

## PREFACE

These proceedings contain the papers and panels presented at the Seventeenth International Conference on Very Large Data Bases, held in Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain) on September 3 - 6, 1991.

In response to our call for papers, and despite the uncertainties induced by the Persian Gulf War, a record 318 papers were submitted. The Program Committee that refereed the papers was composed of two sub-committees: the European Program Committee (EPC) and the Australian, Asian, and Americas Program Committee (AAAPC). Each paper was evaluated by at least 3 and usually 4 Program Committee members, including at least one from the other sub-committee. The AAAPC, chaired by Guy Lohman, met on April 15th in San Jose, California. The EPC, chaired by Amílcar Sernadas, met on April 20th in Barcelona. Together, we selected only 50 papers for presentation at the Conference and inclusion in these Proceedings from the papers ranked highest by the two sub-committees. In addition, each of the two sub-committees designated a "best paper", to be presented together in a special session at the Conference.

We would like to thank all authors who submitted papers for consideration; many fine papers unfortunately could not be accepted. The Program Committee members, and the additional referees that assisted them, did a superb job in refereeing the large number of papers received; their contributions in producing a program of such high quality are gratefully acknowledged. Alfonso Cardenas selected and coordinated the 5 outstanding panels whose abstracts appear in this volume. C. Mohan and David Hsiao helped immensely in the preparation of the final program. Felix Costa provided invaluable consulting on the software used for compiling and summarizing the referees' scores. Finally, we wish to give special thanks to Debbie Sandman, Felix Costa, Cheryl Gendotti, and Donna Vierra, without whose tireless efforts this Proceedings would have been impossible.

In addition to the scientific program, innumerable hours are contributed by many people to organize an international conference of this size. We would like to thank the Organizing Committee and the many other volunteers who worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of this Conference.

Guy M. Lohman  
Amílcar Sernadas  
Rafael Camps  
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