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Preface

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Flexible Query Answering Systems, FQAS 2004, held in Lyon, France, on June 24–26, 2004. FQAS is the premier conference for researchers and practitioners concerned with the vital task of providing easy, flexible, and intuitive access to information for every type of need. This multidisciplinary conference draws on several research areas, including databases, information retrieval, knowledge representation, soft computing, multimedia, and human-computer interaction. With FQAS 2004, the FQAS conference series celebrated its tenth anniversary as it has been held every two years since 1994. The overall theme of the FQAS conferences is innovative query systems aimed at providing easy, flexible, and intuitive access to information. Such systems are intended to facilitate retrieval from information repositories such as databases, libraries, and the Web. These repositories are typically equipped with standard query systems that are often inadequate for users. The focus of FQAS is the development of query systems that are more expressive, informative, cooperative, productive, and intuitive to use.

These proceedings contain contributions from invited speakers and 35 original papers out of more than 100 submissions, relating to the topic of users posing queries and systems producing answers. The papers cover the fields: database management, information retrieval, domain modeling, knowledge representation and ontologies, knowledge discovery and data mining, artificial intelligence, classical and non-classical logics, computational linguistics and natural language processing, multimedia information systems, and human-computer interaction, including reports of interesting applications. We wish to thank the contributors for their excellent papers and the referees, publisher, and sponsors for their effort. Special thanks to Serge Abiteboul, Elisa Bertino, and Yuzuru Tanaka who presented invited talks at the conference. We express our appreciation to the members of the advisory board, and members of the program committee. They made the success of FQAS 2004 possible.

The contributed papers were selected by the following program committee members: Sihem Amer-Yahia, Troels Andreasen, Boualem Benatallah, Djamal Benslimane, Elisa Bertino, Gloria Bordogna, Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier, Torben Brauner, Henrik Bulskov, Sylvie Calabretto, Henning Christiansen, Fabio Crestani, Juan Carlos Cubero, Ernesto Damiani, Rita De Caluwe, Guy De Tre, Hendrik Decker, Robert Demolombe, Marcin Detyniecki, Didier Dubois, Ronald R. Fagin, Rudolf Felix, Elena Ferrari, Jorgen Fischer Nilsson, Norbert Fuhr, Peter Ingwersen, Christian Jacquemin, Janusz Kacprzyk, Etienne Kerre, Rasmus Knappe, Don Kraft, Werasak Kurutach, Mounia Lalmas, Henrik L. Larsen, Christophe Marsala, Maria Jose Martin-Bautista, Saddaki Miyamoto, Amihai Motro, Noureddine Mouaddib, Fred Petry, Olivier Pivert, Olga Pons, Zbigniew Ras, Guillaume Raschia, Brigitte Safar, Michel Scholl, Dietmar Seipel, Andrzej

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