Editor's Notes

This issue starts with a memorial to Bob Kooi written by M. Stonebraker. It is followed by W. Kim's commentary on the ODMG-93 proposal. The regular articles section includes three contributions. The first paper by Dreyer et al discusses the special properties that a time series management system (TSMS) should have. They propose a the development of a special purpose TSMS that offers modeling, retrieval, and computational capabilities suitable for end users. L. Yang presents HYPERQUERY -- a hypertext query language for object-oriented pictorial database systems. The query language is designed as a non-procedural and conversational language. Diaz et al describe an active rule system based approach that enables active displays to be supported with minimal changes to the database or its graphical interface. The approach can be extended to support dynamic interaction between an active database system and other external systems. Geppert and Dittrich challenge the database community to develop an appropriate methodology for constructing new DBMS. They describe various problems related to a construction method and possible solutions.

This issue contains a special section on Temporal Database Infrastructure, edited by R. Snodgrass. The ARPA/NSF International Workshop on an Infrastructure for Temporal Databases was held on June 14-16, 1993 in Arlington, Texas. Pissinou et al present an abbreviated version of the workshop report. Jensen et al provide a condensed version of the current glossary of temporal database concepts. Snodgrass, et al provide an initial specification for a consensus temporal extension to SQL-92 (TSQL2).

The invited section on Database Research Surveys contains three papers Buneman et al propose a syntax of comprehension, rather than first-order logic, as a starting point for the development of database languages. They further show how a comprehension syntax can deal with pattern matching, collection types, and function definitions. In the second paper, A. Loeffen presents a survey of Text Databases. Common characteristics of machine readable texts are outlined and text models are introduced. In the third paper, Medeiros and Pires describe databases for Geographic Information Systems. The paper considers research performed by both computer scientists and end-users (cartographers, geographers). The section on Database Research Centers contains a report on the database research activities at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich.

Two new regular sections and Associate Editors have been added to the RECORD. The section on Database Standards Activities is handled by Len Gallagher of NIST. In his first article, Len gives an overview of database standards activities under progress in the various formal national and international bodies. Rafael Alonso of MITL is the Associate Editor in charge of the new section on Trade Press News. In this issue Rafael describes the need to establish a better link between the trade press and SIGMOD RECORD readers.

Marianne Winslett describes database funding opportunities in her regular column. Marianne could still use additional help in filing away articles from Dbworld and other sources on the Information Server. If you would like to help, please send email to winslett@cs.uiuc.edu. If you would like to help in other ways (e.g., improving parts of the server), she would also like to hear from you.

As usual, the issue is concluded with Announcement and Call-for-Papers.

Arie Segev
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