Foreword

This proceedings contain the papers of the Sixth Symposium on String Processing and Information Retrieval (SPIRE’99) and the Fifth International Workshop on Groupware (CRIWG’99), jointly held in Cancun, Mexico, from September 22 to 24, 1999. SPIRE started as a South American Workshop and last year changed to an international symposium with the additional support of CYTED, like CRIWG, which started from the CYTED-Ritos Iberoamerican research network.

One of our goals in celebrating these events jointly this year was to promote the cross-fertilization between different areas and explore common problems such as collaborative retrieval. As a result, both events received the largest number of submissions ever.

We would like to thank the hard and fine work done by the program committee of both events, in particular the chairs, both (by coincidence) from Portugal: Pedro Antunes (Tech. Univ. of Lisbon) and Arlindo Oliveira (Tech. Univ. of Lisbon/INESC). We acknowledge the help of the other members of the organizing committee of both events and the support of many institutions: CICESE (Mexico), Univ. Michoacana (Mexico), Univ. de Chile (Chile), Univ. de las Américas (Mexico), UNAM (Mexico), INESC (Portugal), Technical University of Lisbon (Portugal), and Fed. Univ. of Minas Gerais (Brazil).

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Ricardo Baeza-Yates
Edgar Chávez
Jesús Favela

Joint Organizing Committee
Cancun, Mexico