PREFACE

The papers published in these proceedings were contributed for presentation at the Sixteenth International Conference on Very Large Data Bases, held in Brisbane, Australia from August 13-16, 1990.

In response to the call for papers, approximately 300 papers were submitted to the conference. As a result of the large number of papers submitted and the excellent quality of many of them, the program committee decided to accept 60 for presentation at the conference.

The program committee which refereed the papers was composed of three subcommittees, representing Europe, the Far East, and the Americas. Each paper was reviewed by three to five referees, with at least two of these referees belonging to different program subcomittees. On April 23, the European subcommittee chaired by Hans Schek met in Zurich, while the Far East subcommittee, chaired by Ron Sacks-Davis met in Melbourne, and the American subcommittee chaired by Dennis McLeod met in Los Angeles. The results of the deliberations by these subcommittees were coordinated by three way international conference calls held by the program co-chairs.

We would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers for consideration; many fine papers could not be accepted. The members of the program committee did an outstanding job in refereeing the large number of papers received, and their contributions in producing a program of such high quality are gratefully acknowledged. Sincere thanks are also expressed to the additional referees who were utilized; a list of these additional referees appears in this volume. In addition to the scientific program itself, considerable work is required to organize an international conference the size of VLDB, and we would like to thank the organizing committee as well as the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes in order to ensure the success of the conference.

Dennis McLeod
Ron Sacks-Davis
Hans Schek