

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank so many people here, for this book represents the accumulation of so many conversations, papers, courses, panels, happy hours, Zoom sessions (ugh, pandemic!), and late-night chats. I am very grateful to my editor at the MIT Press, Gita Manaktala, for her support and kindness throughout this process. Much of this book was written in the throes of a global pandemic and a cross-country move, and it was Gita's patience and willingness to offer more writing time that allowed me the mental space to complete the manuscript. I thank Erika Barrios, also at the MIT Press. I, of course, thank the anonymous peer reviewers for their investment in my work and their wonderful and extensive feedback. While the manuscript has transformed in whole, the genesis of this manuscript was my PhD dissertation at the UCLA Department of Information Studies. The research for this book was supported by a generous Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation. I am indebted to my committee, Johanna Drucker, Jonathan Furner, Geoffrey Bowker, and Chris Kely. Beyond them, I am grateful for the hours and hours of conversation with some of the brightest colleagues I could ever have the pleasure of working with: Gregory H. Leazer, Ronald E. Day, Joseph T. Tennis, Michael Buckland, Sarah Roberts, Safiya Noble, Michelle Caswell, and Howard Rosenbaum. I am a lucky person, indeed.

This book could not have been written without the patience of colleagues involved in the various biodiversity and natural history organizations I discuss: Thomas Orrell of the Smithsonian National Museum

of Natural History, ITIS, and the Catalogue of Life; Yury Roskov of the Catalogue of Life; Donald Hobern, then executive director of GBIF; Peter Schalk of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center and Catalogue of Life; Rebecca Snyder of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; Holly Little of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; Tim Robertson of GBIF; Paul Kirk of Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; Paul Kirk of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; Timothy M. A. Utteridge of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; Alan Paton of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; and Vince Smith at the Natural History Museum, London. Academia is tough space, but the generosity of my colleagues who worked with me through this project is beyond reproach. I thank the many students I've learned from over the years. I thank Steve Barnthouse, Julie Van Winkle, and Rahul Subramanian. And finally, as a first-generation Latino college student, I thank my family: in particular, my mother, Elena Montoya, for working so hard to make sure I had the luxury of pursuing my educational career, and my uncle, Alfred (Baca) Delgado, who instilled in me the love of learning about botany, zoology, and so many other things.