Editor's Notes

As with the previous issue of the Record, this issue starts with a special section, this time, on Semantic Interoperability in Global Information Systems. The section has been edited by Aris M. Ouksel of the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Amit Sheth of the University of Georgia (and also of the SIGMOD Record editorial board, of course!). Aris and Amit have selected 9 papers from among 35 proposals they received in response to the Call for Papers they posted for the section. These nine papers span a number of fundamental technologies for achieving interoperability and describe approaches being taken for specific application domains. I thank Aris and Amit for their efforts in putting together this special section.

In keeping with this theme, as part of our on-going efforts to improve the global interoperability of SIGMOD, this issue contains a report from the Brazilian Symposium on Database Systems and a reprint of the paper chosen as "Best Paper" by the program committee. The inclusion of the report and paper was suggested by Mario Nascimento and represents a new experiment for SIGMOD Record. We would like to consider publishing recognized papers from other high-quality regional conferences as a way to increase the participation of SIGMOD members from around the world. Thanks to Mario for conceiving this idea and to the authors for allowing us to reprint their award-winning paper. I encourage organizers of other such conferences to contact me about inclusion of their best papers in the SIGMOD Record.

Of course, we again have excellent "must read" articles in our Industry Perspectives and Standards columns, as well as an assortment of very interesting contributed articles and Systems and Prototypes papers. Thanks as usual to the editors and authors.

Michael Franklin
January, 1999

Message from Editor-in-Chief, ACM Transactions on Database Systems

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing this letter to inform you of the publication status of TODS. It has come to my attention that a recent huge delay with the March 1998 issue (which came out in December 1998) has led to concerns or confusion about TODS. The delay was caused solely by ACM's decision to move its Transactions to a new electronic publishing system, and their selecting TODS as the first to convert. ACM took a long time to get the system and procedures functioning. By February 1999, ACM expects to fully catch up. The June 1998 issue is ready for mailing, the September issue is in page make up, the December issue is out for authors corrections, and the March 1999 issue is in electronic conversion at this point. The aricles for all of the 1998 issues are available on the TODS web site.

During the past several years, TODS has been able to decrease the turnaround time to average six months per review round. Recently, Serge Abiteboul, David Lomet, and Yoshifumi Masunaga have joined the Editorial Board. Thank you for your continued interest in TODS, and we look forward to continuing the tradition of publishing the best archival research papers for our field.

Won Kim
Austin, Texas