ized methods for mark-up, such as the use of SGML as a tool for representing the logical structure of texts, can preserve structural, presentation, and retrieval capabilities without becoming dependent on the longevity of particular software applications. Databases might be stored in one or a few common formats or converted to a SQL (Structured Query Language) compliant format, while image files might conform to the tagged image file format (TIFF) or another common image format with standard compression algorithms.

Only a few libraries, archives, and other institutions have established digital preservation programs, while most research and innovation comes from pilot projects and

This raises the question, however, of whether research on incremental improvements in current storage technologies will benefit preservation in the long run or whether alternative approaches to digital storage will meet archival requirements more adequately. As a frame of reference it is worth remembering that micro-

Eaton, Fynnette L. “The National Archives and Electronic Records for Preservation.” In *Preserva-*