

*I will be at this number until 14 April 1996*

---

11 April 1996 (11:22am)

To: Dan Starer

Many thanks for your helpful fax. As Jeannie's search engine is something which in fact has not been invented, I'm resigned to doing a lot with smoke and mirrors. However, I like your suggestion of making it more plausible with a soupçon of detail. Do please gather some information for me in this area and by all means offer a fee.

My thinking is that whether the information stored is fingerprints, dental records or ECGs does not matter, for the search engine seeks electronic patterns, and will therefore find matching pairs regardless of what they represent.

In the Pentagon scene I could probably have Jeannie establish in advance that the records she is interested in are held in a form easily compatible with her software. As you know, in real life these records are not in fact stored electronically so I am already straying from reality in that scene. If her software is written in 5GL, and we say the records are kept in a Windows-based system, would that be enough?

*Field 14:* The databases I've used have, typically, a name in Field 1, an address in Field 2, a phone number in Field 3, and so on. I'm assuming the medical records are similarly divided, so that information from various tests would be stored in separate fields.

All psychologists are obliged to study statistics but

I have obviously failed to make that clear in the text. I will also say she studied 5GL.

Apparently, identical twins do tend to develop identical dental problems, including cavities in the same teeth. A dentist would not necessarily know this.

I think the text points out that ECGs were performed on the clones at the special request of Berisford. The ECGs of identical twins are as similar as two ECGs of the same person taken on different days. I don't think I use EEGs in the book.

I don't expect to be able to solve all these problems. I'm not sure I need to: everyone knows that computers become more sophisticated day by day, and the reader will accept that things which are not possible today will be routine tomorrow. However, I would like to do what I can to make this aspect of the book more realistic and I appreciate your suggestions and look forward to more information.

Best regards,

Ken.