Foreword

This report constitutes the proceedings of the seventh Text REtrieval Conference (TREC-7) held in Gaithersburg, Maryland, November 9–11, 1998. The conference was co-sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and was attended by 150 people. Fifty-six groups including participants from 13 different countries and 19 companies were represented. The conference was the seventh in an on-going series of workshops to evaluate new technologies in text retrieval.

The workshop included plenary sessions, discussion groups, a poster session, and demonstrations. Because the participants in the workshop drew on their personal experiences, they sometimes cited specific vendors and commercial products. The inclusion or omission of a particular company or product implies neither endorsement nor criticism by NIST.

The sponsorship of the Information Technology Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is gratefully acknowledged, as is the tremendous work of the program committee.

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TREC-7 Program Committee