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Preface

ICCOODB 2009 was the second in a series of international conferences aimed at promoting the exchange of information and ideas between members of the object database community. A key feature of the conference was its goal to bring together developers, users and researchers. The conference had three different tracks offered as a tutorial day, an industry day and a research day. In addition, a demo session with contributions from all three communities enabled participants to see the latest and on-going developments in object database technologies, supporting tools and also applications.

The conference proceedings presented as this volume consist of the papers presented in the research track. By publishing these after the conference, authors were given an opportunity to revise and extend their papers based on feedback and discussions held during the conference. Six of the papers were selected from submissions based on reviews by at least three members of the Program Committee. These papers address a number of classic database issues such as query processing, transaction processing, event models and the coupling of data and services in the context of modern object databases.

In addition, the research track included three invited presentations from researchers who were leaders in the field during what might be called the first generation of object databases back in the 1980s and early 1990s. At this time, research in object data models as well as object-oriented databases and persistent programming languages was very active. Over the years, this research became less fashionable and many researchers moved into other fields. However, some continued and as technologies and markets evolved so did their models and systems. With the revival in interest in object databases, it is important that researchers coming into the field are aware of the large body of previous research in the field. At the same time, it is interesting to look back on this research and lessons learned. How have technologies evolved and what remain as open issues? By addressing this question, we can identify future research directions.

The first of these invited papers is from Al Dearle, Graham Kirby and Ron Morrison of the University of St. Andrews, who worked together with Malcolm Atkinson on some of the first persistent programming languages. The goal was for orthogonal persistence and in their paper they revisit this goal, examining efforts to satisfy it through the ages from the earliest persistent programming languages to contemporary object databases.

The second invited paper by Matthias Jarke, Manfred Jeusfeld, Hans Nissen, Christoph Quix and Martin Staudt is a celebration of the 21st birthday of ConceptBase, a deductive object-oriented database system intended for the management of metadata. ConceptBase has been used in numerous projects and the team led by Matthias Jarke of RWTH Aachen and Manfred Jeusfeld of the University of Tilburg has continued to develop the system and add many

advanced features over the years. The paper provides an overview of the system and also reports on experiences and impact.

The third invited paper is by Elisa Bertino, Elena Camossi and Michela Bertolotto. Elisa Bertino was a leading researcher in the first generation of object databases and has continued to actively support the field, especially with her work on object data models. The paper shows how an object data model can be extended to represent and query spatio-temporal objects with multiple granularities and concludes with a discussion of open research challenges.

We take this opportunity to thank all those who helped to make this conference a success. First, there are the authors and presenters who of course are an essential part of every conference. It is their enthusiasm and professionalism that makes us confident in the future of object databases. We were pleased to see lots of lively discussions taking place within the conference sessions, during the coffee and lunch breaks and also at ICOODB 2009's social events. We believe that the opportunity for young researchers to interact with not only senior academics but also leading figures in the commercial world was something very special and we are pleased to note that in many cases these dialogues have continued beyond the end of the conference.

We also thank all the members of the program committee who did the reviewing work that plays such an important role in ensuring the scientific quality of a conference. Then there are our fellow organizers Anat Gafni, Stefan Edlich and Roberto Zicari who were key in putting together such an exciting conference program. We also acknowledge the support of the members of the ICOODB Steering Committee who provided valuable advice on the general organization of the conference. Thanks are also due to the many individuals who helped with the local organization of the conference. Last but not least, we thank the sponsors SI-DBTA, Versant and Progress for their financial support: All those who have organized conferences know the difference that this makes.

November 2009

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