Acknowledgment

The editors would like to acknowledge the help of all involved in the collation and review process of the handbook, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed.

Most of the authors of chapters included in this handbook also served as referees for chapters written by other authors. Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews.

Special thanks also go to the publishing team at IGI Global, whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular to Julia Mosemann, who continuously prodded via e-mail for keeping the project on schedule.

And last but not least, special thanks go to our families for their unfailing support and encouragement during the months it took to give birth to this book.

In closing, we wish to thank all of the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this handbook.

Shiguo Lian, P.R. China Yan Zhang, Norway Editors May 2008