Now well into its second decade, the annual Australasian Database Conference series is the premier Australasian forum for exploring innovative research and the development of novel applications using database and information retrieval systems. This year's conference, the *Twelfth Australasian Database Conference, (ADC2001)*, was held at the Bond University Campus on the Gold Coast and was jointly hosted by Bond University and Griffith University, Gold Coast as part of the annual Australasian Computer Science Week.

The aim of the Australasian Database Conference series is to provide an opportunity for Australasian and international researchers in database technology to meet and discuss developments in the field. As in previous years, the conference has attracted considerable international attention with half the papers represented here emanating from research centres outside of the region. In addition, as is commonly the case, a few themes have emerged from the accepted papers, including:

- Managing Internet-based information,
- Handling the temporal aspects of data,
- Index structures, data mining and querying techniques.

In April, a globally disseminated Call for Papers was issued and the 21 papers presented in this volume were selected from the 40 submissions (representing 15 countries) that resulted from this. Each paper was carefully refereed by at least three members of an international program committee and the papers presented at the conference and represented in this volume were selected as a result of this review. In addition, Professor Klaus-Dieter Schewe from Massey University, New Zealand, was invited to give a keynote presentation on *Design Theory for Advanced Data Models*.

On behalf of the Program Committee, we would like to thank those that helped to make this conference possible, including the authors, the session chairs, the delegates and most particularly the expert referees for their timely evaluations and enthusiasm for ADC. We would also like to thank Professor Gopal Gupta, Bond University, and Greg Cranitch, Griffith University, as the tireless Organising Chairs of the Australasian Computer Science Week and Frances Titsworth from IEEE for her invaluable help and advice.

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*Program Committee Chairs, ADC 2001*