Acknowledgments

Projects of this ambition and size cannot come to completion without the support of literally a whole army of brave, open-minded and knowledgeable people, all of who helped out to the maximum of their available energy. As all of them are academicians, and as this project was going on during the academic year, their contribution is especially appreciated, taking into consideration the other, for lack of better terms, regular, ongoing scholarly, and especially teaching, activities. There was not a single person that refused to help out when asked—I attribute that to the fact that they are top educators and to their realization of the importance of this book and enthusiasm to have it see the light of day. Therefore, preparing this book has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my academic life.

The quality of an edited volume depends on the constructive input from the reviewers. I would like to acknowledge the help of all involved in the collation and review process of the book, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed.

Many of the authors of chapters included in this volume also served as referees for articles written by others. Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews. However, some of the reviewers must be mentioned as their reviews set the benchmark: Georgi Stojanov of the Computer Science Department, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, "Ss Cyril and Methodius" University, Skopje, Macedonia, and Samuel Collins from the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Department, Giovanni Vincenti from the Computer and Information Sciences Department, and Yvonne Hardy-

Phillips from the African American Cultural Center of Towson University, Towson, MD, my home institution for the duration of the project. I believe that thanks are also owed to my home department, the Computer and Information Sciences Department of Towson University.

A further special note of thanks goes also to all the staff at Idea Group Inc., whose contributions and support, in the many ways that one can imagine, throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. With their help, all deadlines were met. From today's perspective that is by no means a small task.

My prerequisite for seamless functioning is the support of my family. I thank them for their encouragement and for letting me use a great chunk of "our" time to devote to this book. I promise to make this time up.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank all of the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this book. I hope that we have started something very important with this project. Time will tell how influential we will become.

Goran P. Trajkovski, PhD Baltimore, Maryland October 2005