WebMedia & LA-Web 2004 is a joint conference encompassing the 2nd Latin American Web Congress and the 10th Brazilian Symposium on Multimedia and the Web, which will be held October 12-15, 2004, in Ribeirão Preto-SP, Brazil.

Supported by the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC), WebMedia has been, since 1995, the most important Brazilian forum for presentations, tutorials and discussions on recent advances in technology related to Multimedia and the Web.

LA-Web, a regional conference endorsed by the International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2), is the Latin American forum for presentation and discussion of Web-oriented research.

The Joint WebMedia & LA-Web 2004 Conference will have activities from both events. The conference includes full and short paper presentations, which are, together with a workshop of thesis and dissertations, the most research-oriented portion of the event. The event also includes tutorials, posters and exhibitions, where both academic and industrial participants can present their latest results, either as full products or as early prototypes.

In order to encourage Latin American researchers to produce works that will more easily find an international audience, the Program Committee decided that it was important to explicitly encourage articles in English. Thus, WebMedia & LA-Web 2004 supported two tracks for each kind of paper: an English track and a Portuguese/Spanish track. English papers are presented in this volume, while Spanish and Portuguese papers are being published separately by SBC.

This proceedings contains full and short research papers from the English-language track of WebMedia & LA-Web 2004. The Program Committee received 33 full-paper submissions in English of which 10 were accepted as full papers and 4 were accepted as short papers. The committee received 15 short-paper submissions in English and accepted 6. In addition, 5 full papers that were originally accepted to the Portuguese/Spanish track and judged to be of particularly high quality were translated into English by their authors and are included here. The Program Committee accepted 15 of 46 full papers and 8 of 22 short papers submitted to the Portuguese/Spanish track. In addition, four full-paper submissions to the Portuguese/Spanish track were accepted as short papers.

We want to extend our thanks to all those who have contributed to the excellent program at WebMedia & LA-Web 2004. Many authors from fifteen countries submitted quality papers. The members of the Program Committee and additional invited reviewers worked hard to provide quality reviews under a very tight reviewing schedule. The conference chairs, Cesar Teixeira and Renata Fortes, have been supportive of the committee's work throughout. Our sponsors have provided the financial and organizational resources critical for the conference's success and include IEEE, IW3C2, SBC, CNPq, CAPES and FAPESP.

As we write this preface, we are confident that WebMedia & LA-Web 2004 will have an excellent technical program and that the conferees will find a warm welcome in Riberão Preto.

Maria da Graça Pimentel and Ethan V. Munson
Program Co-Chairs
WebMedia & LA-Web 2004