For over a year we ran a CERN-wide trial of collaborative authoring platforms, understanding the authoring habits of the CERN community and gathering user requirements. As a result, the Overleaf cloud platform is now fully available to the CERN Community.

We first explain our user-centered approach, how it led us to a decision and why it was important to follow this approach. We then highlight the usage growth of Overleaf at CERN since its adoption and we finally look into the future of CERN Authoring.

The first ever CERN Report is published. CERN Reports, often called Yellow Reports, are published to this day.

The new E-Publishing service is established.

In view of the technical challenges of collaborative authoring, we start evaluating authoring platforms.

We launch a CERN-wide trial of collaborative authoring platforms where 45 participants from 9 departments evaluate 3 platforms:

After 45 initial interviews, 39 evaluation questionnaires and 11 follow-up interviews we identify the user requirements:

63% of the trial participants chose Overleaf, 23% chose Authorea and 14% chose doDOC as their preferred platform.

71% of the trial participants fully agree that "A CERN Authoring Platform would be useful", 26% somewhat agree while only 3% somewhat disagree.

Overleaf is fully available to the CERN Community.

The CERN Authoring service is established.

Overleaf, after joining forces with ShareLaTeX, is working on Overleaf v2. A public beta version is already available.

Community discussions and engagement help us enrich the existing platforms (templates) and discover new ones.

The usage of Overleaf at CERN is steadily increasing.