** Command-key Trick

Sometimes you may want to run Pearl without having it automatically do anything, no matter how it was configured.   If you hold down the command key when you double-click Pearl, it will just come up empty handed.   Nothing will happen and no windows will open.   This is usefull if you just want to run it to change a preference or check on the preferences already set.

** Fuzzy Rules

Pearl knows a little about the text it sees and it may help you to configure it if you know what it knows.   Mostly, Pearl knows about email.   Most email headers have stuff like "Subject:" and "From:" or some variation.   Pearl looks for these and uses them in it's analysis.   If you're mostly using Pearl with email, you can rely on it's rules pretty heavily to come up with good stuff.

To a lesser extent, Pearl knows about net and BBS postings and their customs.   For examle, lines of text that start with a ">" are less likely to be unwrapped because they are often delimiting quotes of another post that will get screwy if unwrapped.   Another example is that net postings tend to have headers at the top that usually shouldn't be unwrapped and may contain important description information.   So, if you're copying text to be archive with Pearl, it will work better if you include the whole message, not just a portion of it.

If "Normalize Text" is set to anything but "Never", Pearl removes linefeeds, control characters and other non-printable characters.   It NEVER removes international characters or other "high-bit" characters.   For now (this may change in the future, depending on what Users want), it also replaces Tabs with Spaces.   It also usually removes leading spaces in a line (unless there are a lot of them, then it supposes that they are part of a table or something), this helps with information services that stupidly put two spaces at the start of every line of mail and other text.

Pearl uses several other rules to look for important things about a given chunk of text.   Each rule has it's own search criteria and confidence level once it finds something.   This sometimes leads to hilarious or stupid results and sometimes makes Pearl look impossibly smart.   Don't worry - it's not that smart.

Right now, Pearl's fuzzy logic is absolutely lousy at non-English text.   It was developed for English text and can't easily be chaged to other alphabets.

** Repeats

You can sometimes double-click Pearl to archive the text on the clipboard, then forget and double-click Pearl (rather than double-clicking the archive) when you want to look at the archive.   When Pearl runs the second time and goes to archive the same text, it will see that they're the same and ask you if you're sure you want to archive it a second time (I got caught by this often enough while testing it to want this feature).   This can also happen if you choose Paste to Archive twice in a row.   This mechanism doesn't work by comparing the text, which would be too slow, but by looking at it's characteristics.   Because of this, it may occasionally misfire and

ask you if you're sure when the two entries are not at all alike your your eye.   Don't worry, just say yes and go on.

** Color and horsepower

Pearl likes to run in 256 color mode or higher.   It's look was designed for that medium and it works best that way.   It takes horsepower, however, so Pearl checks your machine as it runs.   If you have a 68030 or better (including PowerPC) and 256 or more colors, then it runs the way it likes.   If this isn't true, it runs in a considerably uglier mode that takes only black and white and little CPU power to render.   Sorry if this doesn't work for you, but there's just not time to make it work optimally every which way.