Acknowledgments

Bernardo Sorj
Acknowledgments

This book could not have been written without the support and incentive of Jorge Wertheim and Maria Inês Bastos of UNESCO/Brazil, and their concern for the creation of new ways to overcome digital exclusion and democratize knowledge. Jean-François Soupizet shared with me his interest, understanding, and gauged enthusiasm regarding the Information Society. With John Wilkinson I engaged in a constant dialogue concerning various themes of this work. Roberto Grün, in one of our stimulating chats, helped me accept the idea of writing a book that departs from academic rituals of obsessive footnoting and to confront a subject that is still history in the making, forcing me to navigate between the pessimism of reason and the optimism of will. Tadao Takahashi, Sergio Góes, André Urani, Simón Schwartzman, Rubem Cesar Fernandes, Philippe Quéau, John Rose, Joseph Leigh, Peter Fry and Nilton Bonder were all important interlocutors and helped me to consolidate the ideas discussed in this book. The detailed quantitative data on the activities of Viva Rio were made available thanks to the European Commission financial support to the monitoring of Viva Rio's projects. To all of them and to the staff of Viva Rio for the time they dedicated to interviews. I am grateful for their contributions but take full responsibility for any possible errors.

Two exceptional assistants supported this work, Isadora Andrade Wilkinson and Julie Remold. On behalf of Julie, my doctoral student I thank my colleagues and the students in the graduate program in Sociology and Anthropology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.