

APPENDIX B. Technologies Investigated

This appendix discusses in more detail some of the promising technologies which were investigated during the course of this study. Implications for the PPO are reviewed earlier in the report. Current costs of different units are presented for information purposes.

B.1 Document imaging

B.1.1 Scanners

Scanners are available for both black and white input and colour. With resolution of 300 dpi, excellent reproduction of text, document images, and line drawings is possible (as exemplified by systems from many major manufacturers - Wang, IBM, Sun Microsystems, Kodac, etc.). However, handling of photographic images may be somewhat easier with video camera input and "screen grabbers" since scanned input cannot be viewed until the entire image has been input and adjustments may be required before the final image is captured.

Recent advances in the field of document imaging have resulted in full size document scanners with resolution of 300 dpi costing as little as \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 for black and white units and \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for colour units.

B.1.2 Video Input

Video input devices are available which use a digital camera (or digitized image from the camera) and a "screen grabber" interface in a PC or workstation. The continuous input from the camera can be viewed on a screen (a separate screen on some systems, or the regular PC console screen if appropriately equipped on other systems). The document being imaged can be manipulated (e.g. to ensure correct orientation or correct sizing) and when the operator is satisfied, the image can be