Information Director's Message

A Director is not supposed to actually *do* anything, so my first official act has been to appoint some of the people who will be doing the real work. I'm delighted that Isabel Cruz, Jim Gray, Michael Ley and Praveen Seshadri have agreed to be Associate Information Directors for SIGMOD. These people, plus Mike Franklin as SIGMOD Record Editor, form the SIGMOD Online Editorial Board.

Jim will be coordinating with the ACM Preprint Database Committee led by Joe Halpern. This is a high-priority area for SIGMOD Online, as we work towards the objective of making *any* paper a database researcher or practitioner may want available (and findable) online. Michael will ensure that our efforts in this area are coordinated with his invaluable Database and Logic Programming Bibliography server at the University of Trier and with the ACM Digital Library. Isabel will be in charge of providing content from the SIGMOD and PODS conferences, and particularly of expanding multimedia content that can be made available online.

Praveen will be in charge of "push technologies:" taking over `dbworld,` the indispensable resource that Raghu Ramakrishnan created and has selflessly been maintaining, and extending it to provide a flexible and powerful set of subscription services to SIGMOD members and the rest of the community. This new mechanism will let us distribute the job of filtering and moderating the stream of announcements and other content to a group of people; as a step in this direction, instead of maintaining a list of conference announcements on the web page, we have integrated Renato Busatto's repository at Aalborg University into the SIGMOD page. Alexandros Labrinidis, a student at the University of Maryland, has taken over maintenance of the SIGMOD Record's web edition, and done a beautiful job of it.

The first step in building the new SIGMOD Online will be to revamp the web site, with help from a professional design firm. At the end of 1997, ACM radically redesigned its own site, to somewhat mixed reviews. We will soon have to decide whether to follow their look and feel or strike out on our own; stay tuned to `www.acm.org/sigmod`!

Alberto Mendelzon
January, 1998