Dr. Heting Chu is a professor in the Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University, U.S.A. She earned her BA in library science from Peking University, China, her master’s degree in library and information science from McGill University, Canada, and her PhD in information studies from Drexel University, U.S.A. As she progressed in her educational pursuit, her subject orientation has moved from library science in general to information retrieval in particular. Her educational background coupled with her teaching and research experience in information representation and retrieval (IRR) enabled her in 2001 to write the first edition of this book, which was also translated into Korean in 2005 and published in India in 2009. The current second edition, on the other hand, is a product of her further work in the field of IRR. In addition, Dr. Chu has authored five books in Chinese on information retrieval and other related topics. She has also received numerous citations and requests for reprints of the many articles she published from people all over the world. Her teaching and research interests include the use of information technology in library and information science, especially in the areas of information representation and retrieval, research methods, and scientific communication.