

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the second issue of the year. In addition to articles from nine regular columns: Articles, Book Reviews, Career Forum, Database Principles, Distinguished Database Profiles, Influential Papers, Standards, Workshop Reports, and ACM TODS development, it features a special topic section on data engineering for life sciences.

In ACM TODS Development column, Rick Snodgrass briefly summarizes the June issue of ACM TODS and the four new associate editors. The second article is contributed by Yoshifumi Masunaga and Katsumi Tanaka, in memory of professor Yahiko Kambayashi (1943 - 2004). The article overviews the 34 years of academic career of Yahiko Kambayashi, his research achievements, and his leadership in Japan's database society.

Following the first two articles is the special topic section, guest edited by Dr. Amarnath Gupta from UCSD Supercomputing Center. The special topic section features ten articles on database management and data engineering for life sciences research, with topics ranging from a NSF-NIH-DARPA workshop summary article on data management issues for life sciences to articles describing ontology-reasoning, querying Genomic data, similarity search in DNA Sequences, biological data cleaning and data wrapping, and BioMolecular Image data management. The guest editor's introduction gives a brief overview of the field and the state of art in data management for life sciences research, in addition to introduce this special topic section.

The rest of this issue contains contributions in regular sections. The *Articles* section consists of two articles. The first article reports the main results of a special action on mobile databases conducted by CNRS in France. It reviews the state of art in mobile databases and outlines the major research directions for French database community. The second article is a short article contributed by Fabio Grandi, which gives a brief overview of the collection of annotated bibliography on temporal and evolution aspects in World Wide Web. The long version of the article is available and maintained at the author's web site (<http://www-db.deis.unibo.it/fgrandi/TWbib>). It can be served as a starting point for many young researchers who are interested in temporal and evolution aspects of the World Wide Web.

The *Database Principles* column, edited by Dr. Leonid Libkin, presents us with a contribution by Georg Gottlob and Christoph Koch on logic-based web information extraction. It describes the need and the fundamental principles of visual wrapping and presents the data structure and logic theory for web information extraction.

The *Distinguished DB Profiles* column editor, Marianne Winslett, presents us an interesting interview with Jeffrey Naughton. Jeff commented on database systems as control freaks and shared his experiences and point of view on how to choose students, how to choose problems, get attention, and importance of being true to yourself and many more.

The *Standard* column editors Andrew Eisenberg and Jim Melton contribute an interesting article, titled An Early Look at XQuery API for JavaTM (XQJ), a project taking place within the Java

Community Process and not owned by XML Query Working Group within W3C. This article gives a very informative description of the XQuery API for Java and related standard activities.

The *Book Reviews* section edited by Karl Aberer consists of two articles. The first review is contributed by Nagaraj, reviewing and recommending the book titled “Managing Gigabytes: Compressing and Indexing documents and images” by Ian H. Witten, Alistair Moffat, and Timothy C. Bell. The second review contributed by Nancy Hartline Bercich. She gave an overview of the book titled “Database Tuning Principles, Experiments, and Troubleshooting Techniques” by Dennis Shasha and Philippe Bonnet, and shared her comments on the book from a practitioner’s viewpoint.

It is with pleasure to present an interesting and unique article in the Career Forum, contributed by two well established academic professors and a couple, Rick Snodgrass (a professor in Computer Science) and Merrie Brucks (a professor in Marketing). Rick and Merrie shared their career experiences and viewpoints on branding yourself, covering issues from benefits of brands, properties of good brands, brand positioning, to various suggestions on brand promotion.

This issue ends with three workshop reports. The first one reports the workshop on Spatial, Temporal and Spatio-Temporal Databases – Hot Issues and Directions for PhD Research, contributed by Roddick, Egenhofer, Hoel, Papadias and Salzberg. The second article summarizes the EDBT04 Workshop on Database Technologies for Handling XML Information on the Web by Mesiti, Catania, Guerrini and Chaudhri. The third workshop report is contributed by Hislop, Lacroix and Moeller. It reports the workshop organized by the Virtual Parts Engineering Research Center (VPERC, funded by the Amy Research Office), covering a variety of issues in data management for design process, focusing on mechanical engineering design management.

As usual, I would like to end the editor note with thanks to all the contributing associate editors, the guest editor Amarnath Gupta, and all authors for their excellent work and their contributions to this high quality issue.

Ling Liu

Atlanta, April 2004