the development of information systems. They are not, however, addressed directly to systems methodologies.

The first group[7,8] are concerned with specific aspects of using information technology rather than the methods by which we decide what to do and how to do it. Ref. 7 concerns systems in general and, with its considerable emphasis on data modelling, is of immediate relevance to practitioners working with (say) SSADM. Ref. 8 is concerned solely with open systems. It addresses issues such as standards and their role in portability, interconnection, etc. and it analyses specific aspects of open systems such as data handling, user interfaces, security and administration. I should regard both as tutorial texts rather than research texts. They are both thorough and well written, but neither includes exercises and worked solutions.

The second group[9,10,11,12] are concerned with software development rather than systems development. Ref. 9 looks at software engineering from a viewpoint very close to that of the system developers, while Ref. 10 describes a particular methodology (and tools) for software development. Ref. 9 is clearly a tutorial text, but Ref. 10 could be of wider interest since it presents a specific approach to software engineering in the context of the wider issues which SE is attempting to address.

Refs 11 and 12 are conference proceedings. In each there is one paper which is relevant to the various systems methodologies. In Ref. 11 one contribution extends SSADM into the program production stage. Having criticised SSADM because it stops short at this point I should not disparage a development of this kind. Nevertheless, I believe that the degree of formalism contained in the method presented will be off-putting to many practitioners. In Ref. 12 there is a description of a methodology for the development of knowledge-based systems. It is interesting but it does not yet display the rigour of the approaches summarised in Ref. 1.

REFERENCES

1. T. W. Olle *et al.*, *Information Systems Methodologies: A framework for Understanding*. Addison-Wesley, London (1991). ISBN 0-201-54443-1, £18.95 (provisional).
2. D. E. Avison and A. T. Wood-Harper, *Multiview: An Exploration in Information Systems Development*. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford (1990). ISBN 0-632-03026-7, £14.95 (paperback).
3. P. B. Checkland and J. Scholes. *Soft Systems Methodology in Action*. Wiley, Chichester (1990). ISBN 0-471-92768-6, £19.95.
4. C. Ashworth and M. Goodland, *SSADM: A Practical Approach*. McGraw-Hill, Maidenhead (1990). ISBN 0-07-707213-8, £16.95 (paperback).
5. Pham Thu Quang and C. Chartier-Kastler (translated by D. E. and M.-A. Avison, *MERISE in Practice*. Macmillan Education, London (1991). ISBN 0-333-55020-X, £18.00 approx.
6. D. E. Avison and G. Fitzgerald (Eds), *Journal of Information Systems*, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford (1991). ISSN 0959-2954, £27.50 (individual annual subscription).
7. D. Benyon, *Information and Data Modelling*. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford (1990). ISBN 0-632-01625-6, £16.95.
8. P. A. Gray, *Open Systems – A Business Strategy for the 1990s*. McGraw Hill Maidenhead (1991). ISBN 0-07-707244-8, £24.95.
9. D. C. McDermid, *Software Engineering for Information Systems*. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford (1990). ISBN 0-632-02607-3, £14.95.
10. B. L. Blum, *TEDIUM and the Software Process*. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA (1990). ISBN 0-262-02294-X, £31.50.
11. P. A. V. Hall (Ed), *SE 90 – Proceedings of Software Engineering 90*. Cambridge University Press (1990). ISBN 0-521-40274-3, £45.00.
12. T. R. Addis and R. M. Muir (Eds), *Research and Development in Expert Systems VII*. Cambridge University Press (1990). ISBN 0-521-40403-7, £25.00.
13. J. Liebenau and S. Smithson (Eds), *European Journal of Information Systems*. Macmillan Press, Basingstoke (1991). ISSN 0960-085X, £45.00 (individual EEC annual subscription).

Announcement

AUGUST 1991

DEXA '91, International Conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications, Berlin, Germany

Aims of the conference

The use and development of database and expert systems can be found in all fields of computer science. The aim of DEXA '91 is to present a large spectrum of database and expert systems, already implemented or just being developed. The conference will offer the opportunity to discuss extensively requirements, problems and solutions in the field.

The conference should inspire a fruitful dialogue between developments in practice, users of database and expert systems, and scientists working in the field.

Papers have been invited on the following topics.

Office information systems
CIM
Parallel database/Expert systems processing
Deductive databases
Multimedia databases
Design tools
Visual interfaces
Heterogeneous systems
CASE
Communications
Hypertext/Hypermedia
Information retrieval
Object-oriented databases
Spatial databases
Statistical databases
Databases on supercomputers
Data protection
Legal information systems
Museum information systems
Environmental information systems
Computer cartography
Databases in the humanities
Historical databases
Distributed applications
Medical information systems
Social/Governmental information systems
Scientific/Engineering applications

For further information contact:

Professor Dr A Min Tjoa, University of Vienna, Department of Statistics and Computer Science, Liebiggasse 4/3–4, A-1010 Wien, Austria. Tel: +43(1)43-67-12. Fax: +43(1)43 01 97. E-mail: A4423DAB @AWIUNI11.BITNET.

All accepted papers will be published in the *Conference Proceedings* (Springer Verlag). Selected papers will be published in the journal *Expert Systems with Applications* (Editor in Chief: Jay Liebowitz).