

Preface

This year marks an exciting time in the XML-database space: XQuery is moving closer to becoming a full W3C Recommendation, and the “Big 3” database vendors (IBM, Oracle, Microsoft) are expected to release XQuery support in their relational DBMSs, joining a number of existing open source and commercial products. Thus, we are very pleased to feature an industrial paper (describing the XML-specific features of Microsoft SQL Server) as well as 14 research papers. XSym’s focus this year was on building XML repositories, and papers discussed the following topics: indexing support for the evaluation of XPath and XQuery; benchmarks and algorithms for XQuery and XPath evaluation; algorithms for constraint satisfaction checking, information extraction, and subtree matching; and applications of XML in information systems.

This year, XSym also coordinated its efforts with the Database and Programming Languages Symposium, DBPL 2005. The resulting program included not only presentations of the papers in this proceedings, but also a joint DBPL-XSym keynote talk by Giuseppe Castagna, developer of the CDuce language for XML processing, and a joint panel on open XML research problems and challenges.

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to the XSym Program Committee and external reviewers for their efforts in providing very thorough evaluations of the submitted papers under significant time constraints and to Microsoft for their sponsorship and for the use of the Microsoft Conference Management Toolkit. We would also like to thank Gavin Bierman and Christoph Koch, the organizers of DBPL, for their efforts and their willingness to coordinate with us.

These proceedings are dedicated to Alberto Mendelzon who sadly passed away this year. As a strong supporter of and active contributor to this symposium series he will always remain in our memory.

Singapore, Milan, Montpellier, Glasgow
Philadelphia, Essen, Redmond

July 2005

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