Acknowledgment

The idea behind this book goes back a long way. Emerging during the course of my contribution to the *Encyclopedia of Digital Government*, "Digital International Governance", it started to take shape during several workshops on electronic democracy and e-government in national and international scientific Congresses in particular, the ECPR Joint Session in Pisa, the SISP in Cagliari and Catania, Italy and the IPSA in Fukuoka, Japan. I wish to thank all the participants who with their observations, helped me to focus more clearly on the analytic perspective.

Above all, I wish to thank the individual authors of this book for their contribution and encouragement during the process. I also wish to express my gratitude to Julia Mosemann, Christine Bufton, Carole Coulson, and Jamie Snavely for the technical assistance in the realization of the project as well as IGI Global for the opportunity given me. Finally, I would like to thank Fortunato Musella and his editorial assistence whose support throughout the preparation of the book has been particularly helpful.

Francesco Amoretti University of Salerno, Italy