

CORRESPONDENCE

The *American Journal of International Law* welcomes short communications from its readers. It reserves the right to determine which letters should be published and to edit any letters printed. Letters should conform to the same format requirements as other manuscripts.

TO THE EDITORS IN CHIEF:

May I add one comment to the recent observations of Maria Frankowska (87 AJIL 589 (1993)) in connection with my review of the latest volume of the *Fontes Juris Gentium*? While not underestimating the value of a data base of the material in the *ICJ Reports* as a research tool, I do not think it can or should wholly replace an index. A good indexer will recognize, and index appropriately, an application by the Court or a judge of a particular legal principle even if that principle is not referred to *eo nomine* in the text. Such dicta are unlikely to be retrieved by a search program geared to look for specific words or combinations of words. By way of example: a researcher interested in the use of the principle *jura novit curia* is unlikely to devise a computer search request which will throw up the remarks of Judge Gros in the *Gulf of Maine* case (1994 ICJ Rep. 246, 363). The passage is, however, indexed in the *Fontes* volume (p. 384), correctly in my opinion, under the heading of that principle.

H. W. A. THIRLWAY
Principal Legal Secretary
International Court of Justice