

Book Review Column

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In this issue of SIGMOD RECORD we present two reviews.

Ontologies: A Silver Bullet for Knowledge Management and Electronic Commerce by Dieter Fensel. Review by *Antonio Badia*. This is one of the early books that appeared in the area of the Semantic Web. It offers an entry point into the field with a rich collection of references to the literature, standards and projects.

Small Worlds: the Dynamics of Networks between Order and Randomness by Duncan J. Watts. Review by *Jie Wu*. This book has multiple facets: it is a fascinating piece of research, it is a great source of stories, and the results have potential relevance for the field of (distributed) databases.

For the next issue I am proposing for the special database topics further books in areas related to database system performance and indexing. In the general interest section I put a real challenge: the new 1192 page book by Stephen Wolfram. Anyone dares to review? The complete list of proposed books including those proposed in previous issues is as usual found at

www.acm.org/sigmod/record/bookreviews.html

Use this list just as a suggestion and feel free to also select other books among your favorite books for reviews. The community is always interested in learning about good books. At the Web page you also find book review guidelines.

Looking back at the first year we reached a frequency of almost one review per month. *For continuing this your ongoing contribution is required.* Those who have contributed a review up to now I would like to thank at this point for taking the initiative.

If you are interested in submitting a book review for either proposed books or books you have selected on your own contact me by E-mail (karl.aberer@epfl.ch). I will try to obtain a copy of a book from the publisher, if needed. Reviews for the forthcoming March 2003 issue should be submitted by January 1st, 2002. The length of a book review should not exceed 2 pages.

If you would like to contribute to this column, to propose other books for review or to express your opinion on this column in general, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to your contributions.

Karl Aberer,
Associate Editor.

New books proposed for the next issue:

STANDARD DATABASE TEXTBOOKS

Database Management Systems, Raghu Ramakrishnan, Johannes Gehrke, 2nd edition, McGraw Hill, 2000.

Foundations of Databases, Serge Abiteboul, Richard Hull, Victor Vianu Published by Addison Wesley, Copyright 1995.

SPECIAL DATABASE TOPICS

Database Tuning: Principles, Experiments, and Troubleshooting Techniques, Dennis Shasha, Philippe Bonnet, Morgan Kaufman, 2002.

Managing Gigabytes: Compressing and Indexing Documents and Images, Ian H. Witten, Alistair Moffat, Timothy C. Bell, 2nd edition, Morgan Kaufman, 1999.

Searching Multimedia Databases, Christos Faloutsos, Kluwer, 1996.

GENERAL INTEREST

A New Kind of Science, Stephen Wolfram, Wolfram Media, 2002.