Editor's Notes

First let me remind you that, after a short hiatus, SIGMOD Record is back on-line. All portions of the Record from the September 1993 issue through the current issue that are available in electronic form (primarily postscript) are available through the SIGMOD Record home page: `http://bunny.cs.uiuc.edu/sigmod/sigmod_record`. A big thanks goes to Marie-Anne Neimat for setting up and maintaining the web site.

I draw your attention to an error in the Table of Contents for the September 1996 issue (Volume 25 Number 3). Alfons Kemper was inadvertently omitted from the author list for the paper entitled "On the Cost of Monitoring and Reorganization of Object Bases for Clustering." My apologies.

The current issue begins with two letters in response to the provocative article "Domains, Relations and Religous Wars" by R. Camps that appeared in the September 1996 issue. The letters, one by Chris Date and one by Hugh Darwen, are thoughtful, thorough, and interesting responses to the original article. The centerpiece of this issue is a special section on information visualization. This section is guest edited by Tiziana Catarci and Isabel Cruz, who put together an excellent collection of papers under stringent timing and length constraints. The special section begins with a foreword by the guest editors, followed by eight technical papers spanning a wide variety of topics within the area of information visualization. From the industrial sector, two articles in this issue should be of great interest to both researchers and practitioners: one on the new SQL standard for stored procedures, and one on the TPC-D benchmark. Finally, this issue includes a technical article on aggregation, a report from an NSF workshop, two interesting and timely articles on system prototypes (Persistent Java and Mariposa), and the usual excellent update on relevant funding issues.

I recently decided to step down as editor-in-chief of SIGMOD Record, so this issue will be my last. In the two years since I took the job, my research program at Stanford and my family have grown at an unprecedented rate, and I'm finding that it's no longer possible to do the quality job that SIGMOD Record deserves. I'm very pleased to report that Prof. Michael Franklin at the University of Maryland will be taking over as editor-in-chief of SIGMOD Record. See the inside front cover for Prof. Franklin's' contact information. I'm confident that Mike will do a terrific job.

I'd like to thank the many people who have made my job as editor-in-chief over the past two years more than tolerable. All of the associate editors have been fantastic, consistently delivering excellent quality material with a minimum of reminders; the Record would not be the same without th timely and varietal regular sections edited by Rafael Alonso, José Blakeley, Mike Franklin, Len Gallagher, Xiaolei Qian, Beau Shekita, and Amit Sheth. I thank Sharon Lambeth, Marianne Siroker, and the photocopy machines at Stanford for their help with camera-ready production. Finally, I'm extremely grateful to my informal SIGMOD Record reviewing board—you know who you are.

Jennifer Widom
October, 1996