

Welcome Message to New (and Continuing) SIGMOD Members

On behalf of ACM SIGMOD's Executive Committee, it is a pleasure to be writing to you for the first time since I became Vice-Chair and thus assumed responsibility for membership issues.

SIGMOD is one of the largest ACM Special Interest Groups. As a member of SIGMOD, you are part of an organization with more than 2,800 members from all across the globe, whose goal is to promote research and technological advancement in the field of data, information, and knowledge management.

We live in an age of data explosion, and SIGMOD holds the potential to play a pivotal role in facilitating and promoting the development of technologies that enable us to harness and benefit from all the data available. To realize this potential, we need to join forces, to work together, and to make sure that everybody's contributions count. In particular, we need the out-of-the-box thinking of new members of our community such as students and members with non-database backgrounds.

The SIGMOD website (www.sigmod.org) contains the latest information related to the community. It includes descriptions of the benefits associated with the different kinds of membership, it contains contact information, and much other content.

The member benefits include various kinds of content. Our philosophy is to make available content accessible online to the extent possible, thus avoiding expensive and environmentally unfriendly media and paper printing and shipping. However, due to copyright difficulties, not all available content can be provided online. As a result of this, we have different types of membership that provide content on different media.

The ACM SIGMOD Digital Symposium Collection (DiSC) returns in 2010, starting with a two-volume set, DiSC'07/08. DiSC took a break for two unrelated reasons. First, the software used to produce DiSC met an untimely end, resulting in new software having to be written. Second, as times change and business models evolve, issues regarding intellectual property have become increasingly complex.

The upcoming two-volume set contains all of the previous DiSC materials, with the exception of most IEEE and Springer publications. The proceedings of ER'05 and ER'06 as well as two volumes of The VLDBJ are, however, present, as are some additional conference proceedings (CIDR, ADC, and APCCM). Close on the heels of DiSC'07/08, we will provide DiSC'09 and possibly by the end of the year, DiSC'10. This incredible effort is spearheaded by Curtis Dyreson.

The different volumes of DiSC will be distributed in hardcopy to those with memberships that include this benefit; and content from the volumes, where we have the necessary permissions, will be available online.

Some time ago, a comprehensive effort aimed at re-vitalizing the website was set in motion. Thanks to substantial efforts headed by Jeffrey Xu Yu, we have a new website in terms of content as well as presentation that uses more modern technologies. This new website will serve the SIGMOD membership much more effectively. And we have great plans for continuing to improve the website.

If you have any comments or suggestions for how we can better address the needs of the membership, please send me e-mail ("my three initials"@cs.au.dk) or track me down at SIGMOD/PODS 2010 in Minneapolis.

Sincerely,
Christian S. Jensen
SIGMOD Vice-Chair