## Acknowledgment

There many individuals who have contributed their expertise to improve the first draft of this book, and I am especially grateful to them. My first and foremost debt however is to Professor Leslie Willcocks who kindly agreed to discuss this book, and write the forward. I was extremely privileged to have had him as my internal examiner at Warwick Business School presently most fortunate to count him as one of most prestigious friends. Only those individuals fortunate enough to have been exposed to his special analytical discussions can appreciate the impact of his contribution to academic thinking.

Numerous other individuals have made contributions to this work. I am grateful to Michael Livesey (Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames in London) who generously gave his time during the incubation stage of this text and encouraged me to proceed with this project. Michael also provided me with moral support, discussed the results from reviewers and encouraged me to proceed with this project to completion. Students and colleagues at Erasmus School of Economics also assisted me with the verification of data and discussion of issues in this book, especially Professor H. Jeffrey Bouwer.

I am also very appreciative to all three anonymous reviewers, appointed by IGI Global to ensure my thoughts were appropriately aligned. Their painstaking reviews provided me with valuable suggestions which were incorporated in the text. To my friends at IGI Global I say a 'big thank you' for keeping the pressure on and moving things around to facilitate this book in time for a number of people to benefit. They include: Kristin Klinger, Julia Mosemann, Jan Travers, among others.

No work of this magnitude can be completed without the enormous sacrifices by the writer's family, and this is certainly true in my case. I am fortunate that my family fully understood the demands that the writing of this manuscript made on my leisure time—and that includes compassionate Eve, charming Michael and energetic Matthew. Of course, the work on a text is never truly complete. There is always room for polishing and revision. I welcome comments from more knowledgeable and experienced individuals in the area of VLITP management who can help me to improve this text in subsequent editions.