

From the Symposium Chair:

The International Symposium on Digital Libraries (ISDL'99) is hosted by the University of Library and Information Science under a grant from the Ministry of Education, Japan. This Symposium is the third in a series of International Symposia on Digital Libraries (ISDL). The first one (ISDL'95), held August 22-25, 1995, and the second one (ISDL'97), held November 18-21, 1997, were also hosted by ULIS under a grant from the Ministry of Education.

Our continuous effort to provide time and space for discussing digital libraries began by realizing the first Workshop on Digital Libraries at ULIS on August 31, 1994. This Workshop series has continued: Outside ULIS, the 12th Workshop was held at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand on September 7-9, 1998, and the 15th Workshop was held at Nara Institute of Science and Technology in Nara, Japan, on July 19, 1999. Digital versions of all of their proceedings are available on the Web (www.DL.ulis.ac.jp).

The series of ISDLs is another of our continuing efforts to provide time and space for discussing digital libraries. Papers included in the proceedings must contribute to the progress of people around the world as well as the participants, and digital versions of the proceedings are available on the Web (www.DL.ulis.ac.jp/ISDL95/, www.DL.ulis.ac.jp/ISDL97/, and www.DL.ulis.ac.jp/ISDL99/).

ULIS celebrates its twentieth anniversary on October 1, 1999. As one of its ceremonies and festivities, a three-day International Symposium on Libraries for the Networked Information Society (September 28-30) has been planned. This International Symposium will consist of ISDL'99 (September 28-29) and a related International Symposium on Roles of Libraries for Japan and Asia (September 30).

We wish to take this opportunity to express our hearty thanks to all the speakers and participants. We would also like to express our special thanks to all members of the Symposium Committee, the Program Committee, Exhibition & Publication Committee, and Local Arrangements Committee; all companies supporting us; and the ULIS staff and students who have supported us.

Koichi Tabata
Symposium Chair

Message from Program Chair

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to ISDL'99. This year marks two important milestones: the twentieth anniversary of ULIS and the eightieth anniversary of the library school in Ueno that gave rise to ULIS.

Digital libraries are a key issue for the future success of our knowledge and information infrastructures. Much research has been conducted on technologies for enabling global information access and on building digital collections for specific types of users. I believe that no digital library can succeed without attending equally to issues of technology, collection development, and usability. Integrating these diverse aspects requires communication and collaboration between people of different backgrounds, such as computer scientists, librarians, publishers, and end users.

ISDL'99, like its predecessors ISDL'95 and ISDL'97, presents an excellent set of invited and contributed papers. The variety of subjects mirrors the breadth of the digital library field today, and the geographical distribution shows that digital libraries are of global interest. I hope ISDL'99 will provide a forum for discussing digital libraries from many interdisciplinary points of view.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the authors for their fine work and to all of the committee members for their excellent contribution to this symposium. I would also like to thank Masayuki Yoshida, president of ULIS, Yukio Fujino and Takeo Yamamoto, vice-presidents of ULIS, Akane Mori, Secretary General of ULIS, and all of the colleagues who encouraged me to organize ISDL '99. Last, but not least, many thanks to my family, Makiko, Yuri and Tomoki.

Shigeo Sugimoto
Program Chair

Symposium Organization

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