

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the March 2009 issue of SIGMOD Record. We begin the issue with a (goodbye) message from Raghu Ramakrishnan, SIGMOD Chairperson.

We continue the issue with information about the process for the SIGMOD Elections, by Tamer Ozsu, chair of the nominating committee, followed by the statements of the candidates:

- Amr El Abbadi and Yannis Ioannidis (candidates for SIGMOD Chairperson).
- Anastasia Ailamaki and Christian S. Jensen (candidates for SIGMOD Vice-Chair).
- Alexandros Labrinidis and Wang-Chiew Tan (candidates for SIGMOD Secretary/Treasurer).

The first article of this issue is a reprint of “Derivability, Redundancy and Consistency of Relations Stored in Large Data Banks”, by E. F. Codd, which was published in August 19, 1969 as IBM Research Technical Report RJ599. This article is considered to be the *first paper on the relational model*. With it, we inaugurate a new column, that will celebrate the **40-year anniversary of the relational model** and will run throughout 2009. I would like to take a moment to thank IBM Research for graciously (and very expeditiously) providing permission to reprint this article.

Next, we have two regular **research articles**. The first one, by Laender, Moro, Nascimento, and Martins provides a nice characterization study of XML Schemas available on the Web. The second one, by Florescu and Kossmann argues in favor of using real cost (i.e., in \$) as an optimization metric when considering database performance.

The **Database Principles Column** (edited by Leonid Libkin) features one survey article, by Barcelo, on relational data exchange, i.e., on transforming data from a source to a target schema.

We continue with an article in the **Surveys Column** (edited by Cesar Galindo-Legaria), on “Data Integration for Mashups” by Lorenzo, Hacid, Benatallah, and Paik. The article analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of the various mashup tools with respect to the data integration aspect.

The **Distinguished Profiles in Data Management Column** (edited by Marianne Winslett) features an interview of Gerhard Weikum, who is a Research Director at the Max-Planck Institute for Informatics in Saarbrücken, Germany. Gerhard is an ACM Fellow and the president of the VLDB Endowment. Read Gerhard’s interview to find out (among many other things) why we should go for the grand challenges, why SQL is too powerful, and how to have a big research group in Germany.

Next is the **Open Forum Column**, which is meant to provide a forum for members of the broader data management community to present (meta-)ideas about non-technical issues and challenges of interest to the entire community. In this issue, we publish a Call for Opinions, on *the role of workshops in the dissemination of research results*.

Next we have an important **Announcement** from the Computing Research Association (CRA) about the newly established *Computing Innovation Fellows Project*, which provides a very good opportunity for new PhDs in computing-related disciplines.

(continued on next page)

We close the issue with multiple **Calls for Participation**:

- The 2009 SIGMOD/PODS Conference, held in Providence, RI, June 28th till July 2nd.
- SIGMOD 2009 Workshops:
 - KEYS 2009: The first International Workshop on Keyword Search for Structured Data.
 - MobiDE 2009: The eighth International ACM Workshop on Data Engineering for Wireless and Mobile Access (10-Year Anniversary).
 - WebDB 2009: The 12th International Workshop on the Web and Databases.
- ER 2009: The 28th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling.

In the past, whenever a new issue of SIGMOD Record became available, a message was posted on `sigmod.org` and on the SIGMOD RSS feed. Given the push for online membership, we will be implementing additional **notification mechanisms** when a new issue of SIGMOD Record becomes available on `sigmod.org/record`:

- an email message with go out to all SIGMOD members, and
- a “tweet” will be posted on `http://twitter.com/sigmodrecord`, so if you have a twitter account, simply follow *sigmodrecord* to get updates.

In this way, you will be able to get an issue as soon as it becomes available, even if you are not signed up for the print version.

Alexandros Labrinidis
May 2009