

DATABASE SYSTEMS FOR ADVANCED APPLICATIONS '97

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UniSQL, 9390 Research Blvd., Suite 220, Austin, Texas 78759-6544, U.S.A.
Phone: 1-512-343-7297 E-mail: kim@unysql.unysql.com

Hideko S. Kunii

Software Division, Ricoh Co., Ltd, 1-1-17 Koishikawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112, Japan
Phone: 81-3-3815-7261 E-mail: kunii@src.ricoh.co.jp

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Editors

Rodney Topor

Griffith University, Australia

Katsumi Tanaka

Kobe University, Japan



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Preface

It is with great pleasure that we welcome participants of DASFAA'97 to Melbourne. Both of us have been involved in the DASFAA conferences since the first conference in 1989 in Seoul, which we attended and presented a paper together on the topic of partial match retrieval. Since then we have been regular attendees at DASFAA conferences and one of us, Ron Sacks-Davis, has been a member of the Steering Committee. We have seen DASFAA grow in stature, and now, based on the number of papers submitted to the DASFAA conferences, it is recognized as one of the leading international database conferences.

We would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee for their wonderful contributions in making this conference possible. The program chairs, Professors Rodney Topor and Katsumi Tanaka, have done an excellent job in supervising the processing and reviewing of nearly 200 paper submissions and chairing the program committee and we are very grateful to them. During this conference, we have run an extensive tutorial program and we would like to thank Professor Maria Orlowska for her hard work in organizing this program.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the organizations that have helped with sponsorship and other support of the conference. We would also like to acknowledge the support we have received from the DASFAA steering committee and thank them for allowing us to organize the 1997 conference in Melbourne.

Ron Sacks-Davis
Ramamohanarao Kotagiri
General Chairs
January 1997

Program Committee Chairs' Introduction

This volume contains the proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Database Systems for Advanced Applications (DASFAA'97), held in Melbourne, Australia, from April 1-4, 1997. Previous DASFAA conferences were held in Seoul in 1989, Tokyo in 1991, Taejon in 1993, and Singapore in 1995. Each conference attracted increasing numbers of high quality submissions from around the world and DASFAA has now taken its place alongside the leading international database research conferences.

DASFAA'97 was jointly hosted by RMIT and the University of Melbourne. Additional sponsors included Ferntree Computer Corporation, the Information Processing Society of Japan (IPSJ), the Australian Research Council through its Key Centre for Knowledge Based Systems, and Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). We thank all these organisations for their support.

DASFAA'97 focused on advanced database technologies and their applications. With the dramatic growth in the use of the world wide web and the wide deployment of fast communications infrastructure, database applications that received prominence at DASFAA'97 included internet, multimedia, and document database systems. Other systems that are undergoing rapid development and were covered at DASFAA'97 include mobile, active and interoperable database systems.

The 55 contributed papers presented in this volume were selected from 182 papers submitted by authors from approximately 30 countries, demonstrating the international nature of the DASFAA conferences. Each paper was reviewed by three expert referees and the final program was selected by the Program Committee. The resulting program consists of high quality papers covering a wide range of areas in database systems and applications, and should be of great interest to all database researchers and practitioners.

The DASFAA'97 program included two keynote lectures, 55 contributed papers, six tutorials, a panel session, and a conference reception and banquet.

The two keynote lectures at the conference were presented by Professor Bruce Croft from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA, who spoke on Heterogeneity in Information Access, and Dr C. Mohan from IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose, USA, who spoke on Trends in Transaction Processing.

We would like to thank the Program Committee members and the additional reviewers for their expertise and help in evaluating the submitted papers, and the Organising Committee, particularly Victoria Kennedy, for making the conference possible. We would also like to thank Denise Vercoe and Terumi Yumoto for administrative support and Anthony Thyssen for technical support.

Rodney Topor
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Program Committee Chairs

January 1997

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