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.

The Danish Research Council provided funding for three years of research and the extensive travel needed to collect the material for this book. I have since been appointed associate professor at the Centre for Business History at the Copenhagen Business School. Here, I have found helpful colleagues, stimulating discussion, funding for additional travel, and the support I needed to complete the English draft of this book. This proved a bigger challenge than I anticipated, and I am most grateful to the Research Council and the Business School for making this project possible.

It is both enjoyable and rewarding to study abroad, but it comes at the cost of time away from the family. I was therefore grateful to receive invitations to stay with friends while working on the book. In New York, I had the pleasure of staying in the home of Emerson W. Pugh and his wife in Cold Springs; in Paris, I enjoyed the hospitality of Pierre Mounier-Kuhn and Nathalie Kelenski; and in Berlin, Ute and Rainer Hansel graciously hosted my visits.
I collected material at thirty archives in six countries and came to rely on the amazing support of a large number of people who granted me access and helped me to locate and retrieve records. All gave superb advice and offered helpful suggestions, and I would like to mention just a few whose help proved essential in shaping my project. At IBM in New York, in 1993, I found both a gracious host and wise mentor in Emerson W. Pugh. During my subsequent visit, after IBM’s Corporate Archive was relocated to Somers, New York, Paul C. Lasewicz deftly assisted my collection of material. At the Hagley Museum and Library, in Wilmington, Delaware, Michael H. Nash helped me to locate exiting material on the American Powers Accounting Machine Company, Remington Rand, and numerous punched-card users. At the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and in New York, I received extensive help from Greg Bradsher, Majorie H. Chiarlante, Tab Lewis, and Fred Romanski. In Paris, Pierre-Eric Mounier-Kuhn used his extensive knowledge of the development of computing and its application in France to help me locate material and obtain access to the Bull archives, the archives of the Contrôleur de l’Administration de l’Armée in the French army’s archives, and archives of diverse French national statistical services. La Fédération des Équipes Bull granted me access to the company’s archives in Paris-Bobigny, and several of its members helped me to find and recover a rich body of material on this company. I also received much-needed advice in locating material from Martin Campbell-Kelly (Warwick, United Kingdom), Hartmut Petzold (Munich), and Alain Desrosières (Paris). My analysis owes much to all of these people and their colleagues, too numerous to mention. I thank them for their help and support.

David E. Nye, Phil Scranton, Bob Brugger, Kurt Jacobsen, Håkon With-Andersen, Per Boje, Michele Callaghan, and an anonymous reader helped me to improve the book’s focus and argument. In my struggle to produce a readable English prose manuscript, I was most fortunate to find Jane Horsewell and Joyce Kling of the Language Center of the Copenhagen Business School to assist me. My work with these and many other people has been both pleasurable and productive. While they provided many excellent suggestions for improvement, the sole responsibility for errors of course remains with me.