Preface

The 8th International KRDB Workshop continues the tradition of annual international workshops devoted to facilitate cross-fertilization between the fields of knowledge representation (KR) and databases (DB), started in 1994. Previous workshops were held in conjunction with various AI or database conferences: KRDB'94, Saarbruecken, Germany; KRDB'95, Bielefeld, Germany; KRDB'96, Budapest, Hungary (in conjunction with ECAI'96); KRDB'97, Athens, Greece (in conjunction with VLDB'97); KRDB'98, Seattle, WA, USA (in conjunction with SIGMOD/PODS'98), KRDB'99, Linkoeping, Sweden (affiliate event of IJCAI'99), and KRDB 2000, Berlin, Germany (in conjunction with ECAI-2000). Researchers in the two areas of knowledge representation (KR) and databases (DB) develop techniques for the same fundamental problem, namely, to define in a declarative way representations of relevant aspects of an application domain, to provide methods to query such representations, and to support their evolution. KRDB is a forum for exchanging ideas between DB and KR researchers. Equally important is the KRDB tradition of stimulating the discussion between researchers and practitioners. The home page of the KRDB workshop series is at `http://sunsite.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/Societies/KRDB`.

The 8th edition focuses on "Modeling, Querying and Managing Semistructured Data". Semistructured data are data that are self-describing, irregular, and with a structure that is partially known, or subject to frequent changes. They are usually formalized in terms of labeled graphs, and capture data as found in many application areas, such as web information systems, digital libraries, and data integration. Database researchers are studying several aspects of semistructured data, including how to model such data, how to query and restructure them, and how to store and manage them. On the other hand, there are many kinds of reasoning that can be carried out on semistructured data in order to support the above tasks. For instance, the discovery of certain regularity may help in deciding the appropriate storage structures in a particular context, or, the fact that a certain schema subsumes another one may help in comparing data coming from different sources, or in translating data from a certain format to another one. The goal of the workshop is to bring together people from the Database and the Knowledge Representation and Reasoning communities, in order to compare different points of views and various sets of techniques that can be used for the tasks related to Modeling, Querying and Managing Semistructured Data. The workshop will feature one distinguished invited speaker, namely, Georg Gottlob (Vienna University of Technology – TU Wien), who will present his work on "Declarative Information Extraction, Web Crawling and Recursive

Wrapping with Lixto".

The members of the Program Committee are: Alex Borgida (Rutgers University, USA), Peter Buneman, (University of Pennsylvania, USA), Giuseppe De Giacomo (Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Italy), Wenfei Fan (Temple University, USA), Enrico Franconi (Manchester University, UK), Leonid Libkin (University of Toronto, Canada), Frank Neven (University of Limburg, Belgium), Thomas Schwentick (University of Jena, Germany), Moshe Vardi (Rice University, USA). The Program Committee selected 10 papers out of 24 submissions. We hope that this collection of papers will be useful to the readers interested in Databases and Knowledge Representation.

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