Preface

This volume of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* (LNCS) contains the papers presented at the 21st International Conference on Application of Natural Language to Information Systems, held at MediacityUK, University of Salford, during June 22–24, 2016 (NLDB 2016). Since its foundation in 1995, the NLDB conference has attracted state-of-the-art research and followed closely the developments of the application of natural language to databases and information systems in the wider meaning of the term.

The NLDB conference is now a well-established conference that is attracting participants from all over the world. The conference evolved from the early years when most of the submitted papers where in the areas of natural language, databases and information systems to encompass more recent developments in the data and language engineering fields. The content of the current proceedings reflects these advancements. The conference also supports submissions on studies related to languages that were not well supported in the early years such as Arabic, Tamil, and Farsi.

We received 83 papers and each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers with the majority having four or five reviews. The conference co-chairs and Program Committee co-chairs had a final consultation meeting to look at all the reviews and make the final decisions on the papers to be accepted. We accepted 17 papers (20.5 %) as long/regular papers, 22 short papers, and 13 poster presentations.

We would like to thank all the reviewers for their time, their effort, and for completing their assignments on time despite tight deadlines. Many thanks to the authors for their contributions.

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