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About this issue...

During the past year we have been receiving reports of AAAI-sponsored symposia and workshops faster than we can publish them. We also received two substantial bibliographies for which we did not have adequate space in any single issue. Peter Patel-Schneider and I agreed that these articles contained a great deal of useful and up-to-date information on the current state of the art in many different subdomains of AI, and should be distributed to all AAAI members. However, given the time value of these documents, we simply could not just put them in the queue for publication sometime in the dim future. Hence this issue, a special benefit of your membership in AAAI.

Contained herein are reports from three of the 1990 Spring symposia that link AI with other disciplines: molecular biology, education, and minimal-length encoding. There are also reports on eight workshops that were held over the past two years (five of which were sponsored by AAAI), on a wide range of topics such as knowledge discovery from databases, hybrid systems, and user modeling. The extensive coverage of the workshop on AI-based schedulers, by Karl Kempf et al., resulted in two reports, one on the workshop itself and one on a panel that discussed the use of such schedulers in manufacturing. Alan Frisch's and Anthony Cohn's report on the hybrid systems workshop also led to the creation of a fairly complete bibliography on that subject, which accompanies their report. Also included here is an indexed bibliography to the literature on truth maintenance systems, submitted by Prof. Joao Martins of the Technical University of Lisbon.

As you can see from direct inspection of the magazine, it's a little different from our regular quarterly issues. Some compromises (e.g., no color, limited graphics) had to be made in the interest of holding down production costs. The contributions were not copyedited, not only to save money but to speed up production. I think these were minor but necessary compromises that allowed us to satisfy our objective of getting timely information to you without further delay.

I hope you enjoy this special issue.

—Bob Englemore