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Sommario/riassunto   Like its constituent agencies and other organizations, the federal
government generates and increasingly saves a large and growing
fraction of its records in electronic form. Recognizing the greater and
greater importance of these electronic records for its mission of
preserving "essential evidence," the National Archives and Records
Administration (NARA) launched a major new initiative, the Electronic
Records Archives (ERA). NARA plans to commence the initial
procurement for a production-quality ERA in 2003 and has started a
process of defining the desired capabilities and requirements for the
system. As part of its preparations for an initial ERA procurement,
NARA asked the National Academies' Computer Science and
Telecommunications Board (CSTB) to provide independent technical
advice on the design of an electronic records archive, including an
assessment of how work sponsored by NARA at the San Diego
Supercomputer Center (SDSC) helps inform the ERA design and what
key issues should be considered in ERA's design and operation.
Building an Electronic Records Archie at the National Archives and
Records Administration provides preliminary feedback to NARA on
lessons it should take from the SDSC work and identifies key ERA
design issues that should be addressed as the ERA procurement
process proceeds in 2003.