Preface

This volume includes selected papers from the International Workshop on Challenges in Web Information Retrieval and Integration (WIRI 2005), which was held in conjunction with the 21st International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE 2005), in Tokyo, Japan, April 8-9, 2005.

Web information utilization has become a critical emerging research area due to the exponential increase in the information circulation and dissemination over the Web. Many challenging problems must be solved in order to utilize and exploit web information that is both highly heterogeneous and dynamic in nature. This workshop focuses on the technology for analyzing, integrating and retrieving information on the Web.

In this context, WIRI Workshop has attracted very interesting work which covers crucial and emerging research topics such as querying on the Web, data mining techniques, Web and XML data management, as well as Web applications. There were 47 submissions from 18 countries, and three reviewers were assigned to each paper. The program committee has finally selected 11 regular papers and 20 short papers for presentation at the workshop. The innovative research presented at WIRI 2005 was very interesting and exciting and the Workshop involved lively discussions and fruitful comments.

Moreover, WIRI included a very interesting invited talk by Dr. Daniel Gruhl, who presented “Precognition: Thinking about the Query before it Happens”, a topic which is now emerging and of wide interest. The WIRI chairs thank Dr. Gruhl for his impressive invited talk and his support for WIRI activities.

WIRI chairs thank all the program committee members for their dedicated effort to review papers in their area of expertise and in a timely manner. Their effort was valuable to accommodate high quality papers in the WIRI program. Special thanks to Professor Xiaofeng Meng from the Renmin University of China for his support to the WIRI organization and to Professors Atsuhiro Takasu and Kenro Aihara from the National Institute of Informatics, Japan, for their hard working attitude in organizing the Workshop and in technically supporting its activities. Lastly, we express our sincere gratitude for the support received from Professor Masaru Kitsuregawa of University of Tokyo (ICDE 2005 General Chair) and Professor Masatoshi Yoshikawa of Nagoya University (ICDE 2005 Workshops Co-Chair.)

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