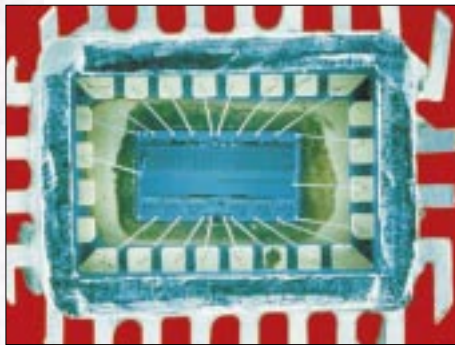




Unfortunately, the brave new world of digital communication technology still has a grave childhood disease, namely the reliability of its storage media. Since Gutenberg invented Printing, the durability of transmission and storage media has declined almost constantly in accordance with their respective rate of evolution. Whilst books printed 500 years ago and which have been sensibly preserved since, still exist unchanged in their original form, we are already having immense difficulties preserving film material dating from when Film was invented. Not to mention all the video tapes and floppy and hard discs that are barely thirty years old.



Whereas the information recorded in books is generally uncoded and still decipherable today, more recent media depending on coded information are comparatively limited, as much of their hardware has since disappeared or become redundant. The sudden data explosion instigated increasingly rapid developments that were, naturally enough, not supposed to be particularly durable. A shift of priority has only taken place recently, as the inherent problems and flaws of current systems have become apparent.



Now, there is a considerable innovative potential in relatively new areas of Science, such as Bionics and Biochemistry. For example, the potentially scalable storage capacity of plant cells is of particular topical interest. Because of the boom of discoveries in the field of Genetics it is also conceivable that animal cells may be similarly exploited.

The problem:

*Alternative data storage media:
can they be interconnected with
the digital media?*