

The
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The International Journal on Very Large Data Bases

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FOREWORD

This issue contains papers devoted to the subject of federated databases as a continuation of the first issue. The upcoming issues will present a diverse set of database systems articles.

Special issues of the *VLDB Journal* will contain an introductory survey to give a broad overview to the reader. In the first two issues dedicated to federated databases, David Hsiao's survey, submitted as a regular paper, and the invited paper by Yuri Breitbart, Avi Silberschatz, and Hector Garcia-Molina, fulfill this role.

As editors-in-chief, we would like to thank the authors of the articles in this issue for their contributions to the *Journal* and for meeting the demands of our schedule. Readers are encouraged to contact either of the editors-in-chief with any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding the Journal. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fred Maryanski Hans Schek
Editors-in-Chief