

Dedication

We dedicate this second edition of *Geographical Information Systems* to two pioneers in the field: Professor Terry Coppock and Dr Roger Tomlinson.

Terry Coppock, Professor of Geography at the University of Edinburgh, has devoted a lifetime of research to the subject of humanity's use of the land surface of the Earth. He was one of the very first to recognise the importance of geographical information technologies in collecting, managing, and manipulating the large quantities of data needed to study and understand changing patterns of land-use, and the ways in which new uses compete with traditional ones for the national land resource. He began this work in the late 1950s using the primitive computers of those days. In the mid 1980s he was largely responsible for initiating the *International Journal of Geographical Information Systems* (now the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*); he became its first editor, and set it on course to its current position as the most influential scientific journal in the field of GIS.

Roger Tomlinson is President of Tomlinson Associates, an Ottawa-based GIS consultancy. He is a past President of the Canadian Association of Geographers, and a recipient of the Royal Geographical Society's Murchison Award and many other honours. In the mid 1960s he recognised that digital computers could be used to analyse the vast quantities of mapped information being created by the Canada Land Inventory. His cost-benefit analyses concluded that computerisation would be the best alternative in spite of the high costs and primitive nature of computers at the time. It was Roger Tomlinson who first coined the term 'geographic information system' for this novel way of using computers, oversaw the extraordinarily innovative creation of the Canada Geographic Information System, and became the world's foremost proponent of the GIS vision over the following decades. He, more than anyone else, is recognised today as the 'father' of GIS.

Dedicating a book is much too modest a way of recognising the magnitude of the contributions of Terry Coppock and Roger Tomlinson – but we hope it draws attention to the high regard in which we hold them.