Editor's Notes

I want to make these notes short, but there is one thing which I want to address upfront. I want to apologize to authors who feel that it is taking longer to have their papers reviewed than they (and I) would like. I have received more submissions that I would have expected (which is good news) and with the conferences review cycle being practically being tied back-to-back, it has been increasingly hard to find reviewers for the submissions. On top of that, given that conferences have a harder deadline, often the reviews for non-conference publications (*SIGMOD Record* being only one of them) are often relegated to a second plan (I cannot deny that I have done it myself!). Thus, I have to ask: if you are submitting a paper, be patient; I can assure you that every paper is given proper attention, but these are not instantaneous, unfortunately. Sometimes I do take a few days to acknowledge a submission but that is just because, as most of you, I also have a day job, which is not being the *Record*'s Editor. Bottomline, please be patient when submitting papers, and, if you agree to review a paper, please do so in a timely manner.

Another topic that I want to touch upon now, even though I am not ready to establish a "policy" yet, is about the type of papers that can and should be accepted for publication in the Record. As I have discussed before (see my notes for the Dec./2005 issue) I am trying to prioritize papers that are of general interest to SIGMOD's community. On the one hand that is not to say that more technical papers should not be submitted or will not be accepted. On the other hand it is to say that if the reviewers or I feel that such technical contribution is too narrow and the submission is better suited to a specialized conference or workshop or journal, then it may not be accepted. In other words, acceptance of submissions has been and will probably become more dependent on the value of the contribution to the SIGMOD community at large than to its research-oriented value. As said, this is not a clear policy yet, but I hope to be able to soon discuss this with the Associate Editors and come up with more clear guidelines.

Besides the usual section of research papers and edited columns, this issue has two invited papers that, in my opinion, are of general interest to the *Record*'s readership, and I would to call your attention to. The first one, by Samuel Madden and David DeWitt discusses the impact of double-blind reviewing. In a day and age where the number of papers submitted to conferences are getting quickly very large I think that this kind of analysis may spark some interesting thoughts. The other paper, written by Thomas Haigh, presents, in a historical perspective, the development of our research domain. The paper is a revision of a paper that was originally printed in the Proceedings of the 2002 Conference on Heritage of Scientific and Technological Information Systems. As noted by Rick Snodgrass (who aptly suggested the revised version to be published here), SIGMOD Record is probably the ideal venue for this type of paper. I hope that you all agree with that, and enjoy this issue in its entirety.

Mario Nascimento, Editor.
May 2006.