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Foreword

The fifth international conference on Extending Data Base Technology (EDBT 96) was held in Avignon, France, March 25-29, 1996. Strategically, Avignon is ideally situated, and it is also a town of great historical and cultural value. At the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century a lot of outstanding painters lived in this area, among them Picasso. The picture "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon", which illustrated the poster and the program of EDBT'96, marked the start of the cubism style, and is one of the major works of Picasso.

This conference is the fifth in a row of successful international database conferences held in Europe, starting in 1988. This shows that there is a strong and active database research community in Europe with an emphasis on advancing technology and supporting new types of applications.

The program consists of a scientific track, of which the papers appear in these proceedings, and an industrial track. For the scientific track the program committee selected 31 papers out of 178, from 25 different countries. The quality of the papers submitted was high, which unfortunately meant that many good papers had to be rejected. For the industrial track, industries participating in ESPRIT projects were also invited to present their results.

To enrich the program, three keynote speakers and six tutorial speakers were invited. Keynote speeches were given on data warehousing, information retrieval in artificial reality, and object databases by Jennifer Widom, Keith van Rijsbergen, and Francois Bancilhon respectively. The tutorial program consisted of contributions by Tamer Ozsu on distributed object management, Jean-Francois Abramatic on WWW and databases, Christos Faloutsos on multimedia, C. Mohan on workflow management, Stefano Ceri on active database systems, and Arno Siebes on data mining.

Many people contributed to the success of EDBT 96. Thanks to all of them for their effort and time. Special thanks to the program committee members, especially those who attended the program committee meeting in Zurich, and to Maurice van Keulen and Jacek Skowronek for their technical support. Special thanks also to the organization committee members and the sponsors.

March 1996

Peter Apers, Mokrane Bouzeghoub, Georges Gardarin

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