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# Flexible Query Answering Systems

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# Preface

This volume constitutes the Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Flexible Query Answering Systems, FQAS 2009, held in Roskilde, Denmark, October 26–28, 2009. FQAS 2009 was preceded by the 1994, 1996 and 1998 editions held in Roskilde, Denmark, the FQAS 2000 held in Warsaw, Poland, the 2002 held in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the 2004 and 2006 editions held in Lyon, France, and in Milan, Italy, respectively.

FQAS is the premier conference concerned with the very important issue of providing users of information systems with flexible querying capabilities, and with an easy and intuitive access to information. The main objective is to achieve more expressive, informative, cooperative, and productive systems which facilitate retrieval from information repositories such as databases, libraries, heterogeneous archives and the World-Wide Web. In targeting this objective, the conference draws on several research areas, such as information retrieval, database management, information filtering, knowledge representation, soft computing, management of multimedia information, and human–computer interaction. The conference provides a unique opportunity for researchers, developers and practitioners to explore new ideas and approaches in a multidisciplinary forum.

The overall topic of the FQAS conferences is innovative query systems aimed at providing easy, flexible and human-friendly access to information. Such systems are becoming increasingly important also due to the huge and always growing number of users as well as the growing amount of available information.

The usual information systems are typically equipped with standard query languages or access modalities which are often inadequate to express user needs as well as to effectively visualize the retrieved results. FQAS is a multidisciplinary conference that draws on several research areas, including information retrieval, database management, information filtering, knowledge representation, computational linguistics and natural language processing, artificial intelligence, soft computing, classical and non-classical logics, and human-computer interaction.

These proceedings contain contributions from 57 original papers out of close to 90 submissions originally received, related to the topic of the conference. We wish to thank all contributors for their excellent papers and the reviewers for their efforts. We owe a special thanks to the invited speakers, Janusz Kacprzyk and Eyke Hüllermeier, as well as to the organizers of the four special sessions and finally, we extend our gratitude to the members of the Advisory Board, members of the Program Committee and the reviewers. All of them made the success of FQAS 2009 possible.

September 2009

Troels Andreasen
Ronald R. Yager
Henrik Bulskov
Henning Christiansen
Henrik Legind Larsen

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