Kulicke, Kulicke, Kulicke, Kulicke...

by Nan Swift, Improbable Research Staff

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Werner-Michael Kulicke.
Sketch by Nan Swift.

Is Werner-Michael Kulicke the king of self-referencing? A paper he published in the year 2000 suggests that maybe, just maybe, he is.

When scientists write a paper, they usually include a list of other papers that played a part in their thinking. This list is supposed to give credit where credit is due. Some scientists are overly shy about referencing other papers that they themselves have written. Other scientists are not so very shy.

Stolk Stalks Kulicke

Investigator Machiel J. Stolk of the University of Utrecht enjoys reading other scientists' reference lists. He writes:

> I have discovered a scholarly paper in which one of the authors refers 23 times to his own work. He lists a total of 29 references -- so 80 percent are his own! I wonder are there other scholars who reach this percentage? Is this a record?

The beginning of the study.

Of course, this doesn't beat the Eric Schulman papers (which contains 100 percent self-references) you have published in *Annals of Improbable Research*. But Dr. Schulman constructed his studies entirely for the purpose of referring to his own work. I think -- I hope -- that Prof. Dr.-Ing. Kulicke had different intentions.
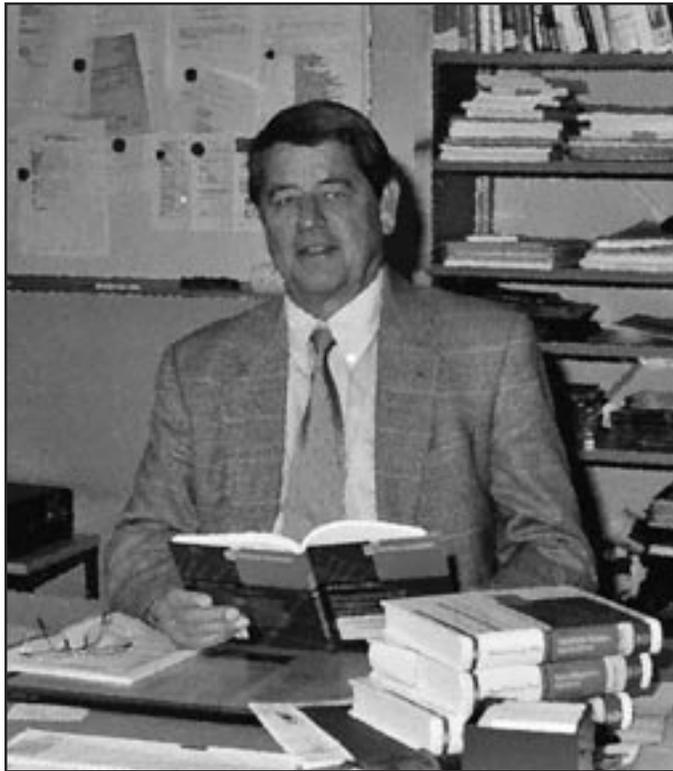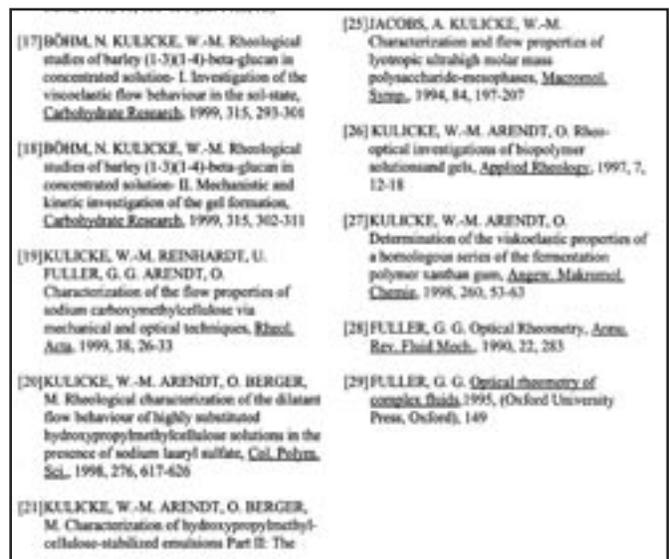
The Kulicke 23-self-references paper is

> "Rheo-Optical and Rheo-Mechanical Characterization of the Viscoelastic Properties and Shear-Induced Orientation of Hydrocolloids," C. Clasen and W.-M. Kulicke, *Proceedings of the 2nd International Symposium on Food Rheology*, and Structure, 2000, pp. 25–33.

The author in question is Prof. Dr.-Ing. Werner-Michael Kulicke of the Institut für Technische und Makromolekulare Chemie at the University of Hamburg, Germany.

The Challenge

If you know of a published academic study that surpasses Werner-Michael Kulicke's record of including 23 self-references, please send us a copy.

A portion of one of the pages that lists references.