Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at FQAS 2017, the 12th International Conference on Flexible Query Answering Systems held during June 21–22, 2017, at University of Westminster, London, UK.

FQAS was organized for the first time in Roskilde, Denmark, in 1994, and has been running since then roughly as a biennial conference, four times in Roskilde; in Warsaw, Poland; Copenhagen, Denmark; Lyon, France; Milan, Italy; Ghent, Belgium; Granada, Spain; and Krakow, Poland. It has developed into the premier conference concerned with the very important issue of providing users of information systems with flexible querying capabilities and with an easy and intuitive access to information. More specifically, the overall theme of the FQAS conferences is the modelling and design of innovative and flexible modalities for accessing information systems. The main objective is to achieve more expressive, informative, cooperative, and productive systems that facilitate retrieval from information repositories such as databases, libraries, heterogeneous archives, and the Web. With these aims, FQAS is a multidisciplinary conference drawing on several research areas, including information retrieval, database management, information filtering, knowledge representation, computational linguistics and natural language processing, artificial intelligence, soft computing, classical and non-classical logics, and human-computer interaction. Papers presented over the years span from basic, foundational research, over methodological and tool-oriented considerations, to descriptions and evaluations of actual systems that represent paradigms of flexible query answering.

The 2017 conference had presentations of 25 original papers – this year a mix of full and a few short papers, ranging over a representative collection of FQAS topics. We want to express our gratitude to the members of the Program Committee and the International Advisory Board, and to everyone who contributed at any level to the organization of FQAS 2017; Krassimir T. Atanassov in particular, who organized two special sessions included in the program. Also special thanks to our invited speakers, Anne Laurent, Jens Lehmann, and Alexandra Poulovassilis, and to our publisher who kindly contributed with a prize for the best paper. We also thank every author who submitted a paper to FQAS 2017 and finally the team of EasyChair, without whose free software the handling of submissions and editing of the proceedings could not have been managed so smoothly. Last but not the least, we thank Alfred Hofmann and Anna Kramer of Springer for their continuous support.

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