

# Preface

These proceedings collect the papers selected for the 2nd International Conference on Interoperating Geographic Information Systems held in Zürich, Switzerland, 10–12 March, 1999.

Interoperability has become an issue in many areas of information technology in the last decade. Computers are used everywhere, and there is an increasing need to share various types of resources such as data and services. This is especially true in the context of spatial information. Spatial data have been collected, digitized and stored in many different and differing repositories. Computer software has been developed to manage, analyse and visualize spatial information. Producing such data and software has become an important business opportunity. In everyday spatial information handling in many organisations and offices, however, interoperability is far from being a matter of fact. Incompatibilities in data formats, software products, spatial conceptions, quality standards, and models of the world continue to create asynchronicity among constituent parts of operating spatial systems. As a follow-up to the first International Conference on Interoperating Geographic Information Systems held 1997 in Santa Barbara, California, the Interop'99 tries to provide a scientific platform for researchers in this area.

The international program committee carefully selected 22 papers for presentation at the conference and publication in this volume. Additionally, this volume contains three invited contributions by Gio Wiederhold, Adrian Cuthbert and Günther Landgraf. Every paper was sent to three members of the program committee and other experts for review. The reviews resulted in a three-day single-track conference program that left some room for a few half-day tutorials on various topics regarding GIS interoperability.

Many people supported this event in various ways. We would like to express our thanks to the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers for their support in selecting the papers presented in this volume. Caroline Westort provided a lot of help handling all communication issues of Interop'99, as did Doris Wild with the organization of the conference. Hansrudi Noser supported many authors by translating their contributions into proper  $\text{\LaTeX}$ code.

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