

Acknowledgments

We finalized this book, *Open Source for Knowledge and Learning Management: Strategies Beyond Tools*, in June 2006—Ambjörn in the beautiful archipelago of Stockholm and Miltiadis in Monemvassia, a lovely Greek village.

So the time has come for us to express our deepest appreciation and respect to the 39 contributors of this edition. Their knowledge, expertise and experience are evident in every line of this edition. It sounds typical, but it is the ultimate truth. Each edition is an outlet where the world of ideas seeks a fertile ground. And this ground is not self-admiring. It requires the interest and insights of people. Hence, our second deepest thank you goes to our readers in academia, industry, government and society in general.

We also thank the publishers and supporting staff during the various stages of the development and production of this book. In Idea Group Inc., we have found more than just publishers and excellent professionals. We have found great supporters of a shared vision to develop books/editions and knowledge for a highly demanding society. So to Mehdi, Jan, Kristin, and Meg, please accept our warmest compliments for your encouragement and inspiration. You prove to us every day that IGI is not only a high quality publishing organization, but also a community that cares for its people.

Last but not least we would like to thank by name a few colleagues that, in various ways, have motivated us to work towards our vision for the deployment of information technologies in our society. In our academic life, we have a clear motto. We want to make things happen, and due to our intrinsic motivation to be of good will and very optimistic people, we really love those who encourage others and who say “go on, we stand by you.”

Miltiadis:

My warmest compliments and thanks go to Gottfried Vossen and Gerd Wagner who supported me in my vision to establish AIS SIG on Semantic Web and information systems. I also feel blessed to have Miguel-Angel Sicilia as a great friend and collaborator.

In my Greek academic world, my thinking has been deeply affected by professors Athanassios Tsakalidis (University of Patras) and Georgios Vassilacopoulos (University of Piraeus) to whom I express my heartfelt thank you.

My deepest appreciation and a great thank you also to Amit Sheth, who accepted my invitation to serve as editor-in-chief of the *International Journal on Semantic Web and Information Systems*. I learn every day from Amit that leading academics are hard working people, helping and encouraging others to follow their achievements.

I would like to thank especially Efstathia/Maria Pitsa (University of Cambridge), Maria Pitsa (University of Piraeus), Nikos Korfiatis (Copenhagen Business School), and Martin Papadatos (University of Cambridge) for the great support in all the recent initiatives.

And to Theodora, Dimitris, Hara, and Katerina, all my love is the best thank you for the colors you're giving my life. Sas agapo.

Ambjörn:

First, I want to express my gratitude to the PhD-students and programmers that have made my work as head of the Knowledge Management Research Group so effective and enjoyable: Matthias Palmér, Mikael Nilsson, Fredrik Paulsson, Henrik Eriksson, Jöran Stark, Jan Danils, Fredrik Enoksson and Hannes Ebner. Without their commitment to excellence, the KMR-group would not have managed to establish itself on the international research scene.

My very special thank you to Mia Lindegren, director of Uppsala Learning Lab, with which the KMR-group closely collaborates. Without the unwavering support of Mia, the KMR-group would not have existed in its present shape.

I also want to acknowledge my gratitude to Jan-Olof Eklundh, Yngve Sundblad and Nils Enlund at KTH. Over the years—and against all odds—they have provided “incubator environments” that have enabled the growth of the unacademic and controversial discipline of knowledge management at KTH.

My sincerest thank you to Janiche Opsahl, Agneta Sommansson and Krister Widell of the Swedish Educational Broadcasting company (UR). They have had the courage to apply some of the KMR open source tools in a sharp industrial setting, which has

given us invaluable feedback and practical experience with knowledge management problems of the real world.

Moreover, I want to express my gratitude to the members of the PROLEARN network of excellence, who have been instrumental in establishing our collaboration with leading European actors in Technology Enhanced Learning and Knowledge Management. Prominent among them are: Wolfgang Nejdl, Peter Scott, Kevin Quick, Erik Duval, Martin Wolpers, Ralf Klamma, Amine Chatti, Katherine Maillet, Milos Kravcik, Marcus Specht, Daniel Burgos, Rob Koper, Alexander Karapidis, Gustaf Neumann, Bernd Simon, Fridolin Wild, Barbara Kieslinger, Margit Hofer, Borka Jerman-Blasic, Tomaz Klobucar, Constantin Makropoulos, Vana Kamtsiou, Dimitra Pappa, Tapio Koskinen, Anna-Kaarina Kairamo and Pertti Yli-Luoma.

Finally, just like Miltiadis, I am grateful for the friendship and collaboration of Miguel-Angel Sicilia, who is constantly using his network to bring us into interesting proposals.

So, once more, the journey was full of exciting experiences and we are really grateful to all the people that stand by us.

Geja sou filaraki, we made it!