

run as high as \$1.00 per page of colour output.)

- There will undoubtedly be a movement toward colour printing on plain (uncoated) paper. At the present time however, the only inexpensive printing technology that can produce continuous-tone image (die sublimation) does require special coating - it also has the added benefit of producing an image that does penetrate into the paper surface to some extent. However, those technologies that do not require coated papers (laser and ink jet devices) deposit their inks on the surface of the paper - a security issue that may have to be addressed by the Passport Office.
  
- The use of printers on low cost PCs and workstations has already driven printer suppliers to utilize a small number of common interfaces. This trend will continue. The benefit to users is the relative interchangeability of printers as better, faster, or less expensive devices become available.

#### 6.4 Storage devices.

Large volume data storage devices provide an enabling technology - without the capability of these devices, it would not be feasible to consider storing images or documents on-line or in an automated archive.

The volume of data required to represent scanned images can be quite large. Typical colour head-and-shoulders images of near photographic quality require 20K bytes each (after compression); typical 8.5 x 11 inch documents scanned at 300 dpi require 70K bytes each. A simple calculation suggests that storage of one year's imaged photographs (1.2 million images at current production rates) would require 24 Giga bytes. One year's storage of digitized signatures might require 3 Giga bytes (1.2 million signatures at 2.5K bytes each). Storage requirements for imaged documents could consume 252 Giga bytes of space (assuming an average of 3 documents each for 1.2 million applications in one year).