

Changing Editors

Editors for the Data Engineering Bulletin serve two year appointments and are responsible for two issues over that time on topics that they select with a bit of coordination from me. This means that with some regularity (on a two year cycle) I have the task, which is actually a pleasure, of thanking outgoing editors for working hard in producing the special issues that capture the current state of the art in exciting areas of current interest in our field. The outgoing editors during this cycle are Natasha Ailamaki, Jayant Haritsa, Nick Koudas, and Dan Suciu. The success of the Bulletin depends absolutely on having great editors like these. Over this past two years, these editors have brought you issues on data quality, data provenance, self managing systems, web scale systems, multi-lingual systems, mobile systems, and applications in social sciences. Thank you Natasha, Jayant, Nick, and Dan for serving the Bulletin so well during your terms as editor.

Selecting editors is the most important task that I have. I have been very lucky to have been able over the years to find outstanding editors who have produced wonderful issues of the Bulletin. My luck seems to be holding, and I can proudly announce the appointment of new editors for the next two years. The editors are Sihem Amer-Yahia of Yahoo!, Beng Chin Ooi of the National University of Singapore, Jianwen Su of UC Santa Barbara, and Vassilis Tsotras of UC Riverside. The new editors all have outstanding research reputations and great professional visibility. I welcome them to the Bulletin and look forward to working with them over the next two years to continue producing the fine special topic issues that make the Bulletin the unique publication that it is.

The Current Issue

There are an increasing number of sites on the web involving social networking and user provided content. A real challenge in this environment is to not only find the sites of interest but to gauge how useful the vast amount of content on these sites may be. It is clearly impossible to personally review it all. Even doing a search frequently produces an overwhelming number of "answers", the number being large enough to make the results at times of limited use. Recommendation functionality is increasingly provided by these sites to improve the prospects of users finding the information that they want or connecting to others with similar interests, etc. Recommendation systems is the topic of the current issue.

Sihem Amer-Yahia has succeeded in enticing authors from some of the leading vendors as well as leading researchers in this new space to contribute articles showcasing their efforts in recommendation systems. The current issue shows some of the diverse approaches to research, implementation and deployment of such systems. It continues what I regard as the unique character of the Bulletin in tapping both research and industrial work to give a clearer and more complete picture of the field. I want to thank Sihem for doing a fine job on this issue and can "recommend" the issue to you, our readers, in what is my first contribution to the field— i.e. recursive recommendation!