# Editor's Notes

Welcome to the June 2013 issue of the ACM SIGMOD Record!

The issue opens with a vision paper by Bartoš, Skopal and Moško on efficient indexing techniques supporting similarity search. Efficient techniques for similarity search are required in many contexts such as bioinformatics, social networks and multimedia databases. Importantly, while the most commonly known distance functions based on which similarity is assessed are related to some metric space and obey some corresponding constraints (think of the triangle inequality for distances in an Euclidian space), there are important non-metric (or unconstrained) distance functions. The authors focus on the resulting unconstrained similarity search problem, which is the target of their SIMDEX framework. SIMDEX allows a dataset-driven exploration of alternative indexing strategies in order to support efficient and scalable similarity search. The authors present experiments validating their framework, and discuss directions for future development.

The article by Montolio, Dominguez-Sal and Larriba-Pey investigates the connection between two hotly discussed metrics characterizing scientific conferences : conference quality, respectively, endogamy, defined as repeated collaborations (co-signing) of recurring sets of co-authors. The authors introduce a simple metric for endogamy and evaluate it for a set of conference and journals, including well-known database ones such as SIGMOD, VLDB, ICDE and ICDT. The finding of this study is that low endogamy (thus, time-varying co-authorship networks) correlates with conferences and journals reputed of high quality; in a time when data management research takes strong interest in social networks, this article is an interesting opposing perspective of social graph analysis applied to database publications themselves !

The survey by Guille, Hacid, Favre and Zighed keeps us in the area of social networks, more specifically focusing on information diffusion patterns. The core questions considered are: which information items are popular and diffused the most, how, why and through which paths, and which are the important influencers in the network. The authors introduce a set of basis notion related to information diffusion and then classify existing algorithms and methods for answering these questions. This clear, well-illustrated survey is very timely, given both the database community interest in social network analysis, and the spread of research in this area across several communities, including data mining, text analysis, and algorithms on graphs.

In the Systems and Prototypes column, Nakashole, Weikum and Suchanek present PATTY, a system for extracting semantic relationships out of text snippets found on the Web. The article discusses the successive extraction stages (text pattern extraction, syntactic-ontological pattern transformation, pattern generalization and subsumption and synonym mining) implemented within PATTY, describes the modules which are part of the tool, and ends by providing precision/recall results and applications.

The Distinguished Profiles column features an interview with Jeffrey Vitter, now the provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas. He talks about his PhD student days in Stanford, the lessons learned from Jeff Ullman, the importance of understanding both theory and systems in order to get good results at either of them, applying wavelets to database problems, the interest of having an MBA on top of a PhD in Computer Science, the interest of listening to problems from other disciplines, whether chemistry, physics, and music, to understand where actual open data management problems lie and investigate them.

In the Research centers column, Bressan, Chan, Hsu, Lee, Ling, Ooi, Tan and Tung give an overview of data management reseach at the National University of Singapore (NUS). The work areas surveyed in the paper include cloud-based data management, data management technologies applied to digital megacities,

for instance in the area of environment monitoring and real-time location-aware social search, data analytics, mining and visualization.

The Open forum column features a quite unique column where Graham Cormode spells out the duties, chores, and pleasures of an Associate Editor. Having served for a few years as an Associate Editor myself, and having coopted many of today's SIGMOD Record Associate Editors, I am in a position to appreciate the clear, thoughtful, and thoroughly entertaining explanations! I am sure they will clarify things for many current and future scientific journal editors and reviewers, and demystify the ways refereed journals are produced to the benefit of editors, reviewers, and authors alike.

The issue closes with two reports. First, Benedikt and Olteanu report on the first Workshop on Innovative Querying of Streams, held in Oxford in September 2012. The workshop was organized in connection to a research project on XML streams. The topics explored include social streams, semantic Web data streaming, stream uncertainty, monitoring and distribution.
Last but not least, the second report from Atzeni, Jensen, Orsi, Ram, Tanca and Torlone summarizes the discussions of a panel held in the Non-Conventional Data Access (NoCoDa) workshop 2012, on the topic of NoSQL models, querying, and overall place in the history and perspectives of data management. Read this very lively rendition of the panel's talks to form your own opinion whether conceptual database design and physical data independence really are too old for our scientific "country"?

Your contributions to the Record are welcome via the RECESS submission site (http://db.cs.pitt.edu/recess). Prior to submitting, be sure to peruse the Editorial Policy on the SIGMOD Record's Web site (http://www.sigmod.org/publications/sigmod-record/sigmod-record-editorial-policy).

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