Our New Financial Plan– For the Last Time

The TC on Data Engineering does not generate enough revenue to adequately fund the Bulletin. As TC Chair Betty Salzberg explained it in the June issue, *"we will no longer be automatically mailing out paper copies of the Bulletin to all members of the TC. This will cut down on the expenses of the TC without, we hope, causing undue inconvenience to our members, most of whom will get their copies of the Bulletin through the Bulletin web page."* This information is included in the Bulletin, as hardcopy distribution is our only sure way to reach all TC members. If you are unable to access the Bulletin via our web site and want to continue receiving it, you *must* contact *Tracy Woods, IEEE Computer Society, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC 20036* now. **This issue is the last issue that will be sent in hardcopy to all members.**

The Bulletin and the SIGMOD Anthology

As most of you undoubtedly know, ACM SIGMOD has undertaken to produce an Anthology CDRom containing the complete set of SIGMOD and PODS conference proceedings. The Anthology is being edited by Michael Ley, who has produced a preliminary version for the SIGMOD and DBLP web sites. These sites index all the articles to be included in the anthology. The index plus full articles will appear on the Anthology CD.

The anthology is an initiative of SIGMOD chair Rick Snodgrass, who envisioned a portable, fully-searchable, electronic repository of all relevant database conferences and publications. Currently, the Anthology is slated to include the SIGMOD, PODS, and VLDB proceedings and SIGMOD Record. In addition, the TC on Data Engineering was happy to agree to have the Bulletin (1993-1998) also included. So, even when you are not "on-line", there is no reason to be without full access to these issues of the Bulletin- and of course, to the database material from the ACM and VLDB. I regard the Anthology project as an incredible plus for our community, and applaud the efforts of Rick and Michael in making it a reality. It has been a real pleasure to participate in this collaborative effort of ACM SIGMOD, VLDB and IEEE TCDE and to see the Bulletin included in the anthology.

You can get an early look at the anthology by visiting the SIGMOD web site for it at

http://www.acm.org/sigmod/dblp/db/anthology.html.

This Issue

Database replication has become an increasing exploited technology. It is an important technique for ensuring high availability, and plays an important role in performance of distributed database systems. Commercial database vendors have supported replication for a number of years. Sybase was one of the earliest in this market, and the issue contains an article describing its approach. But replication is by no means a "done deal". It is still an area of active research. These include exploiting replication on the web and using it to improve distributed systems algorithms. And then there is the perennial topic of managing replicas, of how rapidly to propagate changes to replicated data, and how to sort out which replicas need to be read and/or written. I want to thank Amr El Abbadi and Divy Agrawal, who jointly edited the issue, and the authors for producing this interesting and timely issue containing articles addressing these subjects.