

Book Review Column

by Karl Aberer,
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland
karl.aberer@epfl.ch

This is the last issue of the book review column that will appear under my responsibility. I would like to thank here all authors of book reviews for their very interesting contributions over the last four years. I also hope the readers of SIGMOD RECORD found the articles in this column of interest and that they motivated in some cases to have a more detailed look at one of the reviewed books. For me it was surely an interesting experience seeing which new books have arrived over the last four years and also how they are appreciated by the community.

In this issue of SIGMOD RECORD I am glad to present two new, interesting reviews.

Web Services by G. Alonso, F. Casati, H. Kuno, V. Machiraju. Review by: *Dirk Wodtke*. This book differs from many other books in the area by focussing on a conceptual and architectural view of Web Services rather than delving into technicalities. This book positions Web Services as a natural evolution in middleware technologies and carefully evaluates the potential of this technology.

Emergence and Convergence: Qualitative Novelty and the Unity of Knowledge by Mario Bunge. Review by: *Haim Kilov*. This book is clearly of interest for everyone working in (data) modelling. It provides a much larger, philosophically founded context for standard constructions used in advanced data models, of which many of the more technically oriented researchers in the data modelling area most likely often are not aware of and might be surprised to read about.

As a successor for editing the book review column has not yet been determined, I will be handling all communication ad interim. I strongly suggest potential authors of book reviews to consider writing a review at this point. Having many interesting submissions will give my successor a

pleasant start. A number of books are still being proposed at the book review web site

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. Our community is surely interested in learning about good textbooks and experiences made when using them for teaching. On the Web page you also find book review guidelines.

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 hand over all requests to the successive editor as soon as determined.

In the meantime, I will try to obtain a copy of a book from the publisher, if needed. Reviews for the forthcoming March 2005 issue should be submitted by January 1st, 2005. The length of a book review should not exceed 2 pages.

I wish farewell to all the readers of this column and convey my best wishes to my successor for its successful continuation.

Karl Aberer,
Associate Editor.