

Editor's Notes

Welcome to my inaugural issue of SIGMOD Record. I am very excited and honored to take over as Editor; SIGMOD Record has a long history (36 volumes) and has consistently maintained a high level of quality as a result of the hard work of many people in our community. Many thanks go to all the previous Editors, Associate Editors, authors, and reviewers for making this possible. As I take over, I would also like to thank the SIGMOD Executive Committee for their trust and encouragement, as well as the outgoing Record Editor, Mario Nascimento, the Associate Editors (Ugur Cetintemel, Brian Cooper, Andrew Eisenberg, Cesar Galindo-Legaria, Denilson Barbosa, Leonid Libkin, Jim Melton, Len Seligman, and Marianne Winslett) and the staff from ACM HQ (Julie Goetz and Ginger Ignatoff) for their help, advice, and patience during the transition process.

The first thing that you have probably noticed is that the cover of SIGMOD Record has changed! I wish I could get the credit for this, but this is part of an ACM-wide effort with the overall aim of making the ACM brand more recognizable for audiences around the world. The last major redesign of SIGMOD Record was back in the previous millennium, with the September 1999 issue. I hope you agree with me that the new design is much “cleaner” and more compelling, while maintaining the identity of SIGMOD and SIGMOD Record. Many thanks to the ACM Marketing Department for their help in updating the design.

The second thing that you must have observed is that this is still the *June* issue, and not the September issue; the enclosed CD with the proceedings of the SIGMOD 2007 and PODS 2007 conferences was probably a big give-away. The main reason behind the delay is the switch from an email-based to a web-based paper submission system. The new system, *RECESS* (short for SIGMOD REcord Electronic Submission System) was designed, developed, and tested in record time; it went live on June 7, 2007 at <http://db.cs.pitt.edu/recess>. The implementation was done by Julie Pagano, an undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, who did a fantastic job. RECESS greatly simplifies managing the entire review and publication process, but it introduced a small start-up overhead, due to a small backlog of papers, which will dissipate in the next couple of issues. In fact, you should hopefully receive the September issue within a few weeks of receiving this issue; I expect the December issue to be on time.

We start this issue with two regular articles. The first one is on estimating the selectivity of cosine similarity predicates, that is useful in approximate string matching (by Tata and Patel). The second paper is also on estimation, but this time for the cardinality of queries on ontologies (by Shinoroshita et al.). The next article is a contribution to the Database Principles column (edited by Leonid Libkin), discussing the expressivity and algebras for navigational XPath (by Cate and Marx).

We continue with a very lively interview of Georg Gottlob by Marianne Winslett for the *Distinguished Profiles in Data Management* column (formerly known as the Distinguished DB Profiles column). Read it to find out (among other things) why we do not see more XML data on the Web today.

This issue also includes three event reports (edited by Brian Cooper). The first one is for the 3rd International Workshop on XQuery Implementation, Experience and Perspectives (XIME-P 2006), which was held in June 2006, together with SIGMOD. The second one is for the ACM Workshop on Health Information and Knowledge Management (HIKM 2006), which was held in November 2006, together with CIKM. The last report is for the 8th International Conference on Information Integration & Web-Services and Applications (iiWAS 2006) and the 4th International Conference on Advances in Mobile Computing and Multimedia (MoMM 2006) that were held in December 2006. Finally, we have the Call for Papers for SIGMOD 2008 and PODS 2008, along with a message about the experimental repeatability requirements for SIGMOD 2008 and an announcement for the ACM - Infosys Foundation Award.

Before closing, I would like to welcome Magdalena Balazinska from the University of Washington to the Editorial Board and thank her for volunteering her time. Magdalena will serve as the new Associate Editor in charge of the *Systems and Prototypes* column; the goal of the column is to highlight recent and exciting systems

being built by researchers in the database community. I am looking forward to working with Magda and all the Associate Editors.

Even though the *outside* of SIGMOD Record has changed, the *inside* structure remains largely the same. I plan to continue with the same general structure (selection of high quality papers from those submitted plus solicited contributions), relying greatly on the help of the Associate Editors. Having said that, I would also encourage and welcome any suggestions that you have on special topics issues, on new columns, or in other ways to make SIGMOD Record even better.

Alexandros Labrinidis
September 2007

Past SIGMOD Record Editors:

Harrison R. Morse	(1969)
Daniel O'Connell	(1971 – 1973)
Randall Rustin	(1975)
Thomas J. Cook	(1981 – 1983)
Jon D. Clark	(1984 – 1985)
Margaret H. Dunham	(1986 – 1988)
Arie Segev	(1989 – 1995)
Jennifer Widom	(1995 – 1996)
Michael Franklin	(1996 – 2000)
Ling Liu	(2000 – 2004)
Mario Nascimento	(2005 – 2007)