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I've just finished choosing all the articles for this Helvetia; the editorial is usually the last thing to be written.

You might have wondered how we fill the 16 or 20 pages, apart from the contributions from the clubs and Carolyn's wonderful page.

Well, when we had to take over the Helvetia, 3½ years ago, I wondered, too: How on earth could we fill so many pages? I have quite a number of hobby horses, and I could fill a few pages with those, but I doubt that they would be interesting to many readers, and they'd be in fluent German - or much less fluent English. The flattering term for my English is probably 'idiosyncratic'; the more honest, down-to-earth term would be 'slightly warped'.

I had just bought my first computer - mainly because I was very impressed with the easy way to correct misspelt words. Before I had a computer, I used my typewriter, but only very reluctantly, as my typing skills are not even basic; they are simply non-existing. It would still be handy if I could type, but at least it's not a major disaster anymore when I spell 'Wellington' with two k, just because the k key is alongside the l.

So far so good, but that still didn't solve the problem with my quirky English, nor the problem how to fill so many pages with stuff that would interest more than a handful of readers.

But then somebody mentioned the internet, and google. Hm, who is Mr (or Mrs, for that matter) Google? I still don't know who Mr and Mrs Google are, but I'm hooked and spend hours and hours on the internet, far beyond what is needed for the 16 or 20 pages of the Helvetia. It is absolutely incredible what you can find there. And I'm still only a beginner, and overwhelmed. So I copy and paste and delete and add some more and make it fit. Heidi is sometimes cruel and asks me to delete some more - but she is much cleverer than I

and mostly very, very kind and always finds great pictures.

Now, most of you would have a computer, too, and it is highly likely that you are better at all things related to it than I. You could find all the articles you can read in the Helvetia in full length in your own computer. Would you do it? Would I do it if I didn't have to? I can only speak for myself, but I certainly wouldn't, and so I hope you don't mind that most articles come from the internet, especially found for you. At least we are honest enough to acknowledge where all the interesting material comes from!

swissinfo, also part of the internet, prepares Swiss news

especially for the Swiss abroad. I have them on my 'Favourites' list - and so have many of you, I guess. Not all articles I find there fit into the next Helvetia straight-away; so they end up in the drawer, labelled 'for later use'. And sometimes they stay in there well past their use-by date and have to be thrown out, composted. At least they don't look as disgusting as the stuff I sometimes find at the back of my fridge. They don't make good compost and simply vanish, without a trace. The computer is a strange machine. You can cram it much fuller than the fridge, too, and things don't fall over, don't spill and don't get squashed; I think I quite like it.

*Indi*

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