

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the December 2009 issue of SIGMOD Record. This is my last issue as SIGMOD Record Editor; more on this later.

We begin the issue with a welcome article from the new Vice-Chair of SIGMOD, Christian Jensen.

The one regular article of this issue, by Van Cappellen, Liu, Melton, and Orgiyan, is about XQJ, the XQuery Java API, which provides a standard API for XQuery engines to declaratively access and manipulate XML data from different sources.

We continue with two articles in the **Surveys Column** (edited by Cesar Galindo-Legaria). The first one, by Whang, Song, Kim, and Lee, reviews the requirements as well as existing systems and research prototypes of Ubiquitous Database Management Systems, i.e., DBMSes that can be used in small mobile devices, such as cellular phones. The second article, by Sakr and Al-Naymat, surveys the different relational alternatives to storing and querying RDF data.

We continue with two articles in the **Systems and Prototypes Column** (edited by Magdalena Balazinska). The first article, authored by Bercovitz, Kaliszan, Koutrika, Liou, Parameswaran, Venetis, Zadeh, and Garcia-Molina, is entitled “*Social Sites Research Through CourseRank*”. This paper describes the CourseRank system that was demonstrated during SIGMOD 2009 and received the best demo award. The second article, by Lang, Patel, and Naughton is entitled “*On Energy Management, Load Balancing and Replication*” and investigates opportunities and challenges in energy-aware computing, which is becoming an increasingly important dimension of any real system deployment.

We continue with three articles in the **Reports Column** (edited by Brian Cooper). First is the *Report of the Third International Workshop on Personalized Access, Profile Management, and Context Awareness in Databases (PersDB 2009)*, written by Amer-Yahia and Koutrika. Second is the *Report on the Second Workshop on Very Large Digital Libraries (VLDL 2009)*, written by Manghi, Pagano, and Ioannidis. Third is the *Report on the Fifth International Workshop on Networking Meets Databases (NetDB 2009)*, written by Loo and Saroiu.

We close the issue with multiple **Calls for Participation**, in connection with the 2010 SIGMOD/PODS Conference to be held in Indianapolis, IN, USA, June 6-11, 2010:

- **SOCC 2010**: First ACM Symposium on Cloud Computing (June 10 & 11, 2010)
- **DBMe 2010**: DataBase Mentoring Workshop at SIGMOD 2010 (June 11, 2010)
- **DBTEST 2010**: Third International Workshop on Testing Database Systems (June 7, 2010)
- **IDAR 2010**: Ph.D. Workshop on Innovative Database Research (June 11, 2010)
- **WANDS 2010**: First International Workshop on Workflow Approaches to New Data-centric Science (June 6, 2010)
- **WebDB 2010**: 13th International Workshop on the Web and Databases (June 6, 2010)

As I mentioned above, this is my last issue as SIGMOD Record Editor. It has truly been an honor and a great ride, but I had to step down, because of my new duties as SIGMOD Secretary/Treasurer. I am extremely happy to pass the torch to **Ioana Manolescu**, at INRIA. I am confident that Ioana will do a marvelous job as SIGMOD Record Editor, and my first interactions with her have only reinforced my initial opinion.

Writing my last Editor's Notes gave me a chance to pause and reflect on the last three years, firstly on whom to thank, secondly on what we did well and what we did badly (and need to change), and finally, on what would be the advice to pass on to Ioana (and the rest of the community).

First of all, I would like to thank the Associate Editors of SIGMOD Record. The issues would only be a small fraction of what has actually been published had it not been for them. I strongly believe that the multitude of columns and topics is the "secret sauce" that makes SIGMOD Record an interesting read. Brian, Cesar, Denilson, Magda, Marianne, Leonid, Ugur and also Andrew, Jim, and Len, thank you all very much for your hard work. Many thanks also go to the SIGMOD Executive Committee for their help and advice throughout the years, and also to the ACM Headquarters Staff in general and to Julie Goetz in particular, for all her help, patience, and perseverance. Last, but not least, a special thank you to all the people who helped in the review process and are listed below (including my students in the Advanced Data Management Technologies Lab at the University of Pittsburgh).

Secondly, the good things. We established a customized paper submission web site to manage the entire review workflow (<http://db.cs.pitt.edu/recess>). There were two special issues: the June 2008 issue for the Jim Gray Tribute (many thanks to Donna, Pat, Paula, Alan and Vicky) and the December 2008 issue with the special section on Managing Information Extraction (many thanks to AnHai, Luis, Raghu and Shivakumar). We revived the Systems and Prototypes column, and introduced two new columns: the *Open Forum* column, to present (meta-)ideas about non-technical issues and challenges of interest to the entire community, and the column to celebrate the *40-year anniversary of the relational model*. Finally, we introduced a twitter feed (<http://twitter.com/sigmodrecord>), to announce when new issues are published online.

Thirdly, the bad things. Unfortunately, time has been the ultimate frontier on many occasions. The most prominent one is the backlog that has been created in the reviewing of the research papers. I do want to apologize profusely to all the authors whose papers were delayed. The good news is that by the time this issue is printed, I expect all authors to have been notified of the status of their papers. I also expect for the pipeline to be emptied within the next two issues (March and June 2010); I will stay on as an associate editor, to wrap up these papers. The even better news is that, going forward, we are taking major steps to avoid the possibility of a backlog. In particular, we are changing the structure of the SIGMOD Record editorial board to include 2-3 additional associate editors that will help with the reviewing process of the regular research articles. In addition, Ioana will soon be announcing an editorial policy for SIGMOD Record, to make it clear what types of papers are appropriate for publication (i.e., to allow for some self-selection in the process).

In closing, I would like to urge the broader data management community to continue to support SIGMOD Record by:

- reading it (cover to cover), online or in hard-copy
- contributing articles (in any of the columns)
- citing SIGMOD Record papers, as appropriate
- lastly, but not least: reviewing papers, as requested by Ioana or the associate editors. Almost all papers are short (6 pages), so there is no big reason why we cannot decrease the turn-around times.

Thank you.

Alexandros Labrinidis, Former Editor
May 2010

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