What every Editor should know about

Similarity (Cross) Check

Presented by: Mihail Grecea, PhD
Expert in Publishing Ethics
Elsevier

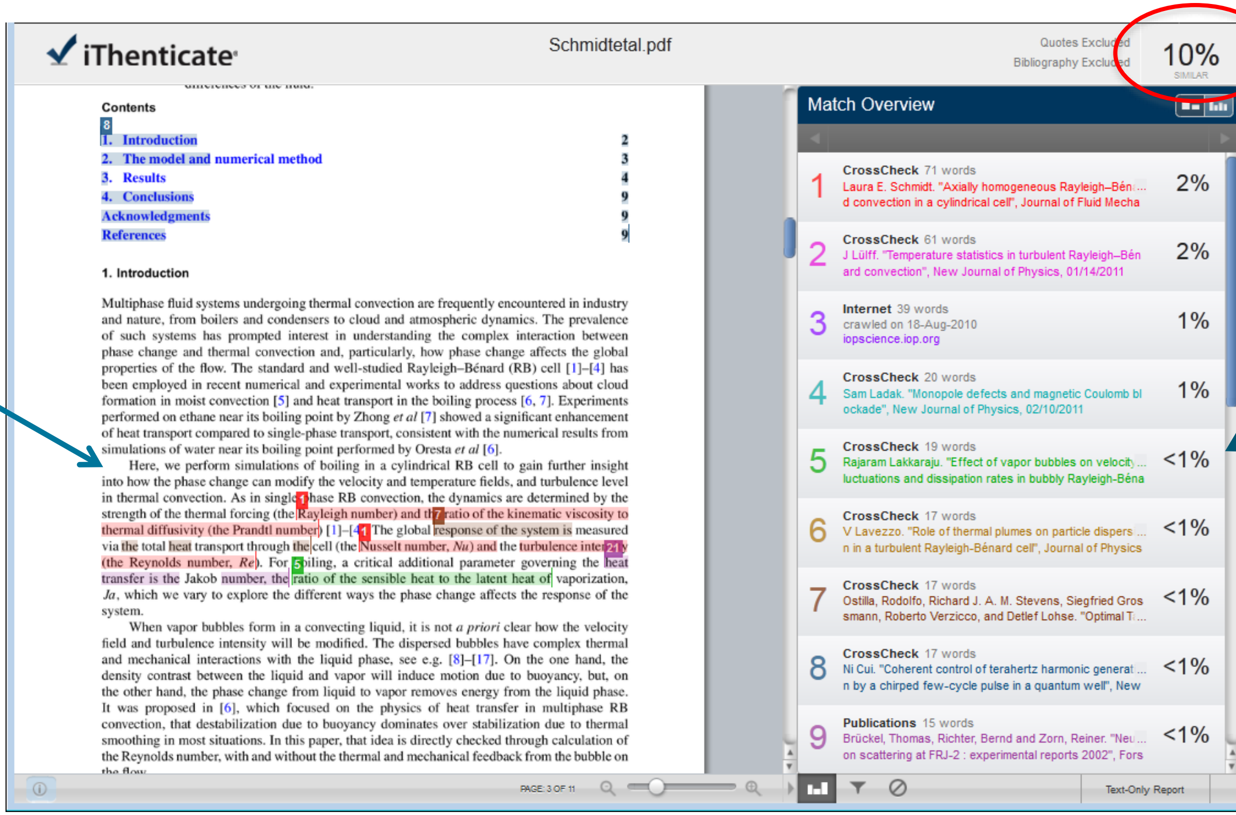
Similarity (Cross) Check / iThenticate

Crossref Similarity Check
Powered by iThenticate

- detects textual similarities which *could* indicate plagiarism/duplicate publication
- compares uploaded file against growing database of scholarly literature and web based sources: 49 million articles and books donated by 590+ publishers; 10 million web pages crawled per day
- accepts many file types and zip file uploads

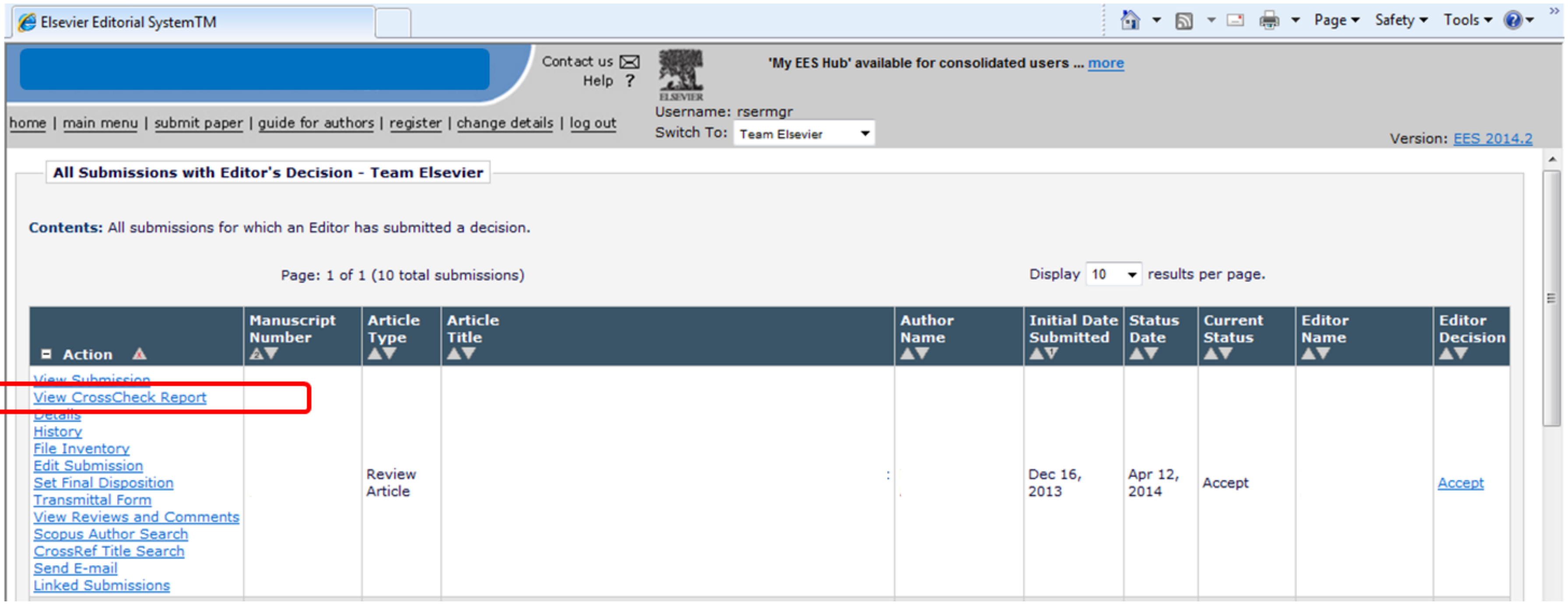
Total % of text found in other sources

Uploaded file

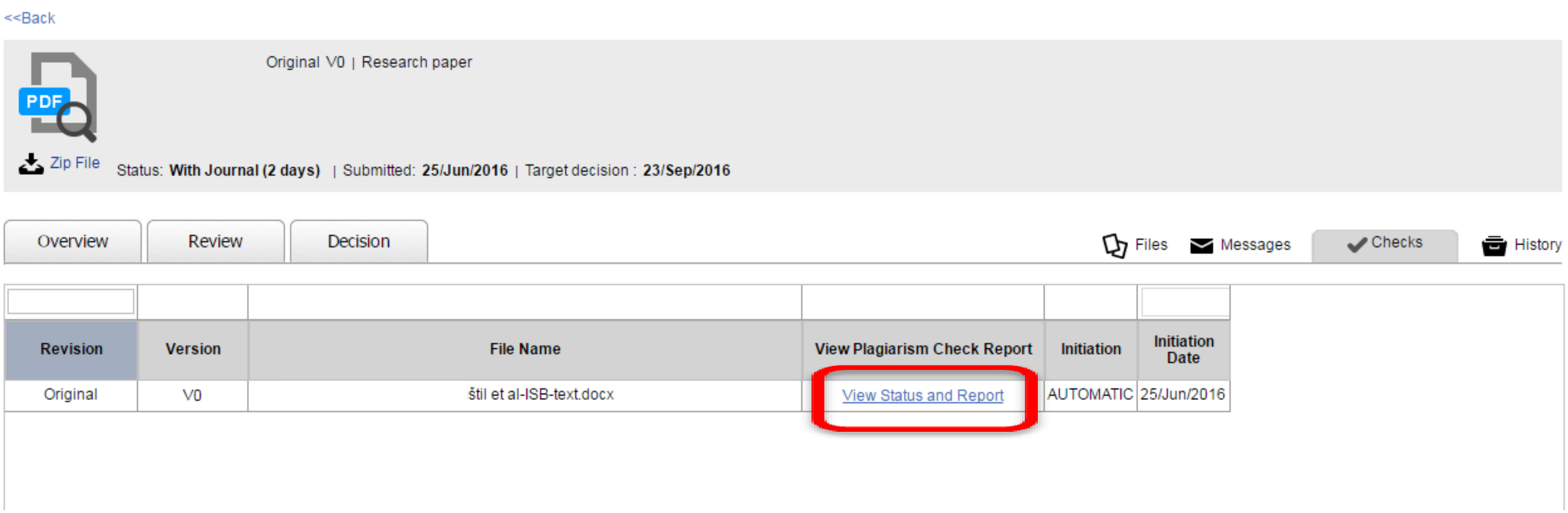


Sources in database

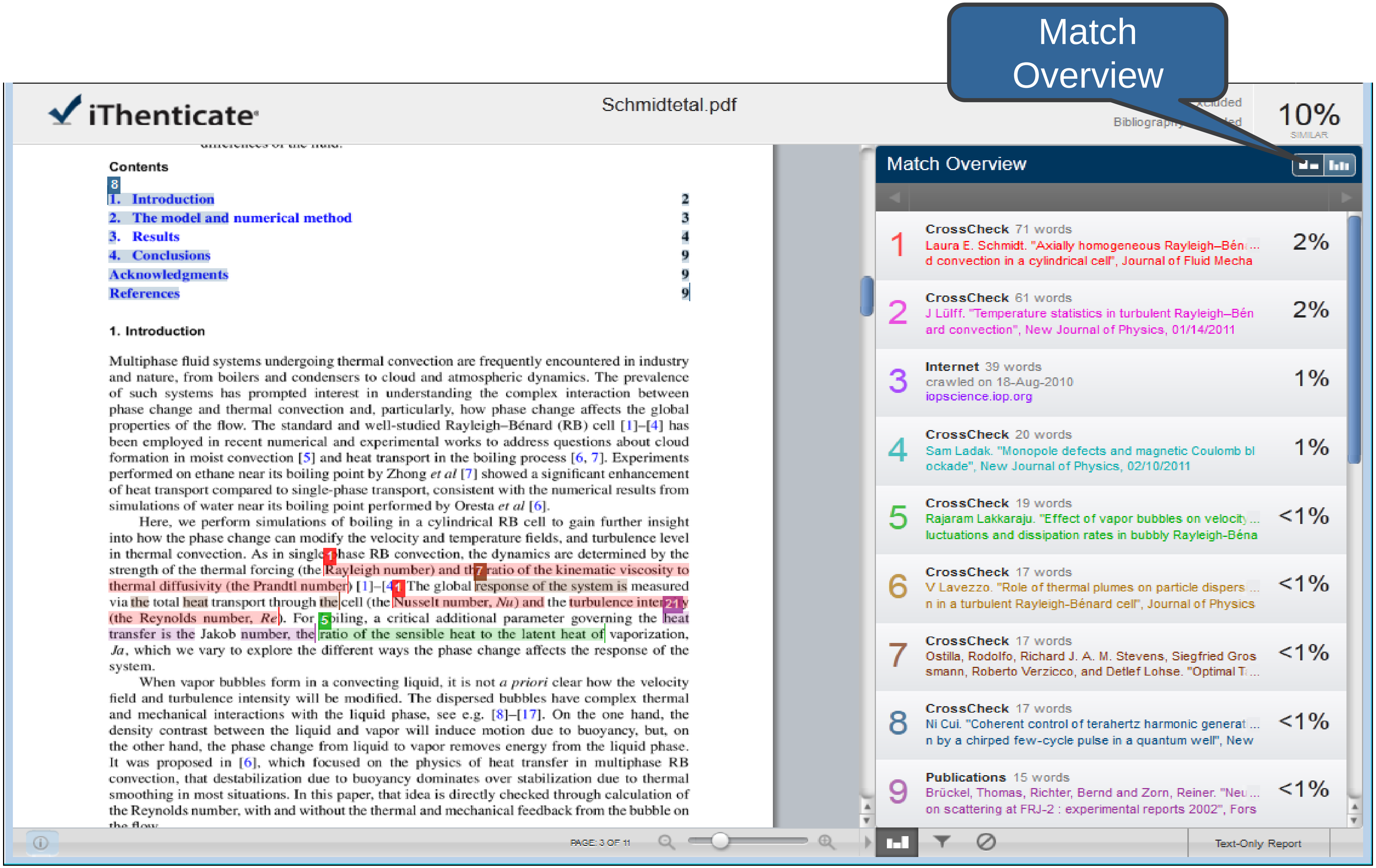
Automated Similarity (Cross) Check in EES



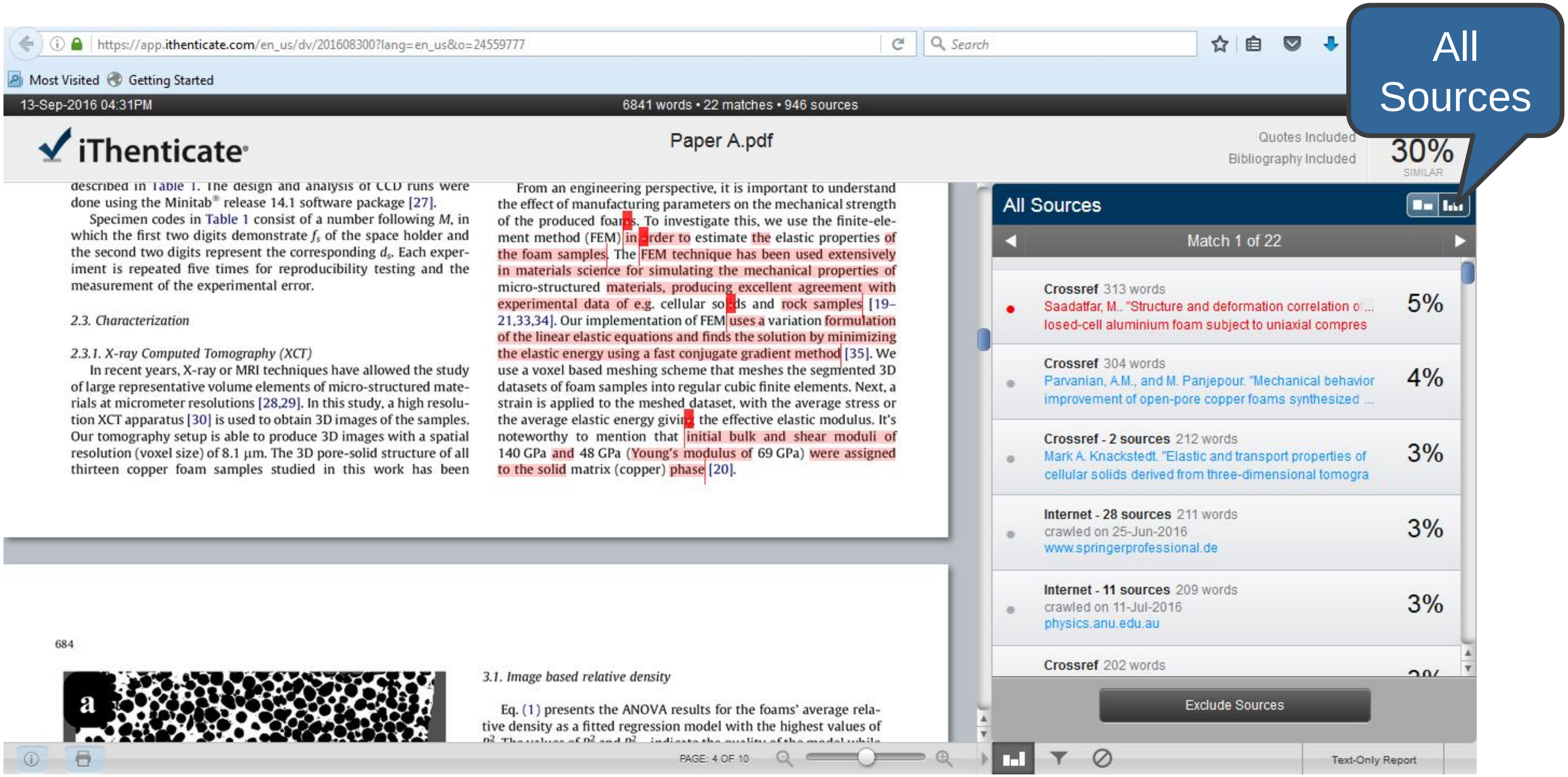
Automated Similarity (Cross) Check in EVISE



Similarity (Cross) Check "Document Viewer"



Similarity (Cross) Check "Document Viewer"



Similarity (Cross) Check - View Modes

Note the difference:

Match Overview

- Any text found in other sources is shown here
- The sum of the total %'s is the Similarity Index
- But, the source match %'s only refer to what is shown in this view (text appearing in multiple sources is attributed to only one)

All Sources

- match between manuscript and *individual* sources
- % is the actual overlap between the manuscript and a single source

Match Overview gives an idea of the total amount of the manuscript taken from other sources. All Sources must be used to see how much comes from a single source.

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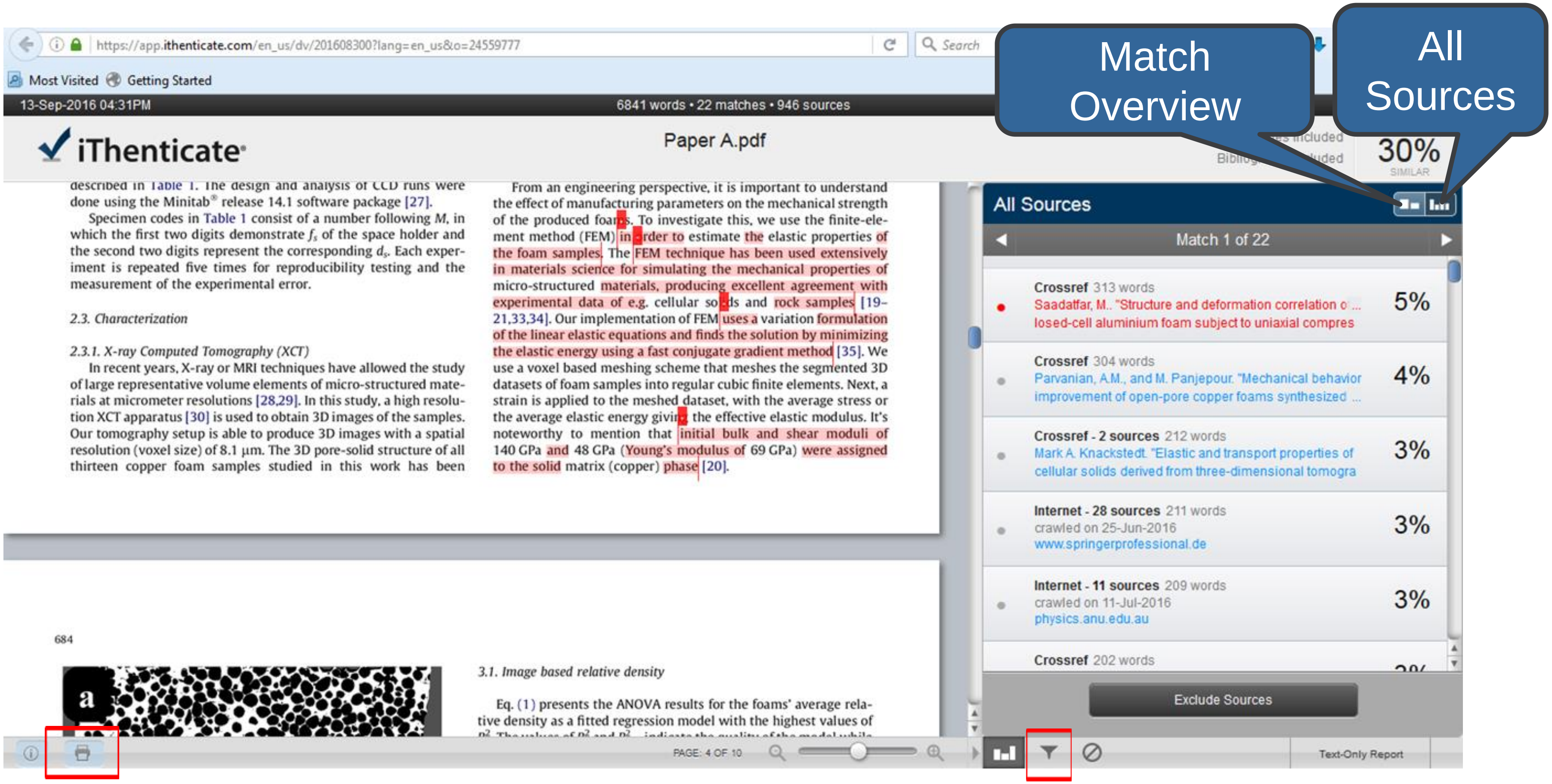
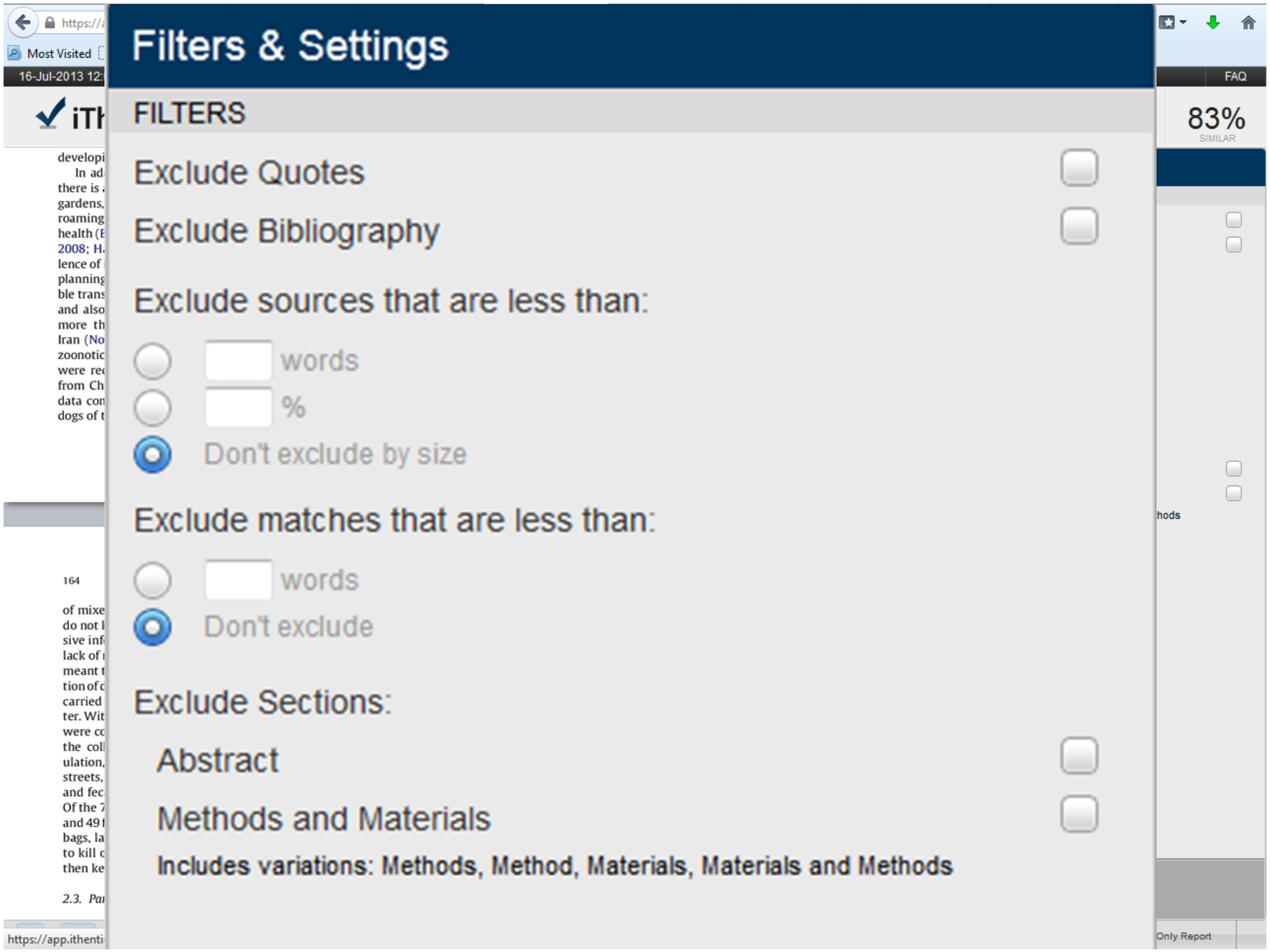
Similarity (Cross) Check "Document Viewer"



Download CrossCheck report

Filters & Settings

Filters & Settings



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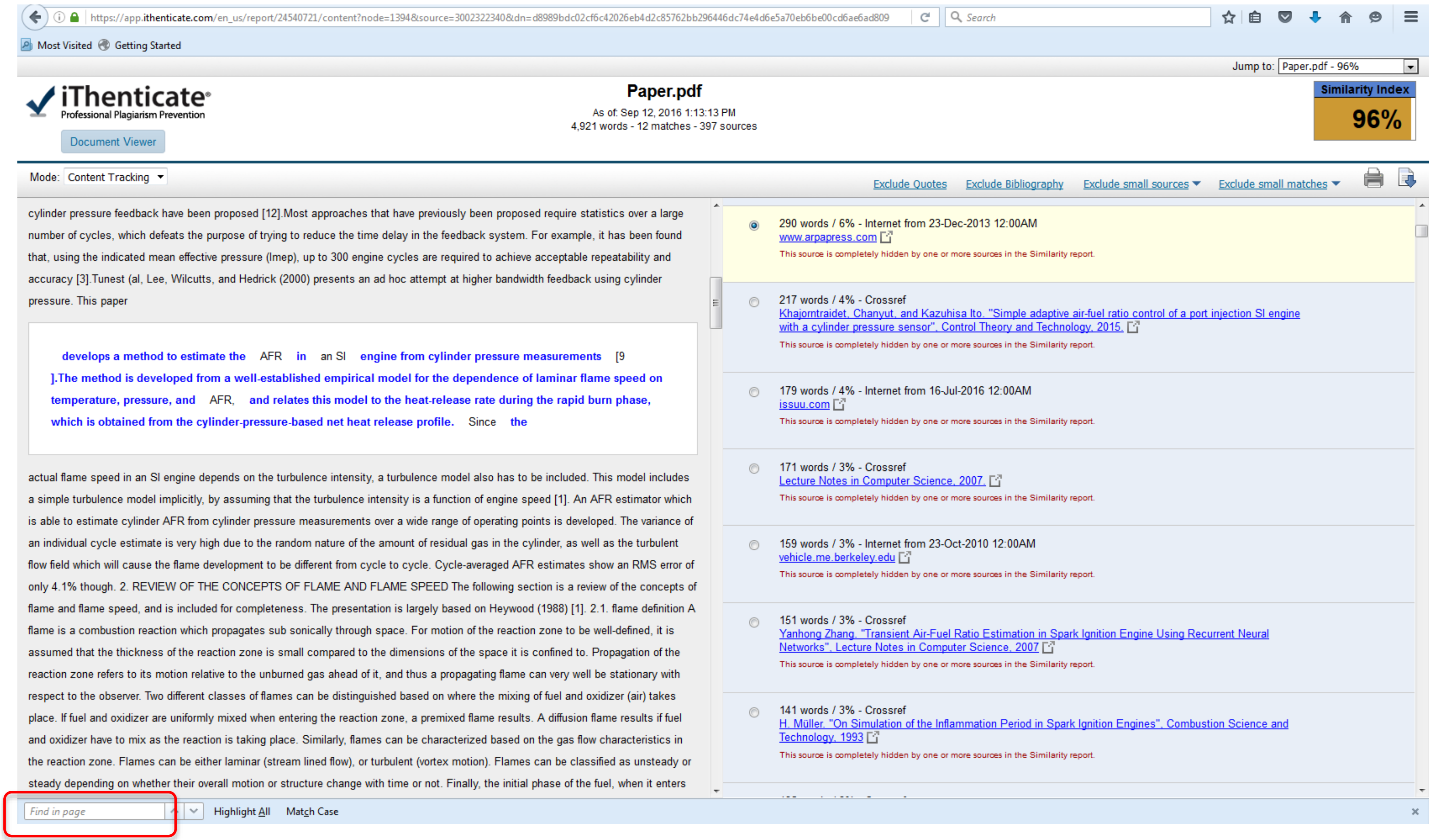
“Text-only Report” - searchable



Similarity Index % can be misleading

Human interpretation is always required

Need to differentiate between:

- Text copied from properly referenced sources
- Text copied from same author's previous works (often times in Methods)
- Text/data copied from improperly or un-referenced sources

Consider content where overlap occurs (Intro/Methods < Results/Discussion)

DO: be specific in discussions (e.g. "Paragraph three of your introduction appeared in paper X") but also give the author a chance to explain.

DON'T: Tell authors "42% of your paper is plagiarized". This is not what the Similarity Index means.

How to communicate to the authors: https://www.elsevier.com/editors/publishing-ethics/perk/form-letter-a2-to-author

Additional information and resources

- PERK: Plagiarism detection (including list of Editors' tips and tricks)
- COPE: How to deal with text recycling
- iThenticate: Understanding the Similarity Score