Preface

ECDL 2002 was the 6th conference in the series of European Conferences on Research and Advanced Technologies for Digital Libraries. Following previous events in Pisa (1997), Heraklion (1998), Paris (1999), Lisbon (2000), and Darmstadt (2001), this year ECDL was held in Rome. ECDL 2002 contributed, together with the previous conferences, to establishing ECDL as the major European forum focusing on digital libraries and associated technical, practical, and social issues. ECDL 2002 continued the tradition already established by the previous conferences in meeting the needs of a large and diverse constituency, which includes researchers, practitioners, educators, policy makers, and users.

The focus of ECDL 2002 was on underlying principles, methods, systems, and tools to build and make available effective digital libraries to end users. Architecture, metadata, collection building, web archiving, web technologies, e-books, OAI applications, preservation, navigation, query languages, audio video retrieval, multimedia-mixed media, user studies and evaluation, humanities, and digital libraries were some of the key issues addressed.

An international Program Committee was set up composed of 61 members, with representatives from 25 countries. A total of 145 paper submissions, 15 poster submissions, and 18 proposals for demos were received. Each paper was evaluated by 3 referees and 42 full papers and 6 short papers of high quality were selected for presentation.

Besides paper presentations, the program also featured two invited talks by Hector Garcia Molina (Stanford University) and Derek Law (Strathclyde University), two panel discussions, and a poster and demo session. Moreover, tutorials and workshops conveniently arranged immediately before and after the conference extended the range of subjects and opportunities for exchange of knowledge and opinions offered by the conference.

We should like here to thank all those institutions and individuals who have made this conference possible: the organizing committee, CNR-IEI, the University of Padua and the Department of Information Engineering of the same university, the DELOS NoE, ESA, ICCU, Discoteca di Stato, Pontifical Gregorian University, the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage, the demo and poster chairpersons, the panel chairpersons, the workshop chairman, the tutorial chairpersons, the program committee members, the additional referees, the invited speakers, the tutorialists, the panelists, the poster presenters, the demonstrators, the sponsors, and of course all the participants.

During the preparation of the proceedings we received a great deal of help from Nicola Ferro and we thank him for this. The work for a conference like this starts at least two years before the conference happens, and during all this time Tarina Ayazi supported us. We thank her for her contribution to the success of the initiative.

July 2002   Maristella Agosti and Costantino Thanos

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Additional Referees

Gianni Amati	Marco Degemmis
Michela Bacchin	Maria de Lourdes da Silveira
Maria Bruna Baldacci	Nicola Di Mauro
Teresa M.A. Basile	Koji Eguchi
Maria Carla Cavagnis Sotgiu	Nicola Fanizzi
Theodore Dalamagas	Dieter Fellner