

## Statement of the Chairpersons

ECDL 2001 was the 5th conference in the series of European Conferences on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries. Following previous events in Pisa (1997), Heraklion (1998), Paris (1999), and Lisbon (2000), this year ECDL was held in Darmstadt, Germany, and was co-organized by the Technical University of Darmstadt, GMD-IPSI, and Die Deutsche Bibliothek (the German National Library), Frankfurt. The overall objective of the ECDL series is to foster the formation of a multi-disciplinary scientific community in Europe specific to digital library research, development, and deployment. The ECDL series is supported by the DELOS Network of Excellence in Digital Libraries.

ECDL 2001 was seen as a good opportunity to review the impact that DLs have had on science, technology, and society in general. The call for papers therefore placed emphasis on applications of DL systems and on their integration into practical work. Looking to the future from the same perspective, we feel it is timely for the DL community to discuss such issues as the possible convergence of libraries, museums, and archives in their capacity as carriers of collective memories, which will yield large digital information spaces, and will encourage future co-operation in information spaces. This process seems, important as it is, to be only at its beginning. The Programme Committee, comprised of 36 members from 14 countries, selected 39 papers, 22 for regular and 17 for short presentations, out of a total of 79 submissions coming from 21 countries and 4 continents, in the following areas:

- User modelling
- Digitisation
- Interpretation and annotation of documents
- Knowledge management
- Data and metadata models
- Integration in user communities
- Information retrieval and filtering
- Multimedia digital libraries
- Multilinguality.

Besides the technical papers, the programme also featured three invited talks by Mike Keller, Stanford University, Eric Miller, W3C, and Dr. Michael Türkay, Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, three panel discussions, and a poster and demonstration session. Moreover, tutorials and workshops conveniently arranged immediately before and after the conference extended the range of subjects and opportunities for exchange of knowledge and opinions offered by the conference.

July 2001

P. Constantopoulos  
E.J. Neuhold  
E. Niggemann  
I. Sølberg

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