

Accessibility of the Database Literature

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SIGMOD has had for the past few years an over-arching vision of enabling *all* information on the database field to be *freely* accessible to *everyone*. Of course, this goal runs smack into the economic realities of scientific publishing. So the SIGMOD Executive Committee over the period of 1997–2001 tempered its initial goals to the following strategy, emphasizing free CDROM accessibility first, followed by online accessibility, followed by reduced subscription prices.

1. Get all major database conference proceedings and journals prior to 2000 into the SIGMOD Anthology, provided free to all SIGMOD members.
2. Get all ongoing conference proceedings and journals into the SIGMOD Digital Symposium Collection (DiSC), provided free to all SIGMOD members.
3. Ensure that this material is available online via publisher sites on the internet.
4. Negotiate cheaper electronic and print subscriptions to journals.

We have been somewhat successful in this. Over the last year, the following progress has been made.

- The full ACM *Transactions on Database Systems* is now included on the Anthology and DiSC, and SIGMOD members receive a free electronic subscription to this journal.
- Kluwer's *Distributed and Parallel Databases Journal* was approved by Scott Delman for inclusion in both the Anthology and DiSC.
- Elsevier offered SIGMOD members substantially discounted rates to its *Information Systems* journal, of \$45 for an individual electronic subscription and \$99 for an individual print subscription.
- Springer offered to ACM members a substantially discounted combined electronic and print subscription rate to the *Very Large Databases Journal*, of \$45 per year.
- Permission was given for ACM *DL*, *ACM Hypertext*, *KRDB* and *XP* conference proceedings and for the *SIGIR Forum* to be added to the Anthology and DiSC.
- Permission was granted for the *CoopIS*, *POS*, and *SSD* proceedings, for Jan Chomicki's *Logics for Databases and Information Systems*, Jim Gray's *Benchmark*, Mike Stonebraker's *Ingres Papers*, and Gio Wiederhold's *Database Design* books, and for GTE technical reports to be added to the Anthology.
- The missing individual proceedings of *ADBIS'99*, *CIKM'92* and *EDBT'98* were added to the Anthology, and *EDBT'02* was confirmed for DiSC'03.
- SIGMOD is the first ACM special interest group with all of its material on the web, including conference proceedings, newsletter, *ACM TODS*, and video and audio of keynote addresses.
- ACM is following SIGMOD's lead. All journals back to the beginning have been digitized, the remaining conference proceedings are being digitized, and work on newsletters for the other SIGs will commence soon.
- Other publishers are following suit. Five out of the six top database journals are now fully digitized, with encouragement from SIGMOD.

Some of this material was included in volumes 2-4 of the Anthology, distributed earlier this year; the rest will be included in the next volume.

The current situation is summarized in three tables. Table 1 shows how SIGMOD members fare with journal access. *Archival* material is that published before the year 2000, and thus is relevant for the SIGMOD Anthology. *Ongoing* material refers to material published in 2000 (which would then be appropriate for the SIGMOD DiSC) and in subsequent years (appropriate for subsequent volumes of this annual CDROM publication, e.g., material published in 2001 can appear in DiSC'2002, to appear in the Spring of next year). An entry of “—” indicates that there is no special access afforded. A listing of a digital library (e.g., the IEEE DL) means that an individual or institutional subscription is needed to access that material. The publications are in alphabetical order in all three tables.

| Journal | Archival | | Ongoing ¹ | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | CDROM (Anthology) | Web | CDROM (DiSC) | Web | | Print | |
| | | SIGMOD members | | SIGMOD members | Everyone | SIGMOD members | Everyone |
| <i>ACM TODS</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free | \$31 ² | \$47 ² | |
| <i>DPDB Journal</i> | Free | Kluwer DL | Free | \$165 ⁹ | | \$165 ⁹ | |
| <i>IEEE TKDE</i> | Free ⁷ | IEEE DL | — | \$30 ² | | \$36 ² | |
| <i>Inform. Systems</i> | — | \$45 ⁸ | — | \$45 ⁸ | \$1274 ⁹ | \$99 | \$1274 ⁹ |
| <i>VLDB Journal</i> | Free ³ | \$45 ⁴ | Free ⁵ | \$45 ⁴ | \$235 ⁶ | \$45 ⁴ | \$235 ⁶ |

¹Price for society members. Price for others is higher.

²Price for combined print and electronic is lower than the sum of the price for each.

³*VLDBJ* is in the SIGMOD Anthology through 1998.

⁴*VLDB* is available to *ACM* members at a special rate of \$45 for a combination electronic/print subscription rate.

⁵*VLDBJ* is available on the SIGMOD DiSC with a two-year delay.

⁶Combined print and electronic subscription rate. From the Springer web site: “Reduced rate for personal subscriptions restricted to private use is available upon request.”

⁷*TKDE* is available on the SIGMOD Anthology through 1995.

⁸*Information Systems* is available on the web for SIGMOD members for a special rate of \$45; note that electronic versions are available (for anyone) only for 1995 on.

⁹Combined print and electronic subscription rate.

Table 1: Journal Availability

Table 2 shows that SIGMOD members have free access to relevant newsletters, on CDROM and for the most part on the web (access to two require an ACM Digital Library subscription).

| Newsletter | Archival | | Ongoing | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | CDROM (Anthology) | Web | CDROM (DiSC) | Web | |
| | | SIGMOD members | | SIGMOD members | Everyone |
| <i>DATABASE</i> | Free | ACM DL | N/A ¹⁰ | N/A ¹⁰ | |
| <i>IEEE DE Bulletin</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free | |
| <i>SIGFIDET Newsletter</i> | Free | Free | N/A ¹⁰ | N/A ¹⁰ | |
| <i>SIGIR Forum</i> | Free | ACM DL | Free | ACM DL | |
| <i>SIGKDD Explorations</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free | |
| <i>SIGMOD Record</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free | |

¹⁰This newsletter is no longer published.

Table 2: Availability of Newsletters

Table 3 summarizes access to the proceedings of the major database conferences, most held annually. (Your challenge is to associate the full names with their acronyms!) We don't include here the many associated workshops (e.g., *DOLAP*, *GIS*, *MobiDE*, *NPIVM*, *WOODS*) that are also included in the Anthology or DiSC.

The situation is quite positive concerning access by SIGMOD members to archival material on CDROM. Archival web access generally requires some kind of digital library subscription, except for *KRDB*, *PODS*, *SIGMOD* and *VLDB*,

| Proceedings | Archival | | Ongoing | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | CDROM (Anthology) | Web | CDROM (DiSC) | Web | |
| | | SIGMOD members | | SIGMOD members | Everyone |
| <i>ADBIS</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>CIKM</i> | Free | ACM DL | Free | ACM DL | |
| <i>COMAD</i> | — | — | Free | — | |
| <i>COOPIS</i> | Free | IEEE DL | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>DASFAA</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>DBPL</i> | Free ¹⁴ | — ¹⁹ | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>DL</i> | Free | ACM DL | Free | ACM DL | |
| <i>EDBT</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — ¹¹ | Springer DL | |
| <i>ER</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>Hypertext</i> | Free | ACM DL | Free | ACM DL | |
| <i>ICDE</i> | Free | — ¹⁸ | Free | IEEE DL | |
| <i>ICDT</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — ¹² | Springer DL | |
| <i>KDD</i> | Free ¹³ | ACM DL ¹³ | Free | ACM DL | |
| <i>KRDB</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free | |
| <i>MFDBS</i> | Free | — | N/A ¹⁷ | N/A ¹⁷ | |
| <i>PDIS</i> | Free | IEEE DL | N/A ¹⁷ | N/A ¹⁷ | |
| <i>PODS</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free ¹⁵ | |
| <i>POS</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>SIGBDP</i> | Free | Free | N/A ¹⁷ | N/A ¹⁷ | |
| <i>SIGIR</i> | Free | ACM DL | Free | ACM DL | |
| <i>SIGMOD</i> | Free | Free ¹⁶ | Free | Free ¹⁶ | |
| <i>SSD</i> | Free | — ¹⁹ | — | Springer DL | |
| <i>SSDBM</i> | Free | — ¹⁸ | Free | IEEE DL | |
| <i>VLDB</i> | Free | Free | Free | Free | |
| <i>XP</i> | Free | — | N/A ¹⁷ | N/A ¹⁷ | |

¹¹*EDBT* will be on DiSC'02; its fate in future years has not been decided.

¹²*ICDT* will be on DiSC'01; its fate in future years has not been decided.

¹³*KDD* is available in the Anthology and in the ACM DL only for 1999 on; the first three years are copyright AAAI and are not included.

¹⁴*DBPL* is available on Anthology through 1997.

¹⁵*PODS* proceedings are available free on the web after the conference.

¹⁶*SIGMOD* proceedings are available on the web to non-SIGMOD members one year after the conference.

¹⁷This conference is no longer held.

¹⁸Some back issues are available in the IEEE DL.

¹⁹Some back issues are available in the Springer DL.

Table 3: Availability of Conference Proceedings

which are available free to the world. Of the 21 conferences listed that are on-going, an even dozen are included on the SIGMOD DiSC, with nine others not permitted to be included there, due to publisher restrictions. This is worrisome, for papers in these proceedings are much less accessible than for the conferences included on the DiSC. Papers not included on the DiSC will not be read nor cited as much. We hope that more conferences decide to include their material on the SIGMOD DiSC, and to also make their papers freely available on the web.

Incorporation in the Anthology and the DiSC of each publication required permission from the associated publisher. Some of these permissions were easy to obtain, by asking the right person. Some required extensive negotiations over a year or more. Frustratingly, some of these lengthy negotiations were ultimately unsuccessful.

The scientific community, represented by Editors in Chief, editorial boards, and conference steering committees, were uniformly supportive of our efforts, and I sincerely thank them for all their help. Publishers were also supportive,

but were understandably reticent to make their valuable copyrighted material freely available. To the publishers' credit, permission to distribute much of this material via CDROM was eventually granted; the publishers deserve the community's gratitude for their willingness to do so.

I thank the many people, listed below, who helped with collecting or granting permissions, and apologize in advance for inadvertent omissions.

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- Phil Bernstein (Concurrency Control book)
- Ivar Brinkman (Elsevier: Information Systems)
- Michael Brodie (Verizon: GTE TRs)
- Angela Burgess (IEEE: CoopIS, DASFAA, DE Bulletin, ER, ICDE, PDIS, SSDBM, TKDE)
- Stefano Ceri (EDBT, VLDB, VLDBJ)
- Diane Cerra (Morgan Kaufmann: DBPL, VLDB, Benchmarking book)
- Peter Chen (ER)
- Jan Chomicki (Logics book)
- Panos Chrysanthis (MobiDE)
- Sophie Cluet (DBPL)
- Ron Cytron (POPL)
- Scott Delman (Kluwer: Logics book and DPDBJ)
- Susan Dumais (DL, Hypertext, SIGIR, SIGIR Forum)
- Ahmed Elmagarmid (TKDE, DPDB)
- Usama Fayyad (KDD Explorations)
- Melissa Fearon (Kluwer: DPDBJ)
- Mike Franklin (SIGMOD Record)
- Jim Gray (Benchmarking book, other papers)
- Ralf-Hartmut Güting (SSD)
- Katherine Harutunian (AW: Foundations book)
- Alfred Hoffman (Springer: CIKM, DBPL, EDBT, ER, ICDT, MFDBS, POS, SSD, SSDBM, VLDBJ)
- Sushil Jajodia (PDIS)
- Manfred Jeusfeld (KRDB)
- Leonid Kalinichenko (ADBIS)
- Yahiko Kambayashi (DASFAA)
- Graham Kirby (POS)
- Won Kim (KDD, KDD Explorations, TODS)
- Hank Korth (XP)
- Matt Loeb (IEEE: ICDE, DE Bulletin, TKDE)
- David Lomet (DE Bulletin)
- David Maier (Database Theory book)
- Mark Mandelbaum (ACM: ADBIS, CACM, CIKM, Computing Surveys, DL, DOLAP, GIS, MobiDE, NPIV, SIGFIDET Newsletter, SIGIR, SIGKDD Explorations, SIGMIS Newsletter, SIGMOD Record, HyperText, TODS)
- Yoshifumi Masunaga (DASFAA)
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- Gail Mitchell (POS)
- Tadeusz Morzy (ADBIS)
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- John Mylopoulos (VLDB, VLDBJ)
- Erich Neuhold (ICDE)
- Timothy Nichols (Addison Wesley Longman: Ingres book)
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- Tamer Özsu (VLDB, VLDBJ)
- Jan Paredaens (ICDT, MFDBS)
- Niki Pissinou (CIKM, DOLAP, GIS, NPIV)
- Deborah Plummer (IEEE: TKDE)
- Mark Roth (XP)
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- Gio Wiederhold (Database book)
- Donna Wilson (Elsevier: Information Systems)
- Moshe Zloof (IBM paper)

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