SIGMOD Sister Societies

Stefano Ceri, Leonid Kalinichenko, Masaru Kitsuregawa,
Hongjun Lu, Z. Meral Özsoyoğlu, Richard T. Snodgrass and Victor Vianu

Cooperation can exist at many levels. Professors cooperate with students in learning. Co-authors cooperate on papers and books, often across large distances in space and time. And sometimes even societies cooperate.

For many years, SIGMOD has co-sponsored conferences, and is in-cooperation with a somewhat larger set of conferences (see `http://www.acm.org/sigmod/sigmodinfo`). Won Kim, the previous SIGMOD chair, provided the impetus to start two regional chapters, the SIGMOD Japan Chapter and the Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter. Over the last few years, the SIGMOD Executive Committee has been active in establishing liaisons and joint projects with a wide variety of bodies involved in database research.

Here we celebrate this cooperation by providing summary information on nine societies with which SIGMOD cooperates, our "sister societies". It is to the credit of these societies that they are open to, indeed, enthusiastically supportive of, joint activities, in a shared desire to best serve the database community. And SIGMOD looks forward to additional initiatives that will build on the particular resources of each society to further database research and development.

This description was edited by Rick, with contributions from the following people.

Stefano Ceri The EDBT Endowment and the VLDB Foundation.

Leonid Kalinichenko The Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter.

Masaru Kitsuregawa The SIGMOD Japan Chapter.

Hongjun Lu The Database Society of the China Computer Federation (CCF DBS) and ACM SIGKDD.

Z. Meral Özsoyoğlu The IEEE Technical Committee on Data Engineering (TCDE).

Victor Vianu The ICDT-Council and the PODS Executive Committee.

Each was asked to work with the officers to produce a short description of the organization, a list of the relevant officers, and a list of the relevant activities of the organization.

The Database Society of the China Computer Federation (CCF DBS)

The China Computer Federation Database Society (CCF DBS) is one of the societies of China Computer Federation (CCF), the largest national academic organization in China, established in 1956. In 1977, database researchers formed a Database Group, a third level unit in the CCF hierarchy, under the Software Society of CCF. After 22 years, the group was upgraded to the Database Society, a second level unit in CCF hierarchy, in August 1999. The aim of CCF DBS is to promote research, development and application of database related technologies by uniting database researchers, vendors, practitioners, application developers and end users from the mainland of China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and other overseas Chinese.

CCF DBS functions as a steering committee for database related academic activities in China. Its members are prominent researchers and developers nominated by and selected from leading universities, research institutes, and industrial organizations. During the 16th National Database Conference held in Lanzhou last August, 43 researchers from more than 30 universities, institutes and companies were selected by the database community as the members of the society. Among them, Professor Shan WANG (`swang@mail.ruc.edu.cn`) of the School of Information, Renmin University was elected as the chair. Another eight members, Jianzhong LI (`jzl@hlju.edu.cn`), Department of Computer Science of Harbin Institute of Technology, Xiaopei LUO, Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Science, Bole SHI (`bshi@fudan.edu.cn`), Department of Computer Science of Fudan University, Changjie TANG (`Chjtang@scu.edu.cn`), Department of Computer Science of Sichuan University, Shiwei TANG, Department of Computer Science of Peking University, Nengbin WANG (`nbwang@seu.edu.cn`), Department of Computer Science of Southeastern University, Lizhu ZHOU (`dcszlz@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn`), Department of Computer Science of Tsinghua University, and Longxiang ZHOU (`Lxzhou@math20.math.ac.cn`), Institute of Mathematics of the Chinese Academy of Science, were elected as the vice chairs. Shixuan SA, a veteran database research at the School of Information of Renmin University, is the honorary chair of the Society.

As a professional organization at the national level, CCF DBS actively organizes and coordinates database-related activities in China, including providing consultation and supporting services to both government organizations and the database community. It also helps government departments in drafting related regulations, technical standards, etc.

CCF DBS actively organizes, sponsors and supports conferences, symposia, workshops, and training classes to facilitate information and technology dissemination and exchange. The China's national database conference (NDBC) organized by the society is an important event to the database community in China. It has been held for 16 years, and has been playing a very important role in promoting database related education, research and development in China. It is CCF DBS' objective to improve the paper selection process and conference organization so that NDBC can become one of the leading database conferences internationally in the new millennium. This year, the 17th National Database Conference (NDBC2000) will be held in Baoding, an ancient city about 200 kilometers southern from Beijing, the capital of China. Overseas researchers and practitioners are warmly welcomed to participate this activity.

Compiling a book series on database-related technology is another effort of the society. Six books published in the series so far cover various areas including parallel and distributed database systems, data warehouses, and database security.

Strengthening collaboration with sister database societies in other countries, especially ACM SIGMOD and other ACM special interests groups, is among the top list of tasks of CCF DBS' agenda. In its 16th NDBC, CCF DBS helped the first SIGMOD membership recruitment drive and will continue to do so. It is also planned to initiate certain exchange programs with SIGMOD such as inviting prominent database researchers to visit China, exchanging publications, etc.

A Web-site has been recently setup for the society with the following URL: `http://www.ccf-dbs.org.cn`. The Secretary General, Xiaofeng MENG can be reached at `ccfdbs@mail.ruc.edu.cn`.

The EDBT Endowment

The EDBT Endowment is a non-political and non-profit organization for promoting and supporting research and progress in the fields of databases and information systems technology and applications.

Its major activity is the promotion of the International Conference on Extending Database Technology (EDBT), which has been held every two years since 1988: the first two editions in Venice (1988 and 1990), and then in Vienna (1992), Cambridge (1994), Avignon (1996), Valencia (1998), and Konstanz (March 2000). The Conference Proceedings are published by Springer-Verlag as part of the LNCS Series, and contain about thirty high-quality articles selected out of a large number of submissions (typically more than 200, with selection rate ranging between 1/6 and 1/8). The EDBT Endowment has also promoted a series of Summer schools, held in Alghero (1991), Leysin (1993), Gubbio (1995), Capri (1997), and La Baule (1999).

The first conference in the series was held in Venice in March 1988, with the intent to provide a European forum for the presentation and exchange of the best international results in research, development, and applications in the field of database technology. EDBT'88 turned out to be a great success, from both a scientific and a financial point of view, and therefore its promoters felt that it would be reasonable to establish a stable series, with conferences held every other year, and to provide a stable structure to support the continuity of the series. With these goals, the EDBT Foundation was formed in 1990, and changed its legal status in 1995, assuming the current legal form of an association and the name "EDBT Endowment". The EDBT association members (currently about 25) are the key officers of EDBT Conferences and Summer Schools, who are invited to join the association.

The EDBT Endowment has an Executive Board (composed of at least 5 members) elected by the association members, renewed every four years. The current members are:

Paolo Atzeni (President)	`atzeni@dia.uniroma3.it`
Stefano Ceri	`ceri@elet.polimi.it`
Keith G Jeffery	`kgj@inf.rl.ac.uk`
Michele Missikoff	`missikoff@iasi.rm.cnr.it`
Joachim W. Schmidt	`j.w.schmidt@tu-harburg.de`

The WEB site of the EDBT Endowment is found at the url `http://www.edbt.org`.

The officers of EDBT 2000 are:

Peter Lockemann (General Chair)	`lockeman@ira.uka.de`
Marc Scholl (Executive Chair)	`marc.scholl@uni-konstanz.de`
Carlo Zaniolo (Program Chair)	`zaniolo@cs.ucla.edu`

The WEB site of the EDBT2000 Conference is found at the url `http://www.edbt2000.uni-konstanz.de`.

EDBT is participating in the SIGMOD Anthology initiative.

The ICDT-Council

The Council of the International Conferences on Database Theory (ICDT-Council) is by vocation a European organization. It is associated with the European Association for Theoretical Computer

Science (EATCS) and coordinates closely with the Extending Data Base Technology Foundation (EDBT-Foundation).

The ICDT-Council stimulates research by providing young researcher awards, organizing visits of international specialists to European universities and research institutes, and sponsoring local and national meetings on fundamental research in databases.

The ICDT-Council organizes every second year, lately in January, a conference on database theory. Former conferences were held in Rome (1986), Bruges (1988), Paris (1990), Berlin (1992), Prague (1995), Delphi (1997) and Jerusalem (1999). The next ICDT will be held in London in 2001. The proceedings of these conferences are published in the LNCS; some of these will be available on the SIGMOD Anthology.

The ICDT-Council is composed of the PC chairs and co-chairs of the last three and the future ICDT. They elect a representative of EDBT for four years. The members can augment the ICDT-Council by nominating for four years two representatives from the international research community. On January 1, 2000, the council members were Jan Paredaens (chairman), Serge Abiteboul, Foto Afrati, Paolo Atzeni, Catriel Beeri, Peter Buneman, Georg Gottlob, Phokion Kolaitis, Jan Van den Bussche, Moshe Vardi and Victor Vianu.

Every ICDT conference has a home page, but there is not a home page per se for the ICDT-Council.

The ICDT-Council can be contacted through its chairman: `Jan.Paredaens@uia.ua.ac.be`.

The IEEE Technical Committee on Data Engineering

The Technical Committee on Data Engineering (TCDE) of IEEE is one of the 33 technical committees under IEEE Computer Society, which is the largest of the 36 societies under the umbrella of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The TCDE is concerned with the role of data in the design, development, management, and utilization of information systems. Issues of interest include database design; knowledge of the data and its processing; languages to describe data, define access, and manipulate databases; strategies and mechanisms for data access, security, and integrity control; and engineering services and distributed systems. It sponsors the International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE), and publishes a quarterly newsletter, the Data Engineering Bulletin. There are approximately 1500 members of TCDE.

The International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE) is the flagship conference of TCDE. The objective of the ICDE is to promote research and development of data and information engineering by: (a) providing a forum for the introduction and discussion of new research results, concepts, and technologies; (b) providing practicing engineers exposure to and an evaluation of evolving research, tools, and practices; (c) providing the research community exposure to the problems of practical applications of data engineering; and (d) encouraging the exchange of data engineering technologies and experience. The first conference called the "International Computer Data Engineering Conference" (COMPDEC) was held in Los Angeles in April 1984. The first conference general chair C. V. Ramamoorthy stated the purpose of the conference as "to provide a forum for the discussion of experience, practice and theory of automated data and knowledge management from an engineering point of view." Bruce Berra, who was also the program chair of the first conference, was the general chair of the second conference in Los Angeles in February 1986. From 1986 to 1990, the conference was held annually in Los Angeles. Since 1991, ICDE conference has been held annually, around the world: Kobe, Japan (1991), Tempe, Arizona (1992), Vienna, Austria (1993), Houston, Texas (1994), Taipei, Taiwan (1995), New Orleans, Louisiana (1996), Birmingham, U.K. (1997), Orlando, Florida (1998), Sydney, Australia (1999). The 16th International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE 2000) will be in San Diego, California. The officers of ICDE 2000 are, General Chair: Paul Larson and Program Co-Chairs: David Lomet and Gerhard Weikum. Detailed information on ICDE 2000 can be found in the conference web site: `http://research.microsoft.com/icde2000`.

The ICDE Steering Committee oversees the long-term planning and success of the conference. The Steering Committee plans for future conferences, evaluates how well each conference has achieved the objectives of the conference, and implements improvements to better meet these objectives. The first ICDE Steering Committee was chaired by C. V. Ramamoorthy. Currently the Steering Committee has the following members:

Erich J. Neuhold (chair)	(1/96-12/2001)
Marek Rusinkiewicz	(1/96-12/2001)
Ahmed Elmagarmid	(1/96-12/2001)
Philip S. Yu	(5/98-12/2002)
Calton Pu	(5/98-12/2002)
Elisa Bertino	(1/00-12-2003)
Paul Larson	(1/00-12/2003)

More information on the ICDE Steering Committee and its bylaws can be found at `http://www.acm.org/sigmod/dblp/db/conf/icde/bylaws.html`.

The TCDE publishes a quarterly newsletter since 1978. It was originally named the Database Engineering Newsletter. The December 1981 issue (Vol. 4, No.2) of this publication was the first to be published under its current name "IEEE Database Engineering Bulletin". Won Kim was the editor-in-chief when the newsletter was transformed into its current form, which is a more of a theme-driven magazine, with special issues on state-of-the art research topics. Currently, The IEEE Database Engineering Bulletin has its own web site, `http://www.research.microsoft.com/research/db/debull/`, and all issues since 1993 are available electronically from this website. David Lomet, the editor-in-chief of the Bulletin since 1992, made this transition for the electronic edition of the Bulletin possible, ensured that the publication appears in the SIGMOD Anthology and annual DiSC CD-ROMS, and maintains its website.

The chair of the TCDE Executive Committee is elected for a two year term. The Executive Committee of the IEEE TCDE currently has the following officers:

Chair:	Betty J. Salzberg (1/98-12/99, 1/2000-12/2001)
Vice-Chair:	Prof. Dr. Erich J. Neuhold
Treasurer/Secretary:	Per-Ake (Paul) Larson
European Coordinator:	Svein-Olaf Hvasshovd
Asian Coordinator:	Masaru Kitsuregawa
Australian Coordinator:	Ron Sacks-Davis
Bulletin Editor:	David Lomet
SIGMOD Liaison (also SIGMOD Vice Chair):	Z. Meral Özsoyoğlu

The IEEE TCDE also has a web site: ĥttp://www.ccs.neu.edu/groups/IEEE/tcde/.

ACM SIGKDD

In February 1998, Won Kim initiated a move to form an international society for the field of knowledge discovery and data mining based on the the Steering Committee (SC) of the International Conference on Knowledge Discovery in Data and Data Mining (KDD Conference). The KDD SC consists of 14 prominent scientists in the field and has served as the organizers of the technical programs of the conference. The SC agreed to form the society as a SIG of ACM, and a proposal was submitted to ACM in April. ACM approved the first year budget and Bylaws for the new SIG in June, after obtaining endorsements from all existing related SIGs (in particular, SIGMOD, SIGART, SIGIR, and SIGCHI). After a requisite number of signatures of ACM members who endorsed the formation of the new SIG has been obtained in July, ACM in August 5 officially chartered SIGKDD on August 5 as a provisionary SIG. ACM SIGKDD, the Special Interest Group on Knowledge Discovery in Data and Data Mining, became the 37th SIG of the ACM.

The mission of SIGKDD is to help advance the science and to promote the rapid maturation of the KDD/DM field worldwide. SIGKDD will provide a forum for the exchange, debate, and dissemination of new ideas, results of research and development, and information among researchers, developers, vendors, and users of the KDD/KM technology consisting of both theories (methodologies, processes, and algorithms) and systems (software, hardware, and networked computers).

The current SIGKDD Executive Committee (EC) consists of 6 members, They are the Chair (Won Kim), Secretary/Treasurer (Rakesh Agrawal), and five Directors (Christos Faloutsos, Usama Fayyad, Gregory Piatetsky-Shapiro, Daryl Pregibon, and Ramasamy Uthurusamy). Besides the EC, a Chair's Advisory Board, consisting of prominent leaders from various disciplines in both academia and industry, was also established to advise the Chair on all key issues of SIGKDD and their implementations.

The two primary means SIGKDD communicates with its members are an annual international conference and a newsletter. SIGKDD has folded the KDD Conference into SIGKDD as SIGKDD's annual international conference and retained the name KDD Conference. KDD-99 Conference was held in San Diego, California, on August 15-18. This year, KDD conference will be held in Boston, Massachusetts during August 20-23. The first issue of the SIGKDD newsletter, SIGKDD Explorations, was published in June 1999. It is planned to publish 3–4 issues a year, in both electronic and hard copy form. SIGKDD also plans to publish joint issues of newsletters with other SIGs, in particular, SIGMOD and SIGART, from time to time. SIGKDD EC has also decided to create an Annual SIGKDD Awards Program consisting of two Awards, the Innovation Award and Services Award to recognize major technical and services contributions to the KDD/DM field.

Since the KDD/DM field is an inter-disciplinary one, drawing from machine learning, statistics, database systems, information retrieval, visualization, parallel processing, optimization theory, etc., SIGKDD has actively sought meaningful collaborative relationships with societies that represent these related fields. SIGMOD is one of the minority co-sponsors of the KDD Conference. SIGKDD has also accepted an invitation to join the SIGMOD DiSC and Anthology. SIGKDD will have the KDD-99 Conference proceedings (and perhaps all past KDD Conference proceedings) in these SIGMOD publications. In order to bring the KDD Conference and smaller overseas conferences for the field closer together, SIGKDD has formed an International Liaisons Board consisting of two prominent colleagues in Europe, and three in Asia.

The SIGKDD EC maintains a website for SIGKDD (`http://www.acm.org/sigkdd`) to communicate key events, activities, and decisions of SIGKDD to members and the field as a whole.

The PODS Executive Committee

The ACM SIGMOD-SIGACT-SIGART Symposium on Principles of Database Systems (PODS) was started in 1982 as a forum for theoretical research in databases. Since 1991, SIGMOD is the only financial sponsor, with SIGACT and SIGART remaining as co-sponsors with no financial commitment. PODS has been co-located and partially overlapping with the SIGMOD Conference since 1991. There is a single registration and some joint events, but separate proceedings and separate program committees and programs. All past PODS proceedings are included in the SIGMOD Anthology; future ones will appear in the SIGMOD DiSC.

PODS is run by the Executive Committee, which consists of the current and past two General Chairs and the current and past two Program Committee Chairs. The Executive Committee is chaired by the current General Chair.

The Executive Committee appoints the Program Committee Chair (two years in advance) and the General Chair. It also chooses the invited keynote speaker for the following conference. The General Chair is appointed for two years.

There is an annual Executive Committee meeting held at the conference. This is a transitional meeting, attended by the current and next year's Executive Committee. All attendees vote at the annual meeting.

Currently, the PODS Executive Committee consists of Georg Gottlob, Alberto Mendelzon, Christos H. Papadimitriou, Jan Paredaens, Victor Vianu (Chair), `vianu@cs.ucsd.edu`, and Mihalis Yannakakis.

Each yearly PODS conference has its own Web site. In addition, a permanent PODS Web site is linked by the SIGMOD web site, at `http://www.acm.org/sigmod/pods/`.

The SIGMOD Japan Chapter

Japan ACM SIGMOD was established in 1993 with the chair, Mr. Y. Ishii. Originally it was called Kyoto/Japan ACM SIGMOD since its office located at Kyoto when it started. Professor Y. Kambayashi significantly contributed to its start up. The second and third term chair was Professor Y. Masunaga at Ochanomizu Univ. from 1995, to 1999. On June 99, at the Japan ACM SIGMOD symposium, the fourth term chair election was done by voting and the current organization is as follows:

Chair:	Masaru Kitsuregawa (Univ. of Tokyo)	`kitsure@tkl.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp`
Vice Chair:	Hiromu Hayashi (Fujitsu Labs LTD.)	`hiromu@flab.fujitsu.co.jp`
Secretary:	Tadashi Ohmori (Univ. Electro-Comm.)	`omori@is.uec.ac.jp`
Treasurer:	Kazuo Masai(Hitachi Ltd.)	`masai_k@soft.hitachi.co.jp`
Program Chair:	Tatsuro Suzuki(NTT Data)	`tsuzuki@rd.nttdata.co.jp`

At present, around 500 members are actively reachable through emails. In Japan there are two domestic academic societies, SIGDB of IPSJ (Information Processing Society Japan) and SIGDE of IEICE (The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers). The ratio of overlap between these societies and Japan ACM SIGMOD is very small, less than 10%. Japan ACM SIGMOD has lots of members from industry and is financially supported by around 20 major Japanese companies. Professor Masunaga paid considerable efforts to increase the number of members who do not belong to existing academic societies. Every year, the chapter sponsored two symposia. The last one was held on 15th and 16th, December, 1999, with around 170 attendance. The home page of Japan ACM SIGMOD became first available at the end of 1999 (URL: `http://www.sigmodj.is.uec.ac.jp/`). All the activities so far were on the web including some pictures, such as seminars by Mr. Bill Inmon, Dr. Usama Fayyad, Dr. Calton Pu, Dr. Hans Schek, Dr. Nalin Sarda, Dr. Beng Chin Ooi, Dr. Kam-Fai Wong, etc. One of the activities the chapter started and is trying to continue is tutorial lectures on the recent major international database conferences. Since most of the major database conferences are held outside of Japan and it is not so easy for Japanese members to attend them. So the chapter supports young assistant/associate professors to attend conferences such as ACM SIGMOD, VLDB, and ICDE and asks them to report some of new interesting issues to the non-expert domestic people. VLDB99 was reported at Japan ACM SIGMOD symposium held last Dec, which attracted a lot of audience. The chapter is planning to do it for SIGMOD 00 to be held in Dallas. Industry people are interested in the academic database activities but usually they are not able to attend, which makes this tutorial quite useful. The other activity the chapter is going to start is sub-SIGs for a certain specific topics such as web mining, system I/O, SAN, portal tool, VR-DB, etc.

The Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter

The Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter was chartered by ACM on September 24, 1992. According to the charter, it was formed to operate under the sponsorship of the ACM, the Local Activities Board, ACM SIGMOD, and the SIG Board. The Chapter supports activities complementary to ACM SIGMOD, the ACM, and other ACM activities in Russia. The Chapter is operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes without any related financial duties.

General objectives of the Chapter are stated in the charter as:

- Improve scientific contacts between the Moscow (Russian) and worldwide database communities.
- Collect and disseminate relevant technical publications to the Moscow database and broader computer science community.
- Contribute to technical development through support of lectures, professional development seminars and technical briefings.
- Advance database technology and improve technical interchange through conferences and workshops in Russia and in the former USSR.

The Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter is attempting to serve as a bridge with the Worldwide Database community across the new economical and organizational barriers primarily intended on improving contacts to scientists and literature. Interests of the Chapter include broad range of advanced issues of database and information systems technologies.

The body of the Chapter is currently around 70. Alongside with the Russian ACM and ACM SIGMOD members, representatives of research institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences and of the industry, professors of the Universities and students are included into the body.

The officers running the chapter are the following:

Leonid A. Kalinichenko, Chair
Institute for Problems of Informatics, Russian Academy of Science
Phone: 7 (095) 237-2031
e-mail: `leonidk@synth.ipi.ac.ru`

Sergei D. Kuznetsov, Vice-chair
Institute for Systems Programming, Russian Academy of Science
Phone: 7 (095) 912-4614
e-mail: `kuzloc@ispras.ru`

Mikhail R. Kogalovsky, Secretary
Market Economy Institute, Russian Academy of Science
Phone: 7 (095) 129-1433
e-mail: `kogalov@cemi.rssi.ru`

The officers are volunteers persistently and enthusiastically running the Chapter's work.

Information on the Chapter's activity (in Russian) is available at the Web page `http://www.ipi.ac.ru/sigmod`.

The following are the activities of the chapter.

1. Seminars

   Regular work of the Moscow Chapter is organized through its monthly seminar held at the Moscow State University. About 60 seminar meetings devoted to various aspects of databases and information systems (such as object-oriented approach in databases, transaction management and workflows, efficient storage structuring, formal aspects of database theory, object design methodologies, compositional information systems development methods, deductive databases, etc.) have been organized during the Chapter's activity. The speakers at the seminars were researchers from Russia and from abroad.

2. Conferences

   The most important direction of the Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter activity consists in organization of the conferences related to database issues. Immediately after its formation, the Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter founded the Annual Workshops "Advances in Databases and Information Systems" (ADBIS). In 1993–1996 these Workshops were held as the Workshops of the Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter in collaboration with the Russian Foundation for Basic Research. International body of the Program Committees and well-organized paper selection process contributed to the quality of the Conferences. In 1996 after a series of discussions with Dr. Won Kim (the ACM SIGMOD Chair) it was agreed to transform ADBIS into the East European Conference to provide a forum for the exchange of scientific achievements between the research communities of the Eastern Europe and the rest of the world in the area of databases and information systems. These events would continue and consolidate the series of ADBIS workshops existed previously. It was agreed that ACM SIGMOD will actively support the organization of the Symposia and warrant the high quality of the program. The Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter continues to serve as a focal point of the event.

In 1997–1999 three East European ADBIS Conferences took place in St. Petersburg (Russia), Poznan (Poland), and Maribor (Slovenia). In 2000 ADBIS will take place in Prague (Czech Republic, `http://www.ms.mff.cuni.cz/adbis2000`) as 2000 ADBIS-DASFAA Symposium. This will be the first experience extending ADBIS into cooperation with DASFAA—one of the most prestigious international DB conferences held in Asia and Australia. The ADBIS Steering Committee includes representatives of different countries of the Eastern and Central Europe: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Estonia, Germany, Jugoslavia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

The Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter also participates in organizing the new series of All-Russian National Annual Conferences on Digital Libraries. The second conference in this series will take place in September 2000 near Moscow. This conference will be open for participation of foreign specialists.

3. Library

   Taking into account difficulties in Russia with getting access to the worldwide computer science and database research literature, a Chapter's library is collected to be available for the Moscow database and broader computer science community.

4. Collaboration

   The Chapter collaborates with the Russian Foundation for Basic Research in preparing joint International Conferences, reviewing projects related to information systems development for different branches of science. The Chapter collaborates also with Chapters of other ACM SIGs functioning in Russia and Ukraine.

5. Cooperation with ACM SIGMOD

   ADBIS Conferences are organized in cooperation with ACM SIGMOD. The Chapter as well as the ADBIS Steering Committee joined the ACM SIGMOD program "SIGMOD Digital Symposium Collection (DiSC)" aiming at collecting symposium Anthologies on compact discs. Concerning ADBIS, the Anthology currently is planned to include papers accepted for ADBIS that took part during four years: 1994–1997. Materials of later conferences will follow as soon as the copyright issues with Springer are resolved.

The VLDB Foundation

The VLDB Endowment is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in the United States and chartered in 1980 for the sole purpose of promoting and exchanging scholarly work in databases and related disciplines among database researchers and professionals worldwide. Its main vehicle for achieving its objectives is the sponsorship and support of the annual International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB Conference), the quarterly International Journal on Very Large Databases (VLDB Journal), the VLDB Tutorial Series, and the VLDB Library Program. All these are directed at fostering high-quality research and development in database technology and practice, in its growing interaction with other computer and telecommunications technologies, and in its ever-growing range of applications. In exercising all of these activities the Endowment exclusively relies on an extensive network of dedicated volunteers.

The first VLDB conference was held in 1975 in Framingham MA. The conference was conceived as a vehicle for focusing research attention on very large databases, which were deemed to have an emerging importance for DoD and other large corporate database users back in the early seventies. The conference was a huge success for its time, attracting almost 100 papers and more than 150 participants. In following years, VLDB conferences were held in Europe, the Americas, and Asia with great success, both in the quality of the technical programs and the attention that they attracted within the international database community. Forthcoming VLDB conferences are planned for Cairo (2000), Rome (2001), Hong Kong (2002) and Berlin (2003).

The VLDB Endowment is governed by a 21-person board. The board holds elections every two years to replace one third of its membership. Current board membership includes:

- Officers

President:	John Mylopoulos (Canada, 1998-2001)	`jm@cs.toronto.edu`
Vice-President:	Keith G Jeffery (UK, 1998-2001)	`K.G.Jeffery@rl.ac.uk`
Secretary:	Klaus R. Dittrich (Switzerland, 2000-2003)	`dittrich@ifi.unizh.ch`
Treasurer:	Jennifer Widom (USA, 2000-2003)	`widom@cs.stanford.edu`

- Members

Stanley Su (USA, outgoing treasurer 1996-1999)	`su@cise.ufl.edu`
Rakesh Agrawal (USA, 1998-2003)	`ragrawal@almaden.ibm.com`
Michael L. Brodie (USA, 1998-2003)	`brodie@gte.com`
Michael J. Carey (USA, 1996-2001)	`carey@almaden.ibm.com`
Stefano Ceri (Italy, publication chair, 1998-2003)	`ceri@elet.polimi.it`
Umeshwar Dayal (USA, 1994-1999)	`dayal@hpl.hp.com`
Jim Gray (USA, 1994-1999)	`gray@Microsoft.com`
Yannis Ioannidis (Greece, 1998-2003)	`yannis@cs.wisc.edu`
Martin L. Kersten (Netherlands, 1998-2003)	`martin.kersten@cwi.nl`
Masaru Kitsuregawa (Japan, 1996-2001)	`kitsure@tkl.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp`
Maria E. Orlowska (Australia, 1994-1999)	`maria@csee.uq.edu.au`
Tamer Ozsu (Canada, publicity chair, 1996-2001)	`ozsu@cs.ualberta.ca`
Hans-J. Schek (Switzerland, 1994-1999)	`schek@inf.ethz.ch`
Timos K. Sellis (Greece, tutorials, 1996-2001)	`timos@cs.ntua.gr`
Patrick Valduriez (France, 1994-1999)	`patrick.valduriez@inria.fr`
Gerhard Weikum (Germany, 1998-2003)	`weikum@cs.uni-sb.de`
Kyu-Young Whang (Korea, 1998-2003)	`kywhang@cs.kaist.ac.kr`

Past board members include: G. Bracchi (Italy) , Janis A. Bubenko (Sweden), Alfonso F. Cardenas (USA), David DeWitt (USA), C. Fields (USA), A. L. Furtado (Brazil), Hector Garcia-Molina (USA), George Gardarin (France), David K. Hsiao (USA), Yahiko Kambayashi (Japan), T. Kitagawa (Japan), Peter Lockemann (Germany), Vincent Lum (USA), Stuart Madnick (USA), Dennis McLeod (USA), Sham Navathe (USA), Erich J. Neuhold (Germany), Alain Pirotte (Belgium), Nick Roussopoulos (USA), Gunther Schlageter (Germany), Hans J. Schneider (Germany), Arie Shoshani (USA), Arne Solvberg (Norway), Peter Stocker (UK), Dennis Tsichritzis (Switzerland), Yannis Vassiliou (Greece), Hans Weber (Germany), G. Wilson (USA), and S. Bing Yao (USA).

A very important on-going project of the Endowment is the broadening of the scope of VLDB conferences and the VLDB journal to cover areas such as managing software components, application services, distributed client/middleware/server computing, application frameworks, enterprise resource planning systems, XML, and e-commerce. In all of these new areas, data management is an important research issue, and an essential ingredient for any new technology. Yet, these areas have been under-represented at VLDB conferences, where the focus remains on core database technology. To increase the visibility of such areas in future database conferences, the board has decided to have separate program committees for core database technology, and information system infrastructure and applications. The new strategy will be fully implemented in the year 2002 but efforts are underway to realize it earlier in the upcoming VLDB conferences in Cairo and Rome.

VLDB has made available all the past editions of the VLDB Proceedings online (`http://www.vldb.org`) and is participating to the ACM-SIGMOD Disk and Anthology initiatives.

More information on the VLDB Endowment is at the URL `http://www.vldb.org`. For more information on VLDB2000, refer to the conference URL at `http://www2.aucegypt.edu/vldb2000`.