

The home computer and networked technology: encounters in the Mass Observation Project, 1991-2004

Web Archiving Week Conference 2017

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**I confess that
sometimes I resort to
using the computer
using cut and paste
techniques to write
several letters at once**

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. W1813, Female, 53, married, Teacher,
Staffs.

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Given the choice I would use a word-processor for everything. We were provided with specially-programmed Amstrad 8512 models during my final years at work, and I grew to love them, but since coming home, and being unable to buy one at the present time, I have had to revert to my faithful Adler typewriter.

I'd love to own a word-processor, a simple P.C as is owned by one of my daughters would be splendid. I think my husband would enjoy using it as a computer so maybe one day my dream will come true. It would be splendid to produce all the writing I wanted with such ease

**There is a spell check on
this machine. Also my mind
works faster than my hand
and I miss out letters. This
machine picks up all my
faults and corrects them.
Thank you computer.**

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. D156, Female, 52, married, florist, south east.

For business letters I prefer normal black Arial font, 10, 11 or 12 point, which is what I am using now in this response. For personal letters I use 'simulated handwriting' in the form of black or bright blue Monotype Corsiva 18 point

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. C2256, Male, 55, Married, Birmingham, former school teacher.

However I cheat with them as they are usually all of a similar nature. Using a computer it is easy to duplicate a standard letter and just add a few personal details to make each letter slightly different.

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. E2836, female, 53, freelance writer, Andover.

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PRINT EVERYTHING OUT AND STORE IT?! What do you do all day? Flipping heck. I occasionally print some work things out ...I store them in folders on the system. But I have to confess to having printed out a fair few emails from my ex, but lost track of how to file them and so really they're just filed in my hotmail

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. O2049, Female, 45, Single, Careers Manager.

I do wish that I printed more copies of my mail which I have done more of recently. I am keeping a record of the responses to the news of my pregnancy and it made me wish i'd printed out lots more stuff to look back on. Even work related emails. It gives you something to place yourself in time, what happened when and to whom and how you felt. So much detail of our everyday lives is lost through writing e-mail and texts and not notes and letters and small reminders at different times prompt so many other things

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. W2959, female, 36, single, Brighton, visual artist.

**Usually at the dining
room at home which
doubles as our office
where the computer
desk is located**

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. C2256, male, 55, married, Birmingham,
former school teacher.

Letters written on the computer are typed up on the dining table in front of the living room, usually around tea time, or if it's a difficult letter, I'll wait until a quiet Sunday afternoon when I put on some background music to help.

Where/When – At the PC, await til it's available, mainly during the day as the granddaughters hog it in the evening. The PC is in the lounge.

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. W632, female, 62, Southwick, retired business analyst.

I have a work email address and a personal one. It isn't a problem to have personal emails sent to me at work, but I prefer the 2 to be kept separate because my work is so overwhelming that it is one small way to keep some things in life separate and, if I can manage to resist the temptation to look at my work emails at home, I have a separate hotmail account for personal exchange

Mass Observation Project Archive. 2004. O2049, female, 45, single, Careers Manager.

Internet – We have this at work and it's mildly useful. I wouldn't have it at home because it costs a lot to be quite sad and sit alone at home.

Mass Observation Project Archive. 1996. T1826, female, 38, married, Aberdeen, staff development officer.

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