September 29, 1992

Ms. Ann Brownell Sloane
National Center for Automated Information Retrieval
Suite 1B
165 East 72nd Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Ms. Sloane:

      I trust you received the report and grant proposal I sent you earlier this month. Enclosed is a brief addendum I would ask you to share with the board.

      An excellent new book on the Internet by Ed Krol, entitled "The Whole Internet: User's Guide & Catalog" provides a useful introduction to many Internet subjects, among them the use of Gopher servers and clients. I have copied the first three pages of the Gopher chapter (pp. 189-191) and the portion later on (pp. 200-201) in which the Cornell Law School server is used to illustrate the value of a domain specific Gopher.

      As the book says at p. 191: "Gopher is a lot harder to talk about than to use.... Find a gopher client and play with it!"

      While Tom Bruce and I would be pleased to demonstrate our server to the NCAIR board (we have worked out a SLIP connection so I can do dial-up from home or the road), I would encourage any board member with an INTERNET connection that allows TELNET to explore on his own. All one need do is TELNET to FATTY.LAW.CORNELL.EDU and login as GOPHER.

      Once logged in, explore. The explorer should note the resources -- not held on our Institute's server -- that the server organizes and points toward:

e.g. Hong Kong law, government agency material (FDA, Social Security
      Administration), Supreme Court decisions distributed under
      Hermes and archived at Case Western Reserve

and how they can be placed directly beside resources that are locally created and maintained, ranging from guidance (read me before using the Social Security Administration connection) to items like the e-mail directory, the teknoids archive, and the soon to appear Gopher versions of some of our FOLIO material.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Martin   Thomas R. Bruce
Jane M.G. Foster   Director
Professor of Law   Educational Technologies