Book Review Column

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In this issue of SIGMOD RECORD we present two new reviews.

Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing by Christopher D. Manning and Hinrich Schütze. Review by *Gerhard Weikum*. Though the book is on natural language processing it serves also as a source for teaching material in related areas, in particular in information retrieval. The book is rated as one of the best computer science books that have been recently published.

Introduction to Constraint Databases by Peter Revesz. Review by *Bart Kuijpers*. This book that has recently appeared is the first textbook on constraint databases. The book aims at making the topic of constraint databases accessible to a wider audience, in particular for teaching advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate courses.

For the next issue I am proposing for the special database topics a number of more recent books in areas related to database system performance. For the standard database textbook section I will soon reach a fairly complete coverage with my proposals. In the general interest section I would like to propose a book on a topic that is currently catching a lot of attention in the context of P2P computing, namely trust. The complete (and growing) list of proposed books including those proposed in previous issues is found at

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. The community is always interested in learning about good books. At the Web page you also find book review guidelines.

I am glad to say that the frequency of receiving (unsolicited) reviews is constantly growing, but of course I am always happy to see more reviews. *Therefore, for keeping the column going your ongoing contribution is required.* Those who have contributed a review up to now I would like to thank at this point for taking the early initiative.

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 try to obtain a copy of a book from the publisher, if needed. Reviews for the forthcoming December 2002 issue should be submitted by October 1st, 2002. The length of a book review should not exceed 2 pages.

If you would like to contribute to this column, to propose other books for review or to express your opinion on this column in general, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to your contributions.

Karl Aberer,
Associate Editor.

New books proposed for the next issue:

STANDARD DATABASE TEXTBOOKS

Database Management Systems, Raghu Ramakrishnan, Johannes Gehrke, 2nd edition, McGraw Hill, 2000.

SPECIAL DATABASE TOPICS

Database Tuning: Principles, Experiments, and Troubleshooting Techniques, Dennis Shasha and Philippe Bonnet, Morgan Kauffman, 2002.

Managing Gigabytes: Compressing and Indexing Documents and Images, Ian H. Witten, Alistair Moffat, and Timothy C. Bell, 2nd edition, Morgan Kauffman, 1999.

Advanced Database Indexing, Yannis Manolopoulos, Yannis Theodoridis, Vassilis J. Tsotras, Kluwer, 1999.

GENERAL INTEREST

Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity, Francis Fukuyama, Free Press, 1996.