productivity is the high recognition and support given by the University's administration to faculty scholarship. Special thanks in that respect should be given to Ray Keck, the University's long-term president; Dan Jones, provost; and Jacky So, dean of the College of Business and Economics.

Another very important reason for my productivity is the support and encouragement of a wonderful group of colleagues with whom I have been sharing the third floor of Pellegrino Hall on the university's beautiful campus. Those colleagues make up the Division of International Business and Technology Studies, which I have had the pleasure to serve since 2006 in the capacity of founding chair. My special thanks go to Cindy Martinez, for being a trusted and very competent assistant; and my faculty colleagues Jacques Verville, Jackie Mayfield, Milton Mayfield, Ananda Mukherji, and Pedro Hurtado for the leadership roles that they have been playing in the Division.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank my family for their love and support. This book is dedicated to them.

Ned Kock