# Preface

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Flexible Query Answering Systems, FQAS 2002, held in Copenhagen, Denmark on October 27–29, 2002.

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. Previous FQAS events were held in 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.

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 World-Wide Web. These repositories are typically equipped with standard query systems which are often inadequate, and the focus of FQAS is the development of query systems that are more expressive, informative, cooperative, and productive.

These proceedings contain 29 original papers that relate 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.

We wish to thank the contributors for their excellent papers and the referees, publisher, and sponsors for their effort. Special thanks also to the invited speakers, members of the Advisory Board, and members of the Program Committee. They made the success of FQAS 2002 possible.

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# Organization

FQAS'2002 is organized by the Department of Computer Science, Roskilde University, the Department of Information and Software Engineering, George Mason University, and the Department of Computational Linguistics, Copenhagen Business School.

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