Ah Bartleby! Ah Humanity!
or: 10 years's experience of editing and copy-editing LT

Here's the authorized version of my empirical generalizations about national styles of typological publishing, based on 10 years' experience of editing and copy-editing LT.

Russians do line breaks by hard return, and your computer inevitably crashes at their first table. In the rare case you can successfully restart, you'll find the terms "principles", "strategies", and "system" occurring with far above average frequency, even in comparison to contributions from the GDR. I wonder why.

The French have no sense of how a text looks on a printed page, no aesthetic style in this respect. Curious, considering how well they dress.

Italians are easy to mistake for either Russians or French or both.

Germans don't make sense. Makes sense, if you're one of them.

I'm prejudiced against the Swiss. Therefore no comment. Fortunately they don't submit much anyhow.

Americans will tell you (twice: in the Abstract and in the Introduction copied and pasted from the Abstract, or vice versa) what they are going to tell you; they tell you (sometimes only once, but most copy and paste in a section "Analysis" after that headed "Results"); and they tell you in conclusion (copying and pasting the Introduction) what little they've told you. Sounds very professional. When pressed for space, I edit out the Introduction and the Conclusions.

Brits, at least that generation of typologists brought up on Monty Python, have a joke or two. I sometimes add a couple for good measure. Their young ones do it American-style. They are usually called Tony.

Which leaves the Dutch and the Australians. The latter are called Bruce, refer to each other as "mate" in the Acknowledgements, do fieldwork and have basic linguistic theories. Vice versa for the former. Their papers rarely need much copy-editing.

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