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Pursuing a major professional and personal goal for about three and a half years is not unlike an Olympian enterprise. It requires practical support and good working conditions, but also a sustained level of focus, ambition, and drive.[1] These requirements cannot be attained on one's own. Without the aid of others, this dissertation would not have been possible. While several chapters already acknowledge some people, I would like to take this opportunity to (again) thank those who have been vital to this PhD project.

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1 I have actually discussed this analogy with a professional Olympic athlete and he agreed that there are several similarities.

2 In that vein, I should also thank Eva van Kempen and Willem Salet for allowing a Social Informatics student to participate in a geography/ planning masters programme.