Welcome to JCDL 2003! This is the third in a series of IEEE-CS/ACM joint conferences on digital library research and development. The joint conference brings together the diversity and range of two well-established digital library conferences, ACM DL and IEEE ADL, to provide a major international forum focusing on digital libraries and associated technical, practical, theoretical, and social issues. A decade of progress from the field’s early days is readily apparent in the impressive cross-institutional and interdisciplinary collaborations, as well as in the growing number of digital libraries that represent real collections in everyday use.

Befitting the conference’s beautiful venue, Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, the opening paper session is one about music and digital libraries and runs the gamut from ethnography to algorithms. Other sessions tackle the formidable problem of creating metadata and managing digital resources and services. Humanities digital libraries – collections representing cultural heritage and museum artifacts – stand alongside scientific and business digital libraries. As always, education and evaluation are vital parts of the conference program.

This year, there were 216 submissions from 21 countries. From 91 full papers and 77 short papers, the program committee selected 23 full papers and 32 short papers for presentation at the conference; these papers have been revised according to the reviewers’ thoughtful comments and are included in the proceedings. The full papers were each assigned to 4 reviewers and the short papers to 3. As in past years, we will be awarding the Vannevar Bush Best Paper Award, sponsored by Knowledge Systems and its president Rob Akscyn, to the paper chosen by the program committee as this year’s standout from a set of 23 already outstanding papers. Nominees will be announced at the opening session of the conference and the award will be presented at the banquet.

We would like to thank the international program committee for their dedicated (and sometimes heroic) efforts to review the submissions in their areas of expertise, especially given the short review/revision cycle. Special thanks go to those 17 program committee members who traveled to Houston in early March to meet for two days to construct the conference program after deliberating over more than 500 reviews. We would like to thank venue chairs Frank Shipman, David Levy, Rick Furuta, and Lisa Spiro for their extra work in assembling these portions of the program. And we would like to thank members of the conference committee for doing everything it takes to put on a great conference. Special thanks go to Lois Delcambre for her work on the proceedings and to Lisa Spiro and Unmil Karadkar for their on-going work on the website.

We have put together a program that we hope will have something for everyone – practitioners as well as researchers, librarians and social scientists as well as computer scientists, evaluators as well as developers and designers. The papers reflect the wealth of mature research in our community; the short papers and posters give us a tantalizing look at late breaking results; the panels balance the program by exploring controversies and hot topics in our field; and the demos put theory into action. We hope there’s something for participants of every stripe. Thanks for contributing to the success of this year’s conference!

Cathy Marshall
Program Chair

Geneva Henry
Conference Chair