Preface

The chapters of this book provide an excellent overview of current research and development activities in the area of web information systems. They supply an in-depth description of different issues in web information systems areas, including web-based information modeling, migration between different media types, web information mining, and web information extraction issues. Each chapter is accompanied by examples or case studies to show the applicability of the described techniques or methodologies.

The book is a reference for the state of the art in web information systems, including how information on the Web can be retrieved effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, this book will help the reader to gain an understanding of web-based information representation using XML, XML documents storage and access, and web views.

Following our call for chapters in 2002, we received 29 chapter proposals. Each proposed chapter was carefully reviewed and, eventually, 10 chapters were accepted for inclusion in this book. This book brought together academic and industrial researchers and practitioners from many different countries, including Singapore, Greece, Poland, Germany, New Zealand, the US and Australia. Their research and industrial experience, which are reflected in their work, will certainly allow readers to gain an in-depth knowledge of their areas of expertise.