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Preface

This book was drawn from the papers presented at the Seventh Annual Workshop on Conceptual Graphs. The workshop was held at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA and was sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence and the NMSU Computer Science Department. The authors were invited to submit expanded versions of their papers for this book. The contents of this volume roughly generalize into the areas of: representation issues, reasoning, data modeling and databases, algorithms and tools, and applications and natural language.

One of the highlights of this workshop was the landmark meeting of the first PEIRCE Project Workshop. The PEIRCE Project was announced earlier this year and its participants gathered this summer for the first time to discuss their work and the project. The PEIRCE Project aims to "... build a state-of-the-art, industrial strength conceptual graphs workbench. PEIRCE is integrating the conceptual graphs development efforts that are taking place around the world." (Ellis & Levinson, this volume).

The workshop as a whole was successful in viewing what is currently being explored in several areas of research in Conceptual Structures. The areas of active research include: sharing and structuring knowledge, graph matching and projection algorithms, constraint propagation, type hierarchy processing, uncertain and plausible reasoning, and natural language issues. As demonstrated by the PEIRCE project, there is also significant interest in the practical application of Conceptual Structures. Included are reports on the PEIRCE project, bridging accounting and business planning, open systems interconnection notation and the analysis of radiology reports. In all, this volume is fairly well rounded, covering several dimensions with both theoretical and practical papers.

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September, 1993

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