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Mun-Kew Leong
Min-Yen Kan
Donghong Ji (Eds.)

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Volume Editors

Hwee Tou Ng

Min-Yen Kan

National University of Singapore, Department of Computer Science

3 Science Drive 2, Singapore 117543

E-mail: {nght, kanmy} @comp.nus.edu.sg

Mun-Kew Leong

Donghong Ji

Institute for Infocomm Research

21 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119613

E-mail: {mkleong, dhji} @i2r.a-star.edu.sg

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Preface

Asia Information Retrieval Symposium (AIRS) 2006 was the third AIRS conference in the series established in 2004. The first AIRS was held in Beijing, China, and the 2nd AIRS was held in Cheju, Korea. The AIRS conference series traces its roots to the successful Information Retrieval with Asian Languages (IRAL) workshop series which started in 1996.

The AIRS series aims to bring together international researchers and developers to exchange new ideas and the latest results in information retrieval. The scope of the conference encompassed the theory and practice of all aspects of information retrieval in text, audio, image, video, and multimedia data.

We are happy to report that AIRS 2006 received 148 submissions, the highest number since the conference series started in 2004. Submissions came from Asia and Australasia, Europe, and North America. We accepted 34 submissions as regular papers (23%) and 24 as poster papers (16%).

We would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers to the conference, the seven area chairs, who worked tirelessly to recruit the program committee members and oversaw the review process, and the program committee members and their secondary reviewers who reviewed all the submissions.

We also thank the Publications Chair, Min-Yen Kan, who liaised with the publisher Springer, compiled the camera ready papers and turned them into the beautiful proceedings you are reading now. We also thank Donghong Ji, who chaired the local organization efforts and maintained the AIRS 2006 website, Kanagasabai Rajaraman for publicity efforts, Yee Seng Chan for helping with the START conference management software, and Daniel Racocceanu for organizing and chairing the special session on medical image retrieval.

Lastly, we thank the sponsoring organizations for their support, the Institute for Infocomm Research and the National University of Singapore for hosting the conference, Springer for publishing our proceedings, and AVC for local organization and secretariat support.

August 2006

Mun-Kew Leong
Hwee Tou Ng

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