Editor's Notes

I'm delighted to report that it has been decided recently that SIGMOD Record will be made available on-line to the general public via the World Wide Web. All portions of the Record from the September 1993 issue through the March 1996 issue that are available in electronic form (primarily postscript) are now on-line. Unfortunately, at this time the SIGMOD conference proceedings—which also comprise the June issue of SIGMOD Record each year—are not available on-line.

The current URL for SIGMOD Record on-line is `http://db.stanford.edu/sigmod_record`. However, starting with this issue, the SIGMOD Record web site will be maintained by SIGMOD Services Chair Marie-Anne Neimat at HP Labs. When Marie-Anne has brought the new site up an announcement will be made via the `dbworld` mailing list as well as in the next issue of SIGMOD Record. Incidentally, at the SIGMOD '96 conference in Montreal I polled the audience informally to see how many people thumb through each issue of SIGMOD Record (most do) and how many prefer to receive a hard-copy of the Record even if it's available on-line (again, most do).

In Montreal I also reported on some statistics at the end of the my first year as SIGMOD Record Editor-in-Chief. The average time to a decision for a submitted contribution has been a speedy 1.4 months, although a few extremely quick decisions (in both directions!) do skew this figure. So far I've accepted 27% of the submitted regular technical papers, 33% of the annotated bibliographies, 100% of the technical notes, and 100% of the reports. The moral seems to be that if you want to publish in SIGMOD Record you should write a technical note or a report.

I'd like to mention once again my interest in including substantial Special Sections devoted to topics of interest to the database community, favoring such sections over regular submitted papers. My experience has been that Special Sections usually are of very high quality. If you have an idea for a Special Section and are interested in being a guest editor, please contact me by e-mail: `widom@db.stanford.edu`.

I'll point out a few highlights of the current issue without enumerating the entire table of contents. The Regular Articles section includes at least one or two papers that may prove to be controversial, as well as several papers in the area of parallel database systems. The Industry News section includes two papers on topics of extreme interest in the commercial database sector: OLAP and object-relational systems. Thanks to new associate editor Beau Shekita for soliciting these papers—it's notoriously difficult to convince busy developers to take time out to produce a paper and Beau has done a terrific job. Thanks also to associate editor Xiaolei Qian for reliably producing another excellent column on funding news. Surprisingly, I've received not a single Announcement or Call for Papers since the March issue. If your Announcement or Call for Papers meets the necessary criteria (see the inside front cover) there's no charge and it's an excellent form of advertisement.

Jennifer Widom
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