Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the First International Conference on Advances in Information Systems (ADVIS) held in Izmir (Turkey), 25–27 October, 2000.

This conference was dedicated to the memory of Professor Esen Ozkarahan. He was great researcher who made an essential contribution to the development of information systems. This conference was organized by the Computer Engineering Department of Dokuz Eylul University of Izmir. This department was established in 1994 by the founding chairman Professor Ozkarahan and there he worked for the last five years of his live.

The main goal of the conference was to bring together researchers from all around the world working in different areas of information systems to share new ideas and to represent their latest results. We received 80 submissions from 30 countries. The Program Committee selected 44 papers for presentation at the conference.

The invited and accepted contributions cover a large variety of topics: general aspects of information systems, data bases, data warehousing, computer networks, Internet technologies, content-based image retrieval, information retrieval, constraint programming and artificial intelligence.

The success of the conference was dependent upon the hard work of a large number of people. We gratefully acknowledge the members of the Program Committee who helped to coordinate the process of refereeing all submitted papers. We also thank all the other specialists who reviewed the papers.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their financial and organizational support. We also appreciate the cooperation we have received from Springer-Verlag.

We thank Natalia Cheremnykh and Olga Drobyshewich for their professional work in producing the final version of these proceedings.

August 2000   Tatyana Yakhno

In Memoriam

Professor Ozkarahan is one of the pioneers of database machine research and a founder of database systems research in Turkey. Professor Ozkarahan is well known for his pioneering work on the RAP (relational associative processor) database machine. He designed RAP for the hardware implementations of relational databases. RAP includes all the relational algebra operations and the explicit form of the semi-join operation that later became the cornerstone of query optimization in relational databases.

Professor Ozkarahan conducted research in various aspects of RAP database machines: hardware, VLSI implementation, RAP operating system, query languages, performance evaluation, network of RAP machines, and its use in information retrieval. In the 1980s he worked on building a prototype of a RAP database machine with support from Intel Corporation towards its eventual commercialization. However, due to a sudden major management change in Intel at the time, the commercialization was not realized.

Professor Ozkarahan published numerous articles in major database journals and conference proceedings. He was also the author of two books published by Prentice-Hall:

- Database Management: Concepts, Design, and Practice
- Database Machines and Database Management

Professor Ozkarahan completed his B.Sc. in electrical engineering at Middle East Technical University (METU) and received his Master's Degree in operations research at New York University. After completing his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Toronto in 1976, he returned to METU in Turkey, where he established the first database research group in the country. He graduated a record number of M.S. and Ph.D. students until 1981, when he returned to the United States and joined the faculty at Arizona State University, where he worked on building a prototype of RAP. In 1988, he started to work at Pennsylvania State University as a full professor. In 1993, he returned to Turkey and established the Computer Engineering Department of Dokuz Eylul University where he was a chair until 1999.

In his personal life, Professor Ozkarahan was a very attentive and caring family man, both as father and husband. Professor Ozkarahan was very concerned with the lives of his daughters and kept close track of their needs, thus instilling in them the drive to be successful hardworking individuals, just as he was.

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