

Leonid Andreevich Kalinichenko

10 June 1937 – 17 July 2018



One of the pioneers of the theory of databases passed away. The name of Leonid Andreevich is rightly associated with the development of promising directions in databases, the founding of an influential scientific school, the creation of two regularly held international scientific conferences. Leonid Andreevich Kalinichenko received his Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Cybernetics, Kiev, Ukraine, in 1968 and his degree of Doctor of Sciences from the Moscow State University in 1985. Both degrees in Computer Science.

He served as Head of the Laboratory for Compositional Information Systems Development Methods at the Institute of Informatics Problems of the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow. As Professor, he taught at the Moscow State University (Computer Science department) courses on distributed object technologies and object-oriented databases. His research interests included: interoperable heterogeneous information resource mediation, heterogeneous information resource integration, semantic interoperability, compositional development of information systems, middleware architectures, digital libraries.

His pioneering work on database model transformation (VLDB 1978) and fundamental book on data integration “Methods and tools for heterogeneous database integration” (Moscow, 1983) were ahead of time. His theoretical studies of semantic interoperability attracted attention of the international community in the 90s, when interoperability became a hot topic. He is also a co-author of the four books: “SLANG - programming system for discrete event system simulation” (Kiev, 1969), “Computers with advanced interpretation systems” (Kiev, 1970), “Computer networks” (Moscow, 1977), “Database and knowledge base machines” (Moscow, 1990). He had a number of papers in journals and conference proceedings and served as PC member for numerous international conferences.

During the last few years his activities and work were devoted to problems in data intensive domains. In 2013–2016 he initiated several research projects aiming at conceptual modeling and data integration within distributed computational infrastructures. He also launched a Master program “Big data: infrastructures and methods for problem solving” at Lomonosov Moscow State University.

In addition to his own research, Leonid spent significant energy on integration of database research communities in different countries. He had a key role in the organization of a series of East-West workshops (Klagenfurt and Moscow), as well as of the ADBIS series of international workshops held in Moscow in 1993-1996. This series of workshops was transformed into ADBIS (Advances in Data Bases and Information Systems) conference series. He also established the “Russian Conference on Digital Libraries” (RCDL) in 1999, transformed into “Data Analytics and Management in Data Intensive Domains” conference (DAMDID/RCDL) in 2015. Finally, he launched the Moscow Chapter of ACM SIGMOD in 1992. Monthly seminars of this chapter play significant role in shaping local research and professional communities in Russia.

L.A. Kalinichenko was a member of the ACM, the Chair of the Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter, the Chair of the Steering Committee of the European Conference “Advances in Databases and Information Systems” (ADBIS), the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Russian Conference on Digital Libraries (RCDL), a Member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal “Distributed and Parallel Databases”, Kluwer Academic Publishers. All of us will remember him for what he did to build a wider community in Europe overcoming the divisions that had existed for decades. We, the members of the Steering Committee, remember him as a very generous person and an excellent scientist.

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