

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 69 (2003)
Heft: [6]

Rubrik: Children's page : where does the alphabet start with QWERTY?

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Children's Page



Where does the alphabet start with QWERTY?

The alphabet starts with QWERTY on a typewriter or keyboard where Q-W-E-R-T-Y is the order of the first keys.

The first practical typewriter was invented by Christopher Latham Sholes, and was marketed by the Remington Arms company in 1873.

The action of the type bars in early typewriters was very sluggish, and tended to jam frequently. To solve this problem, Sholes obtained a list of the most common letters used in English and changed his keyboard from an alphabetic arrangement to one in which the most common pairs of letters were spread fairly widely apart on the keyboard. Because typists at that time used what was known as the 'hunt and peck' method, Sholes's arrangement increased the time it took for the typists to hit the keys for common two-letter combinations long enough to ensure that each type bar had time to fall back sufficiently far to be back in place before the next one came up.



FACT FILE:

Most computer keyboards resemble typewriter keyboards in the arrangement of their letter keys but have additional keys for special computer functions.

