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on Conceptual Modeling
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Preface

It has been about two decades since the first ER conference was held at UCLA in 1979. Returning ER to UCLA is certainly a special event. Some of us on the original committee, although slightly older, are still here to take part in ER'97. To mark this event, a special symposium, *Conceptual Modeling: Historical Perspectives and Future Directions*, will be held on the Sunday prior to the conference and is open to all ER'97 registrants. A summary of the symposium will be presented at a pre-conference panel discussion on Monday evening. Both the symposium and the panel will be chaired by Peter P. Chen, originator of the Entity-Relationship model.

The theme of the program has been shifted towards a balance between industry practice and research academics. Therefore, the program for ER'97 has been designed specifically to appeal to consultants and information systems professionals as well as to information technology academics and researchers in computer-company laboratories. As a result, three conference sessions organized by our industry chair, Douglas M. Tolbert, are entirely devoted to presentations by industry-based researchers. A panel session on "Is the Future of Conceptual Modeling Bleak or Bright?" is also included. In response to the call for papers, approximately 93 papers were submitted from 24 countries for review, 30 of which from 18 countries were selected by the program committee for ten paper sessions covering the topics: Activity Modeling, Temporal Modeling, Languages, O-O modeling, Distributed Systems, Automated Design Tools, Integration and Case Studies. Each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers. I want to take this opportunity to thank the program committee's outstanding job in refereeing the papers, and the program chairs, David W. Embley and Robert C. Goldstein, in composing an excellent program for ER'97.

The keynote speakers for ER'97 are well-known to ER conference participants. Dr. Alan G. Merten, currently the president of George Mason University, will talk about the relevance of information technology at the highest levels of an organization. Dr. Michael L. Brodie is a senior staff scientist at GTE Laboratories. His presentation will describe some industrial-strength information systems problems and possibilities for solving them, coming from the perspective of an organization that maintains 150 terabytes of data and 200 million lines of code.

A tutorial program, coordinated by our dedicated chair, Ashok Malhotra, begins the week's events. Extending and complementing the main program is the post conference workshop, covering the topic of futuristic conceptual modeling.

I want to thank our registration chair, Hua Yang, for handling the registration details and our publicity chair, Stephen W. Liddle, for handling the publicity of ER'97 so well. Our special thanks goes to Alfonso Cardenas for his local arrangements, assuring that the conference will run smoothly, and also for selecting the elegant banquet site to exhibit our beautiful beaches and allow the participants to enjoy their stay in Los Angeles.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to ER'97: the authors, invited speakers, session chairs, tutorial presenters, industrial chairs, and participants.

Westwood, November 1997

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General Conference Chair

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OML: A Metamodel and Notation for a Pure Object-Oriented Software Development Environment by Brian Henderson-Sellers (Swinburne University of Technology, Australia)

A Roles, Relationships & Responsibilities Model for Developing Workflow Applications by Sidney Decker (KPMG Peat Marwick, USA)

A Rapid, Metamodel-Based Methodology for Information Systems Modeling by David Kerner (USA)

Object-Role Modeling by Gordon C. Everest (University of Minnesota, USA)

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Mike McNeil (BBN Technologies)

Leah Wong (US Navy NRaD)

Peter Chen (Louisiana State University)

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Peter Bruza (Queensland University of Technology, Australia)

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Norbert Fuhr (University of Dortmund, Germany)

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Ramesh Venkataraman (University of Maryland, USA)

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