Facilitating collaborative scientific writing and publishing

University of Cambridge

Helping STEM Researchers Publish Workshop

08 February, 2017

Ali Smith & Villy Ioannou

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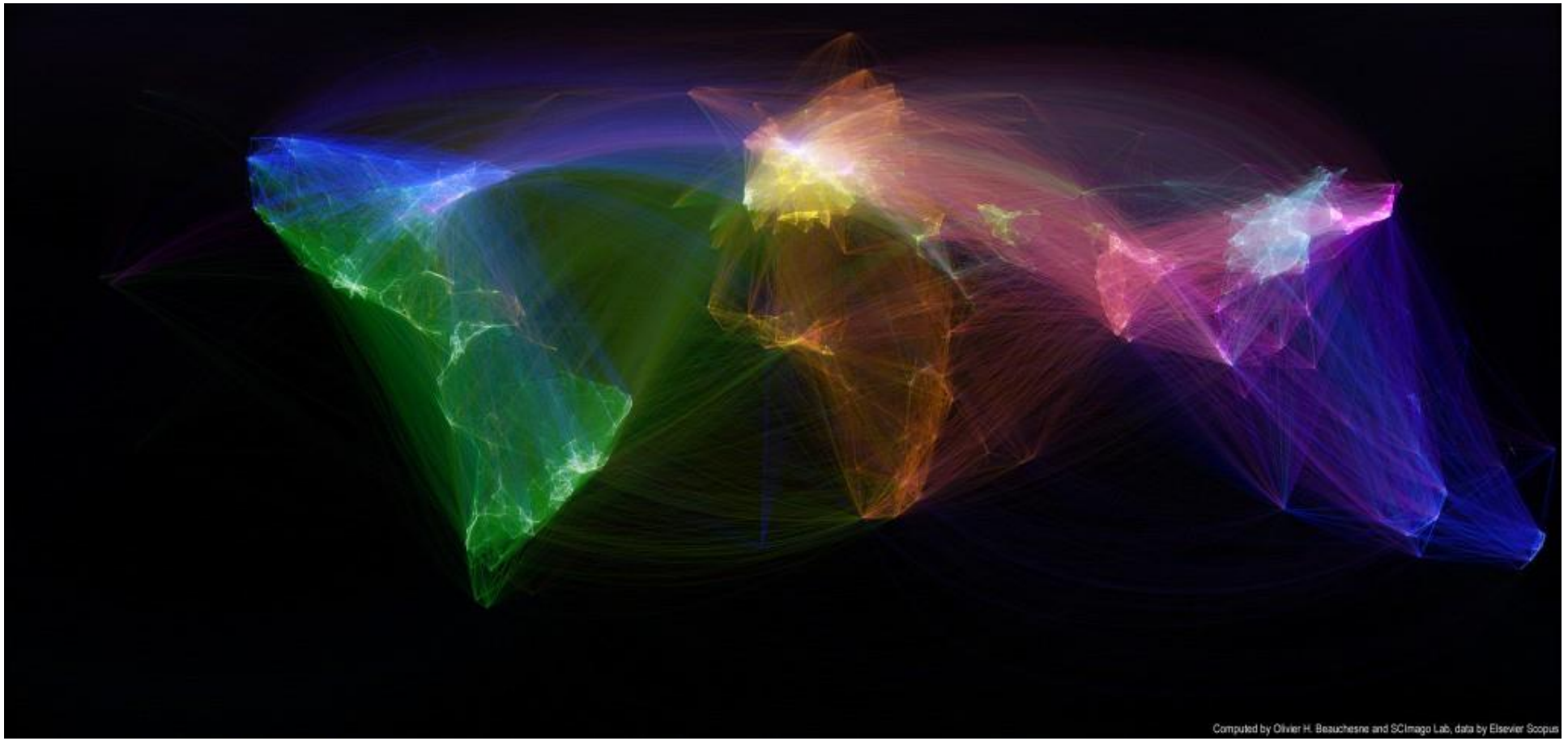
Global scientific collaboration

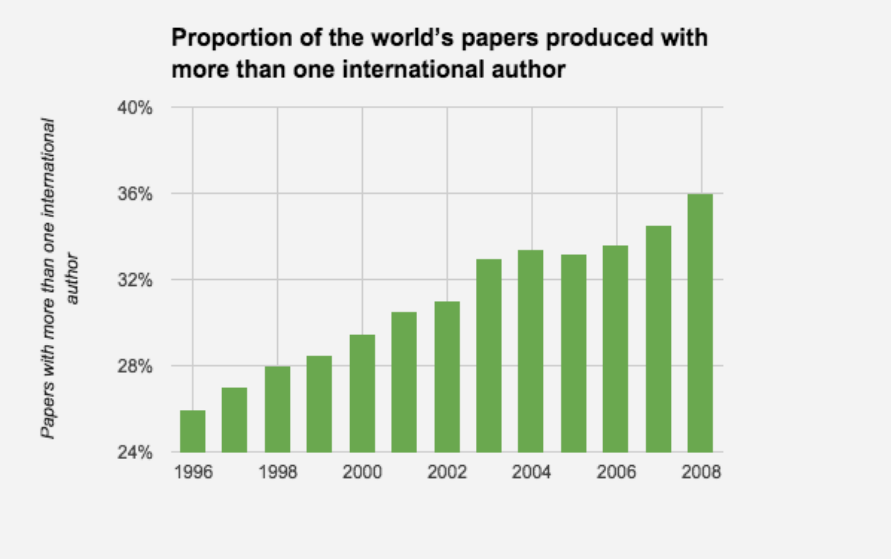


Collaboration networks between researchers in different cities
(built using Scopus data on papers published between 2008 and 2012)

Source: http://olihb.com/2014/08/11/map-of-scientific-collaboration-redux/

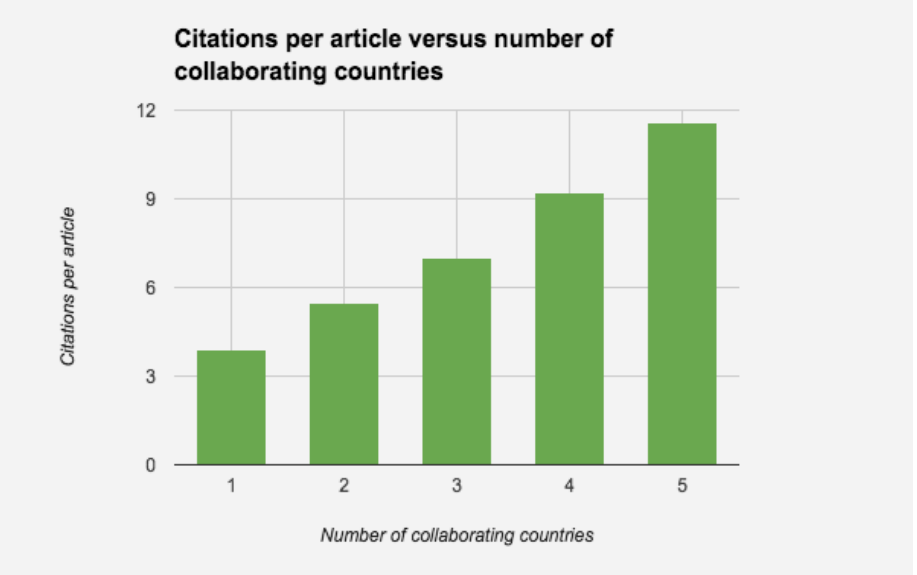
Growth in collaborative research

Global collaborative writing growth trends



Source: Knowledge, networks and nations. Global scientific collaboration in the 21st century - The Royal Society - 2011

Such collaboration is beneficial



Source: Knowledge, networks and nations. Global scientific collaboration in the 21st century - The Royal Society - 2011

THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Collaboration can be frustrating

- Multiple versions of the same document
- Long email chains
- Formatting/typesetting
- Maintaining references
- Long revision cycles

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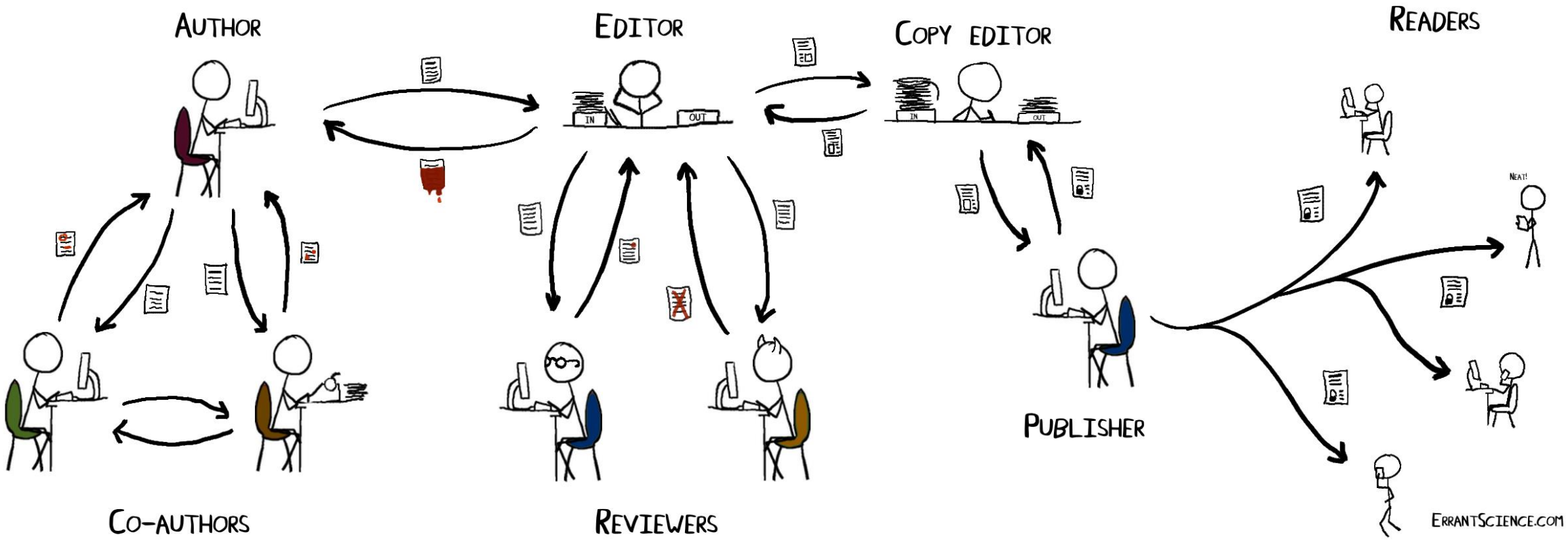
The entire life cycle is affected



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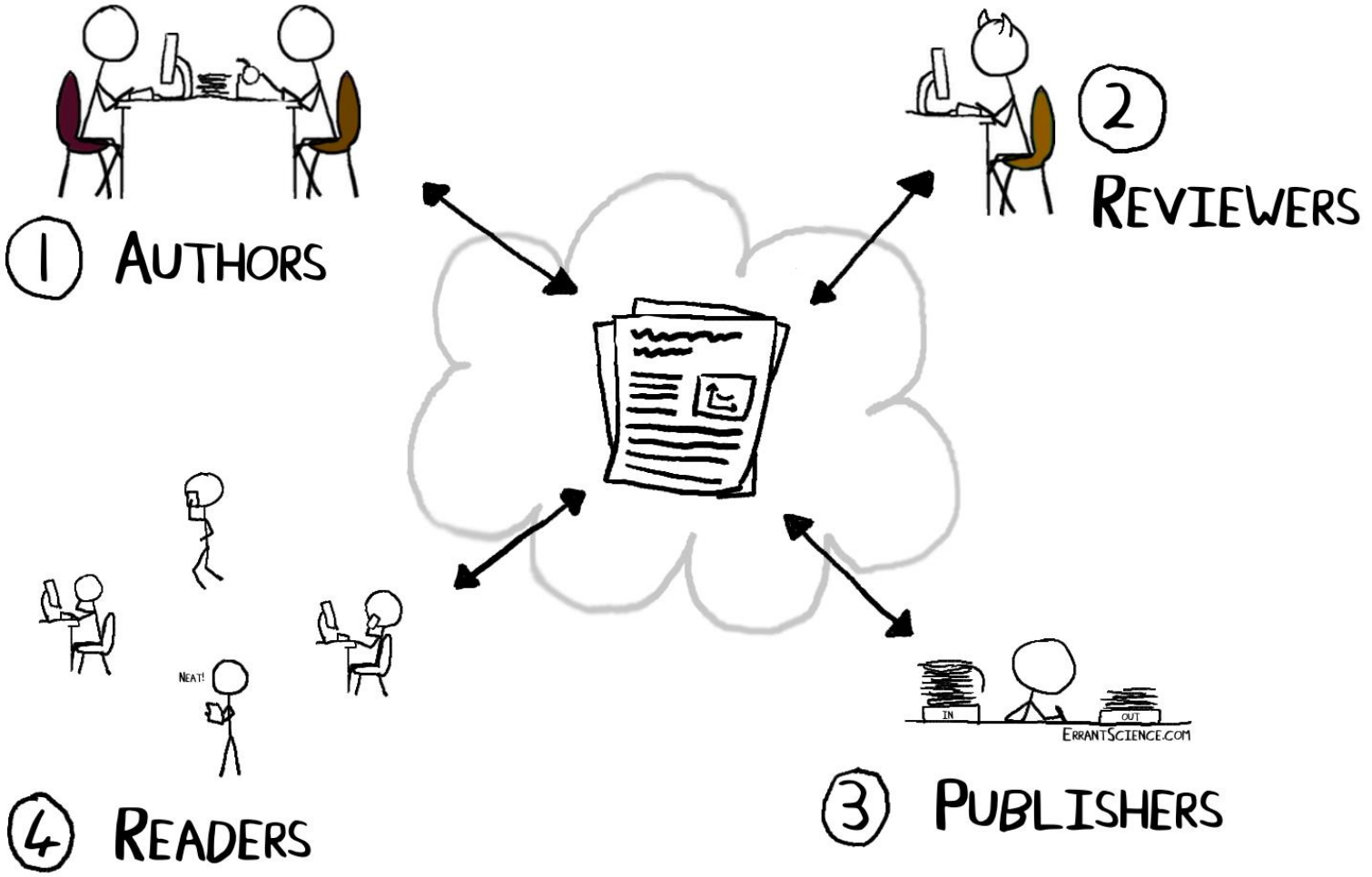
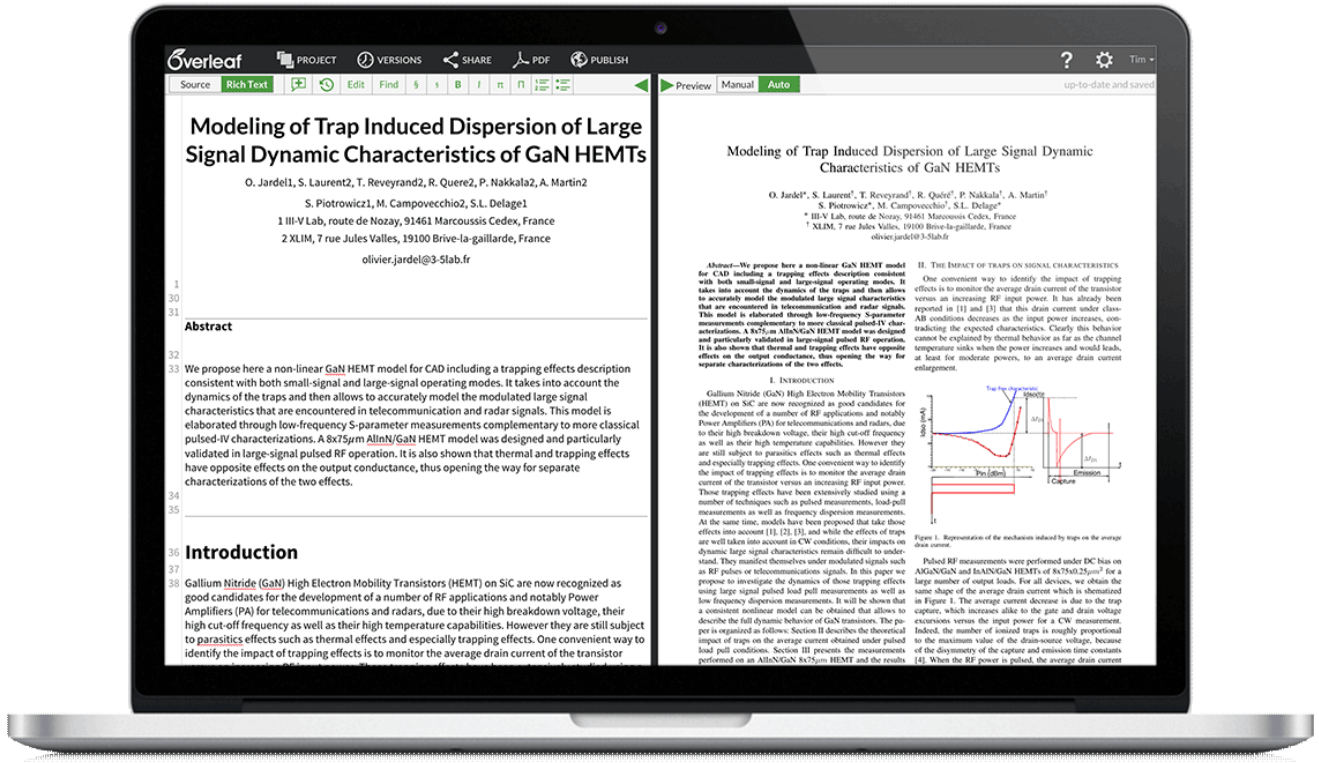
ONE VERSION IN THE CLOUD ACCESSIBLE BY ALL COLLABORATORS



A collaborative writing platform

Edit on the left, see compiled PDF on the right



https://www.overleaf.com/tutorial

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7,000,000 documents
600,000 authors
180 countries
in 4 years

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RED HERRING EUROPE
WINNER
100

nominet
Internet Awards 2014
Winner
Innovative internet business

What Overleaf is doing for end users

Making research faster, more open & more accessible:

- One version of document accessible by all
- No need to email large files, simply share a link or invite by email
- Typesetting done automatically in the background
- Automatic reference styles and citation links
- Review tools provide real-time commenting, track changes & version control
- No local software installation on multiple machines required
- End user tech support – platform, templates, LaTeX

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Institutional benefits of Pro accounts

Offering campus community features of Pro accounts:

- 10GB storage & 500 files per project
- Protected projects – invite collaborators privately rather than sharing a link – especially nice for collaborating with other institutions
- Full project history along with version control
- Quick save to Dropbox
- Priority support

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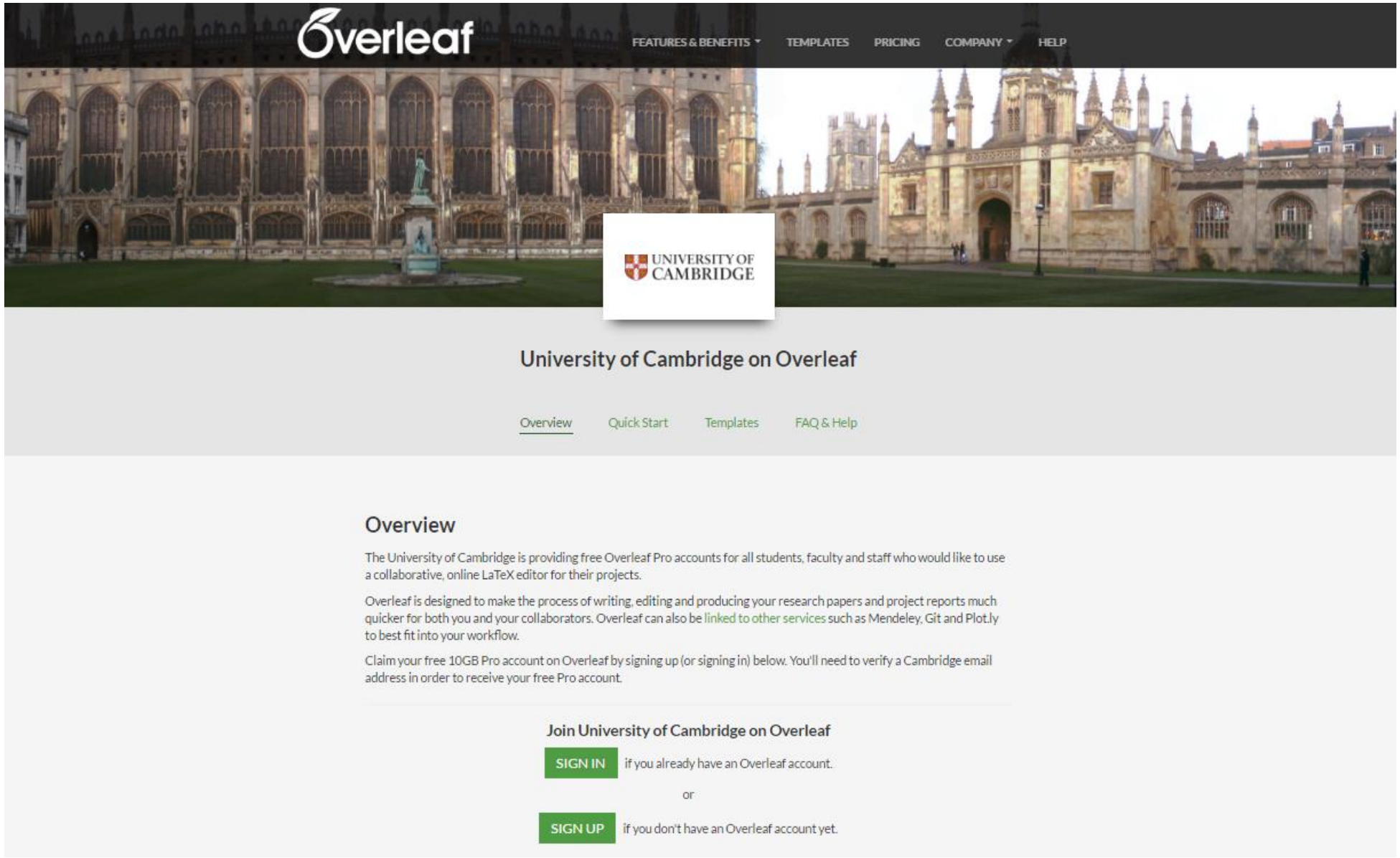
Now trialled at Cambridge: www.overleaf.com/edu/cambridge



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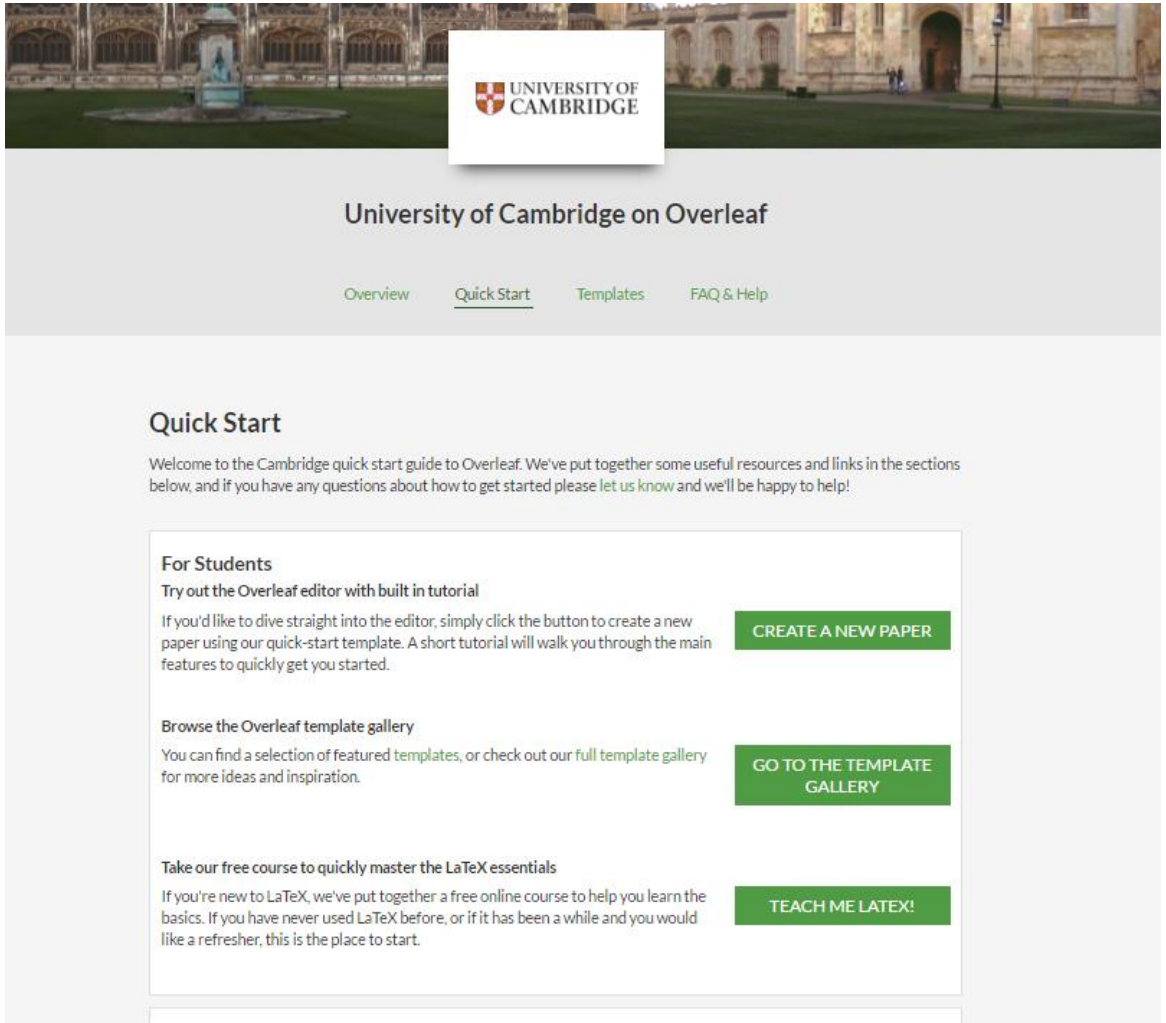
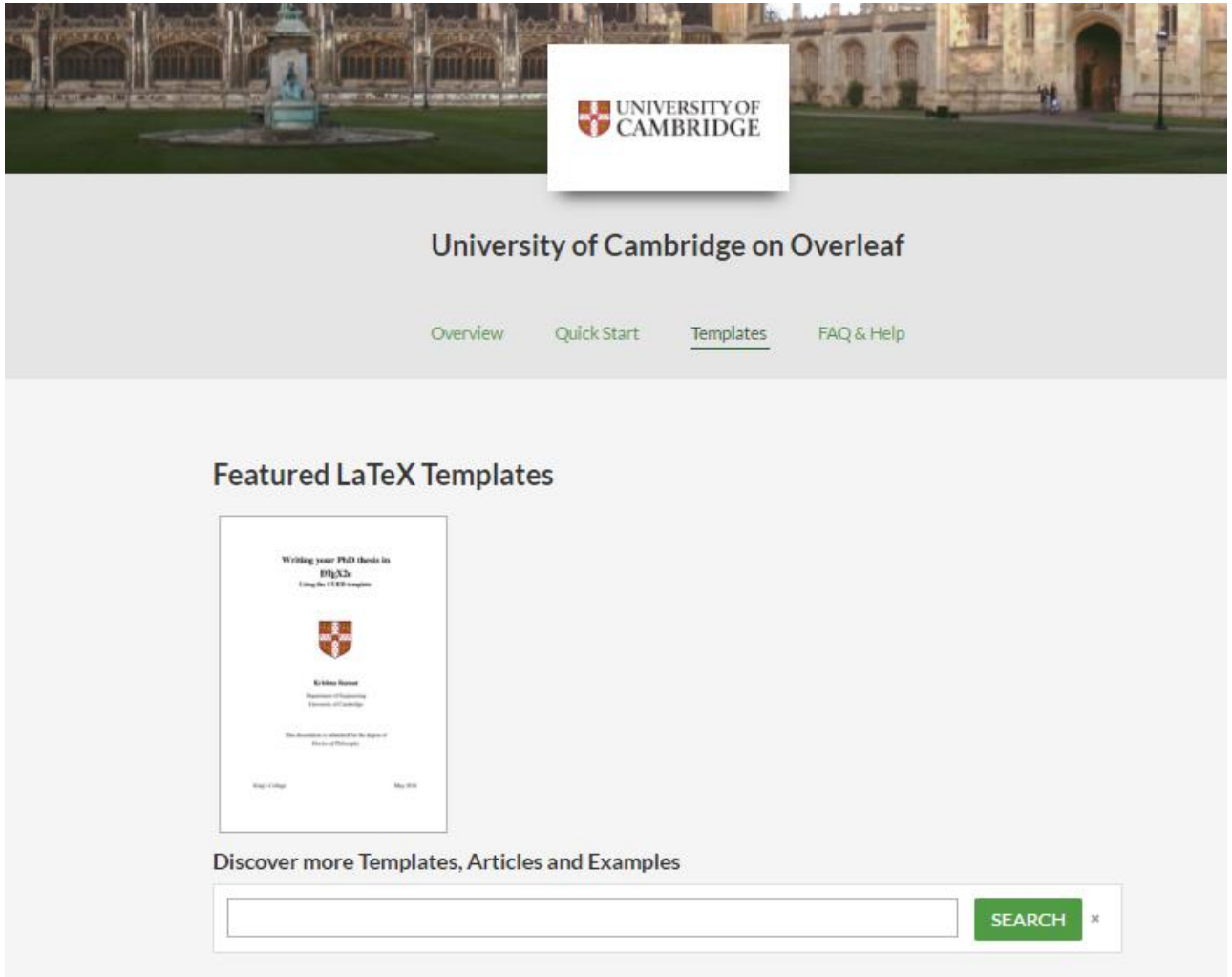
Portal contains resources, templates and guides to get started





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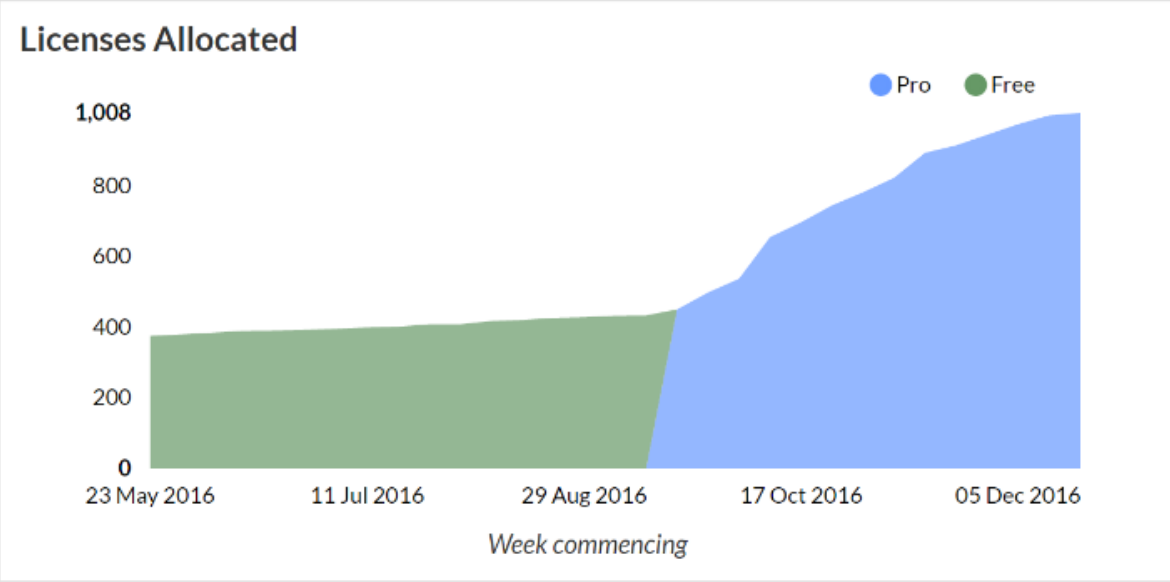
Blog

A flying start to the University of Cambridge Overleaf trial

63 shares

By John Hammersley
December 22, 2016



The trial started on September 22nd, at which point the 434 existing users were automatically upgraded to Pro. Since the launch of the trial, sign-ups have continued to grow, and three months later (December 21st) there are a total of 1,008 users from the University of Cambridge on Overleaf.

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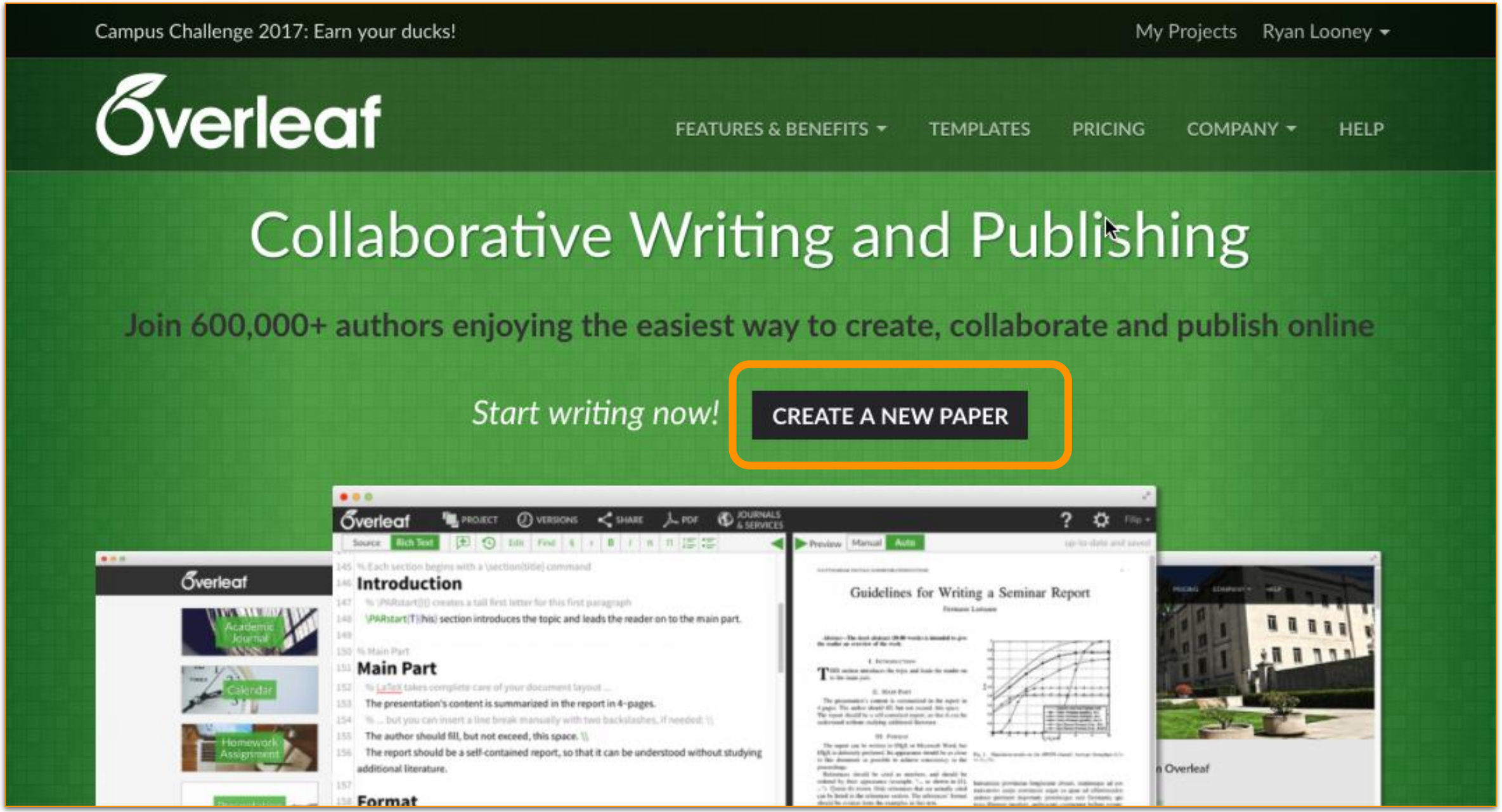

Live Demo

https://www.overleaf.com

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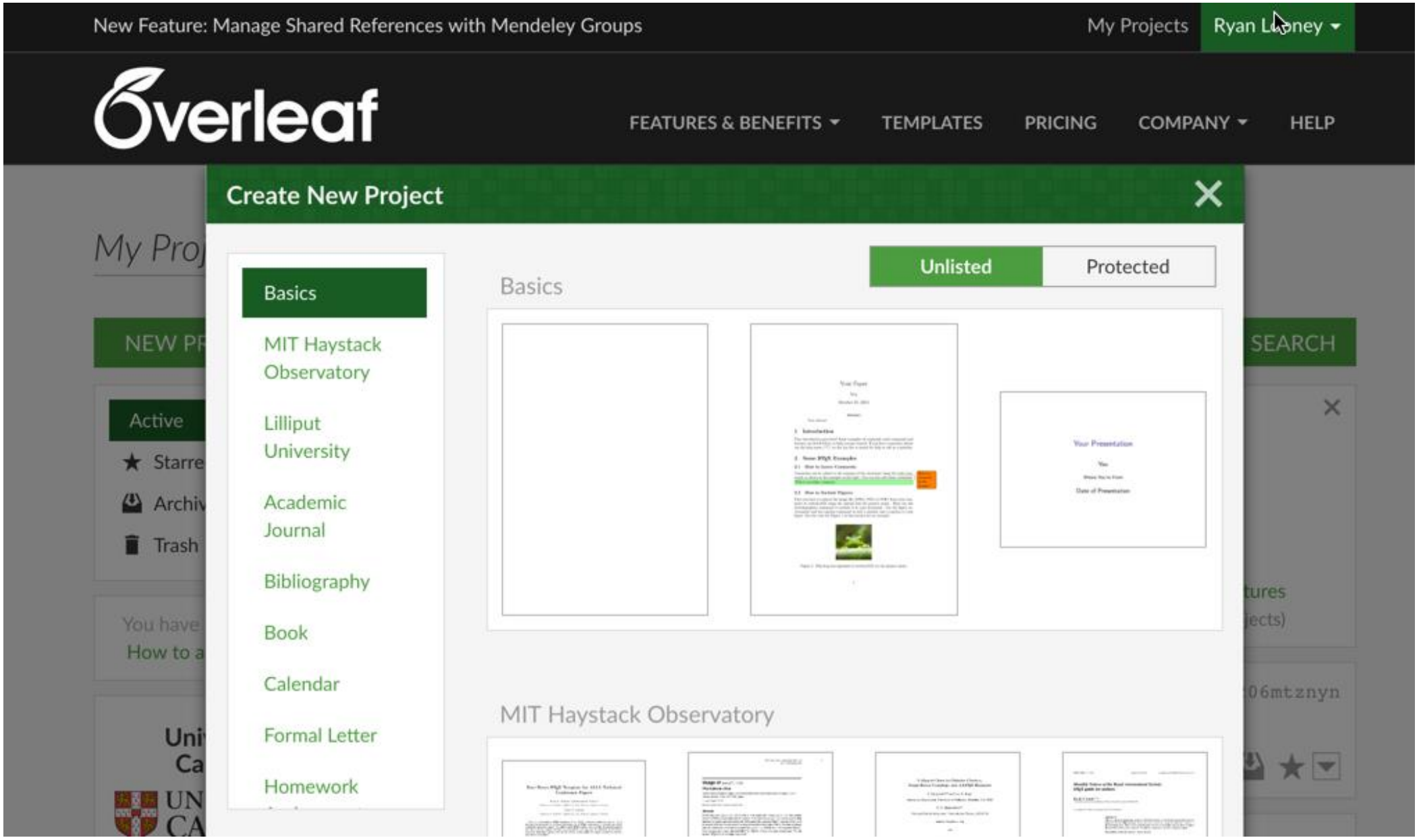
Or start with one of over 2500 templates



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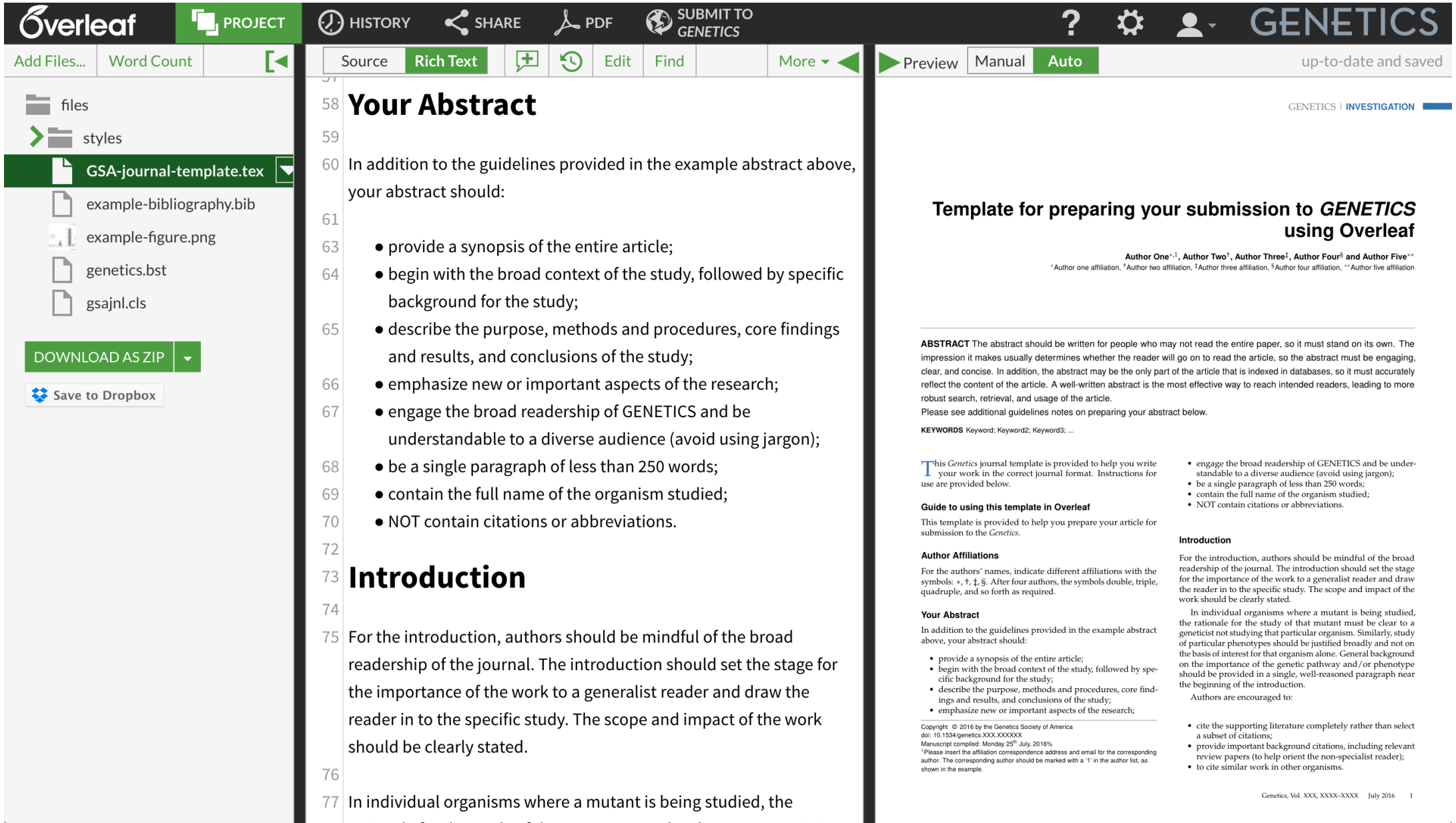
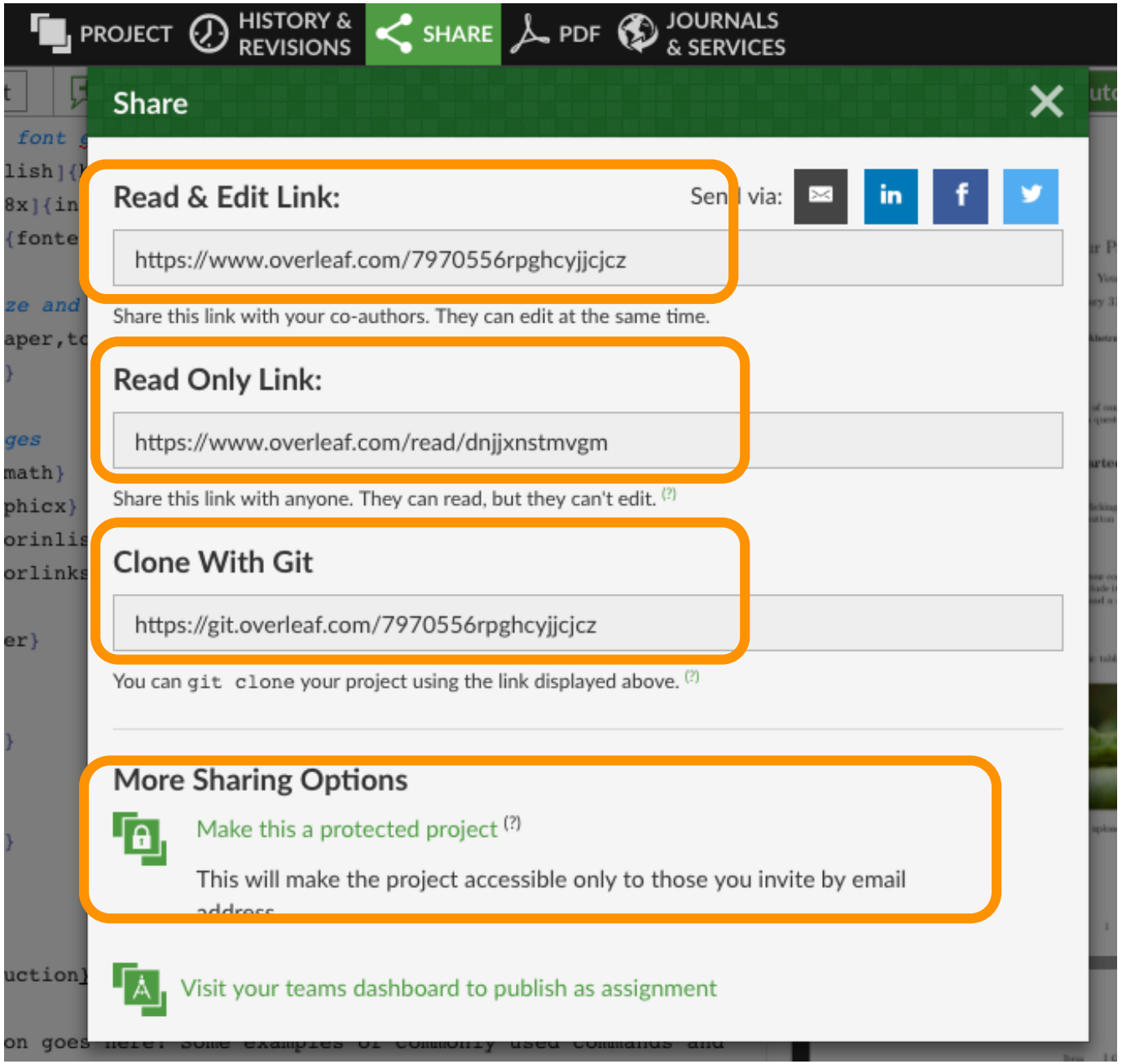


share with your collaborators



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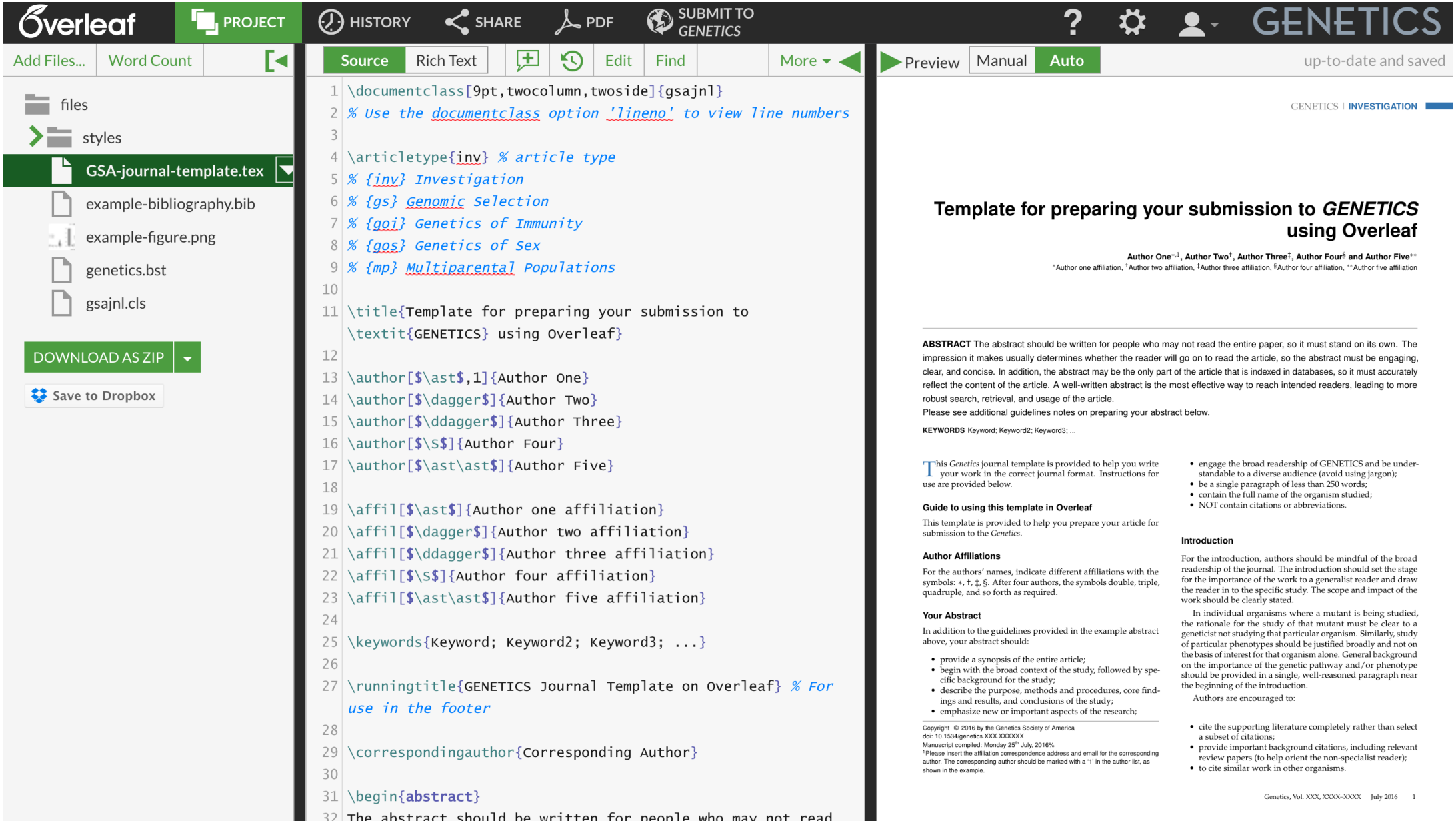
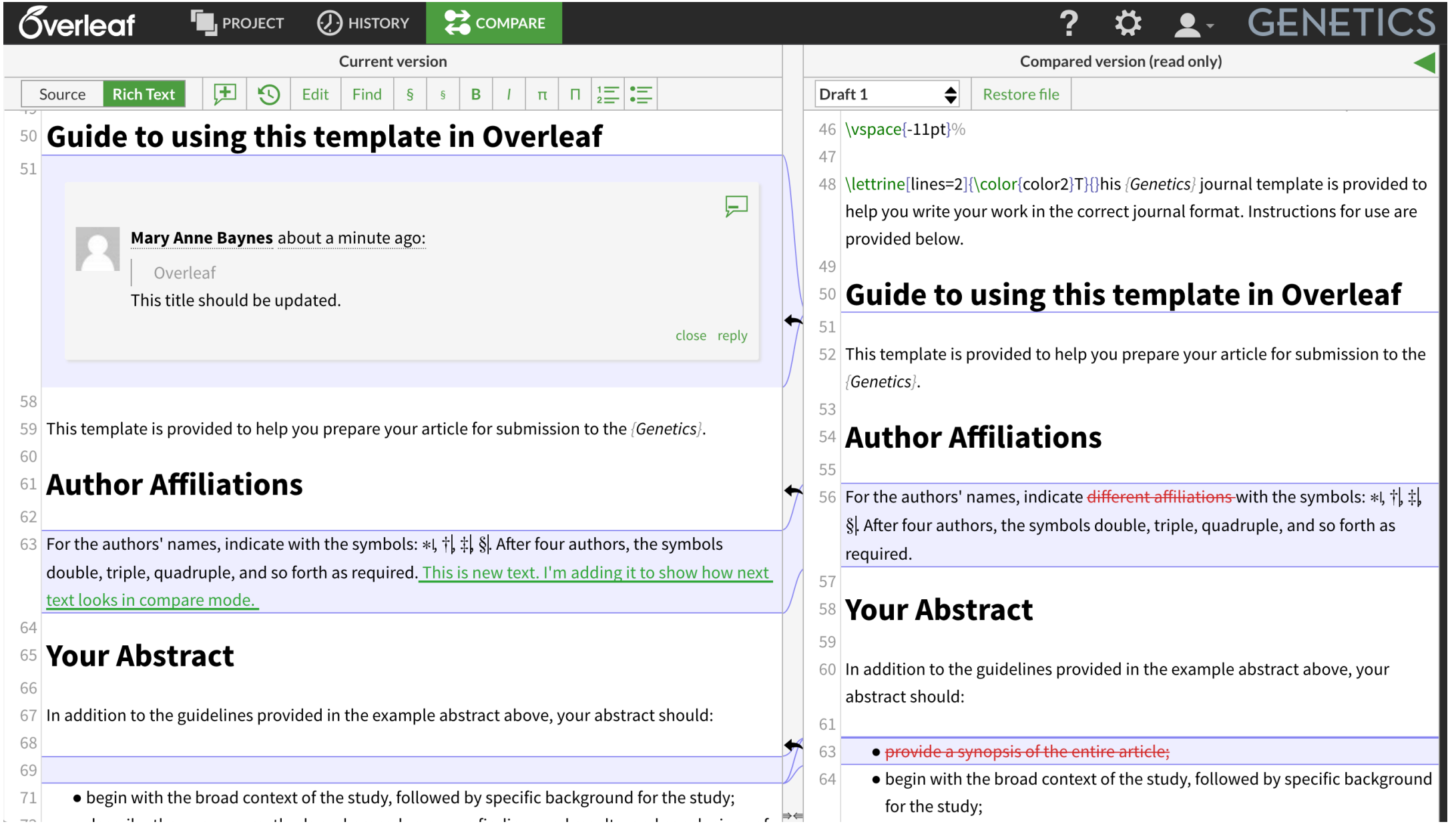
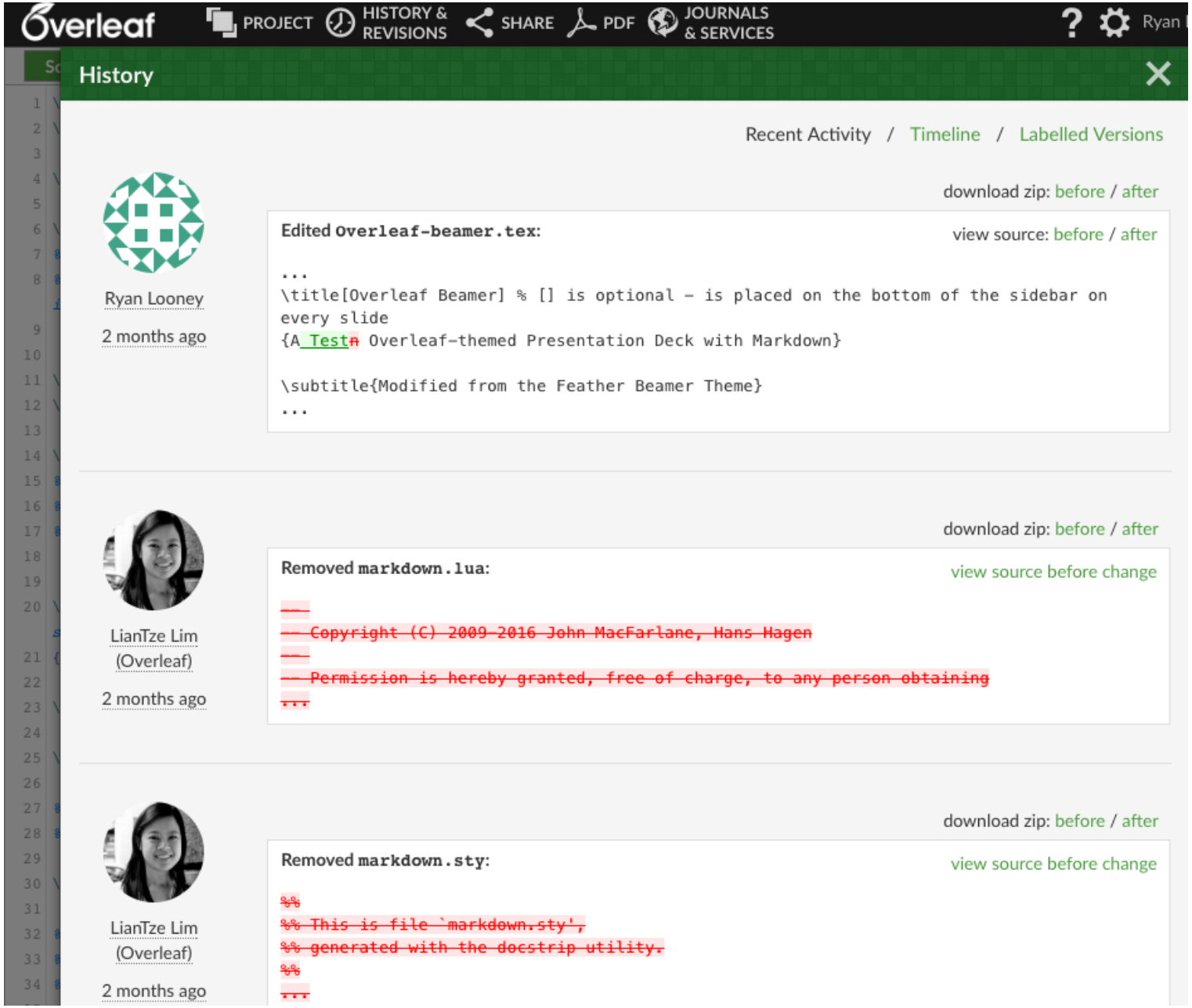
Edit underlying LaTeX source, if you like



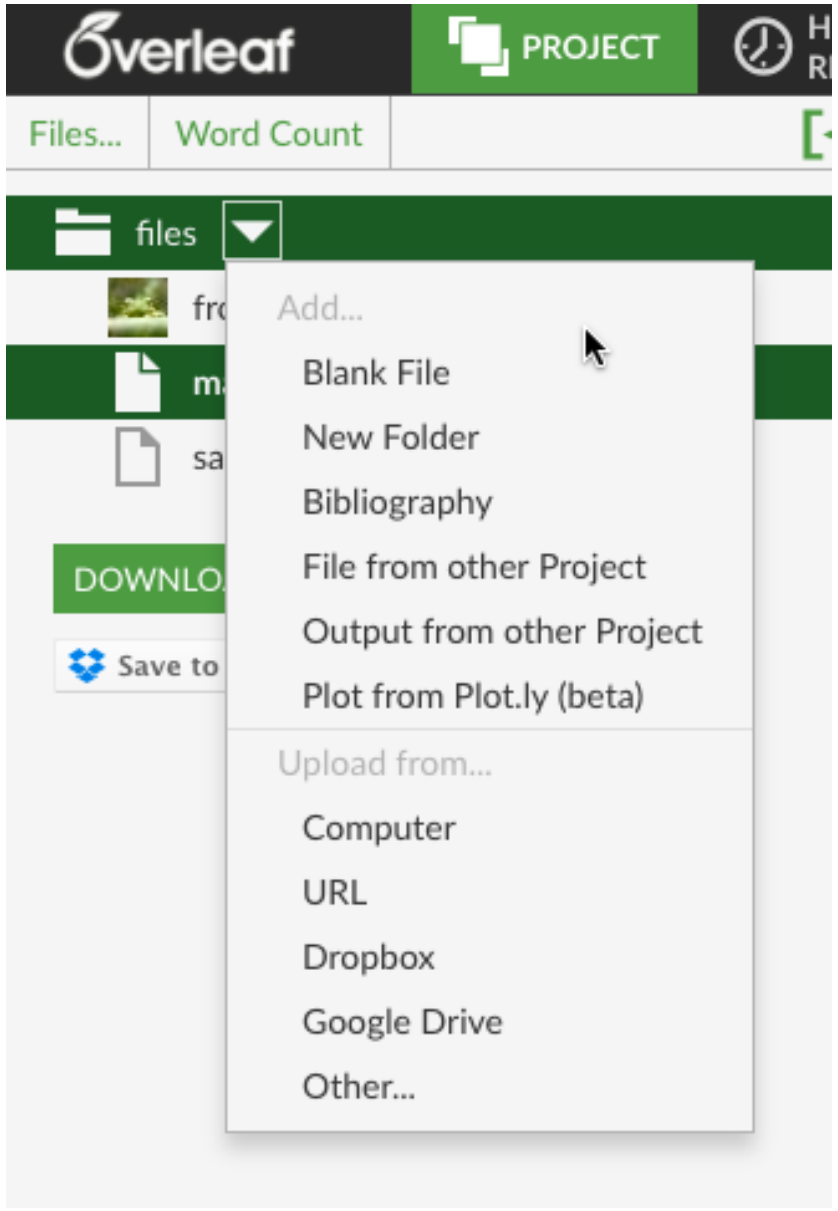
In-line comments & tracked changes for review

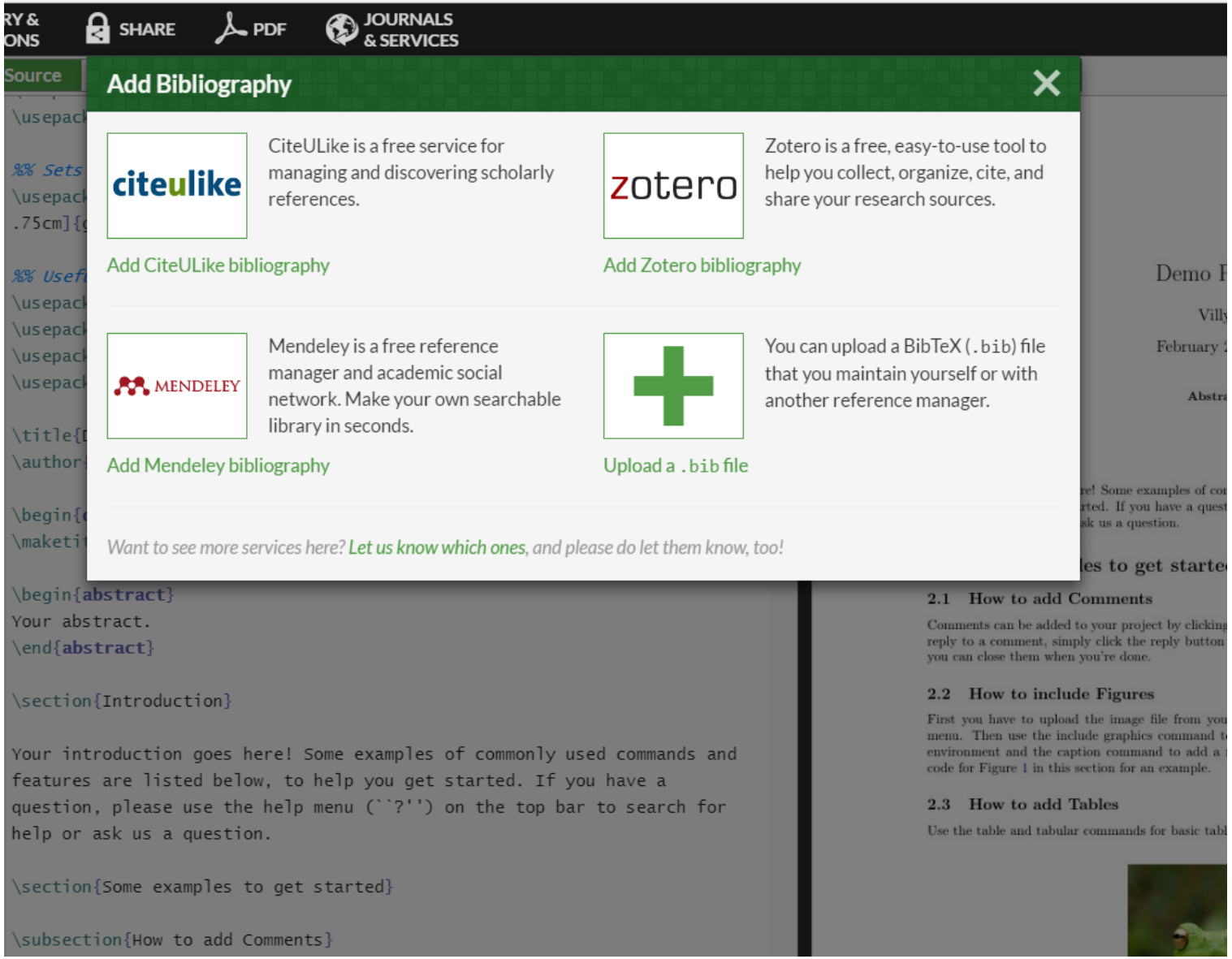


View Full Project History

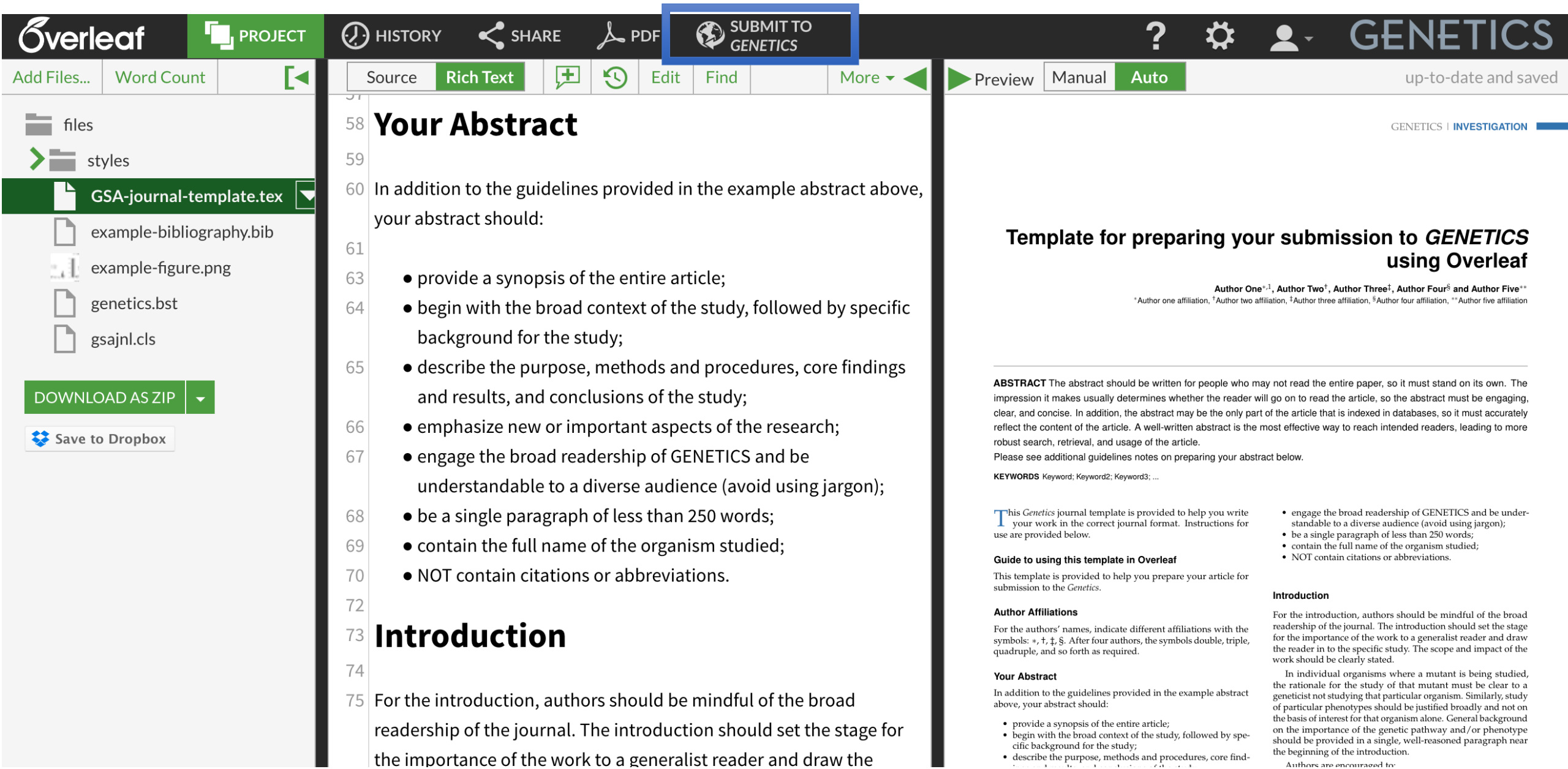


Add your bibliography, files and more





submit directly from Overleaf to journals



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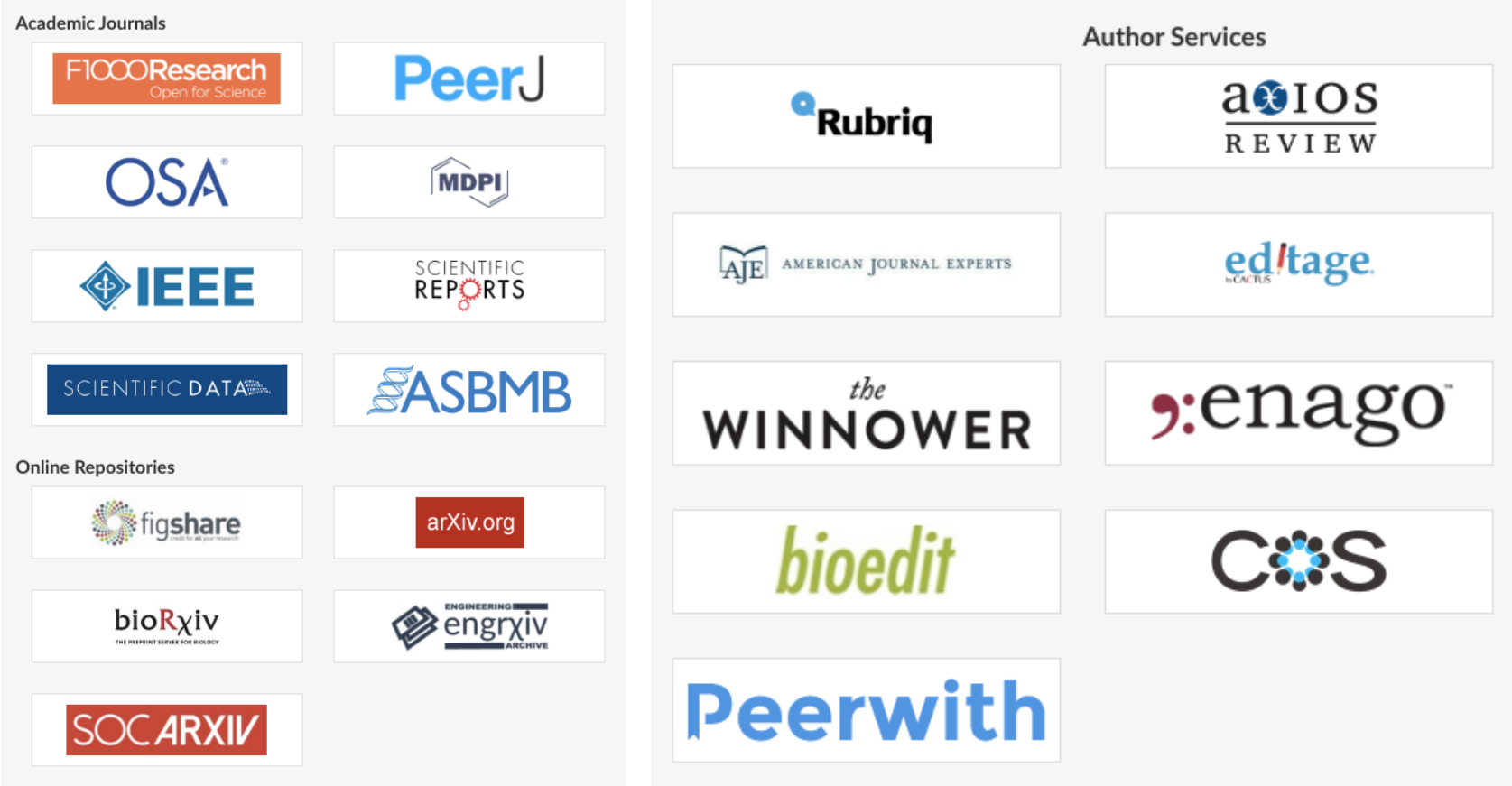
Multiple integrations & partnerships



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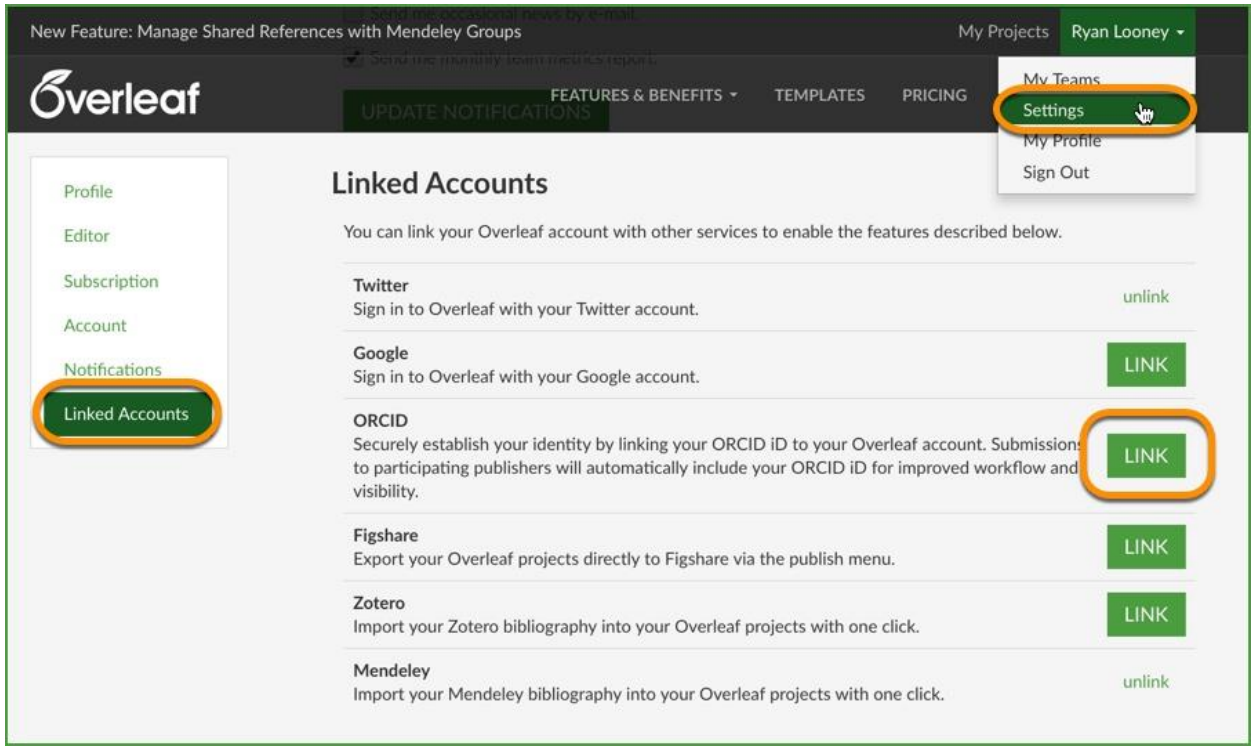
Integration with ORCID iD

Securely establish your identity by linking your ORCID iD to your Overleaf account.

Read more about this integration here:

https://www.overleaf.com/blog/434-now-available-link-your-orcid-id-to-your-overleaf-account#



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Resources & Help

- Free Introduction to LaTeX View
- Linking to your Mendeley Account View
- Working Offline with GIT View

See also:

- How to create plots and figures with Plot.ly and import them into your Overleaf projects View
- How to publish your projects on Figshare to get an instant DOI View
- How to import your references from Zotero and CiteULike View
- How to setup an auto-backup using Overleaf → Dropbox → BitBucket (external) View

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Analysis, more words, extra content

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Tips from the blog XI: Overleaf

By quantixed on January 24, 2017

I was recently an external examiner for a PhD viva in Cambridge. As we were wrapping up, I asked "if you were to do it all again, what would you do differently?". It's one of my stock questions and normally the candidate says "oh I'd do it so much quicker!" or something similar. However, this time I got a surprise. "I would write my thesis in LaTeX!", was the reply.

As a recent convert to LaTeX I could see where she was coming from. The last couple of manuscripts I have written were done in Overleaf and have been a breeze. This post is my summary of the site.

I have written ~40 manuscripts and countless other documents using Microsoft Word for Mac, with EndNote as a reference manager (although I have had some failed attempts to break free of that). I'd tried and failed to start using TeX last year, motivated by seeing nicely formatted preprints appearing online. A few months ago I had a new manuscript to write with a significant mathematical modelling component and I realised that now was the chance to make the switch. Not least because my collaborator said "if we are going to write this paper in Word, I wouldn't know where to start".

I signed up for an Overleaf account. For those that don't know, Overleaf is an online TeX

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Thanks for listening!

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