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Acknowledgments

The idea of doing a comparative history of the punched-card industry grew out of a discussion with Arthur L. Norberg of the Charles Babbage Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during a conference back in 1989. Shifting affiliations over the years would allow me to implement the idea only very slowly, but each time we met Arthur encouraged me to proceed. He invited me to the Charles Babbage Institute, provided funding for travel, and negotiated on my behalf for access to the IBM Archives in New York. This access has led to many insights into the interplay between the producers and users that serve as the basis for much of the argument of this book.

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