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. Support of the Information Systems and Analysis Department at Lamar University and Mechanical Engineering Department at Jadavpur University is acknowledged for archival server space in the completely virtual online review process.

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 Kristin Roth, who continuously prodded via e-mail for keeping the project on schedule.

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

Dipak Laha, PhD Kolkata, India

Purnendu Mandal, PhD Beaumont, Texas

July 2007