Foreword

This report constitutes the proceedings of the fifth Text REtrieval Conference (TREC-5) held in Gaithersburg, Maryland, November 20–22, 1996. 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 145 people. Thirty-eight groups including participants from nine different countries and ten companies were represented. The conference was the fifth 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.

Ellen Voorhees,
Donna Harman
October 29, 1997

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