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## Plagiarism: Causes and Deterrence

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#### Abstract

*This paper is a descriptive in nature and it is a face sheet for those who are unaware of plagiarism as significant facets of plagiarism such as meaning, genre, causes, repercussion and deterrence are focused to a great extent. Authors of this papers feel that this paper will benefit research and academic community in knowing what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid in scientific contents with application of plagiarism detection tools.*

#### Keywords

Plagiarism, Urkund, Tunitin, IThenticate, Plagiarism research

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## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else's writing as your own, including their language and ideas, without providing adequate credit. Plagiarism is also considered academic dishonesty and a breach of journalistic ethics [1].

The **University of Cambridge** defines plagiarism as: "submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement."

According to the **Merriam-Webster online dictionary**, to "plagiarize" means:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source[2]
- In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

## Types of plagiarism

### Common types

There are different types of plagiarism and all are serious violations of academic honesty. The most common types of plagiarism have been defined below.

### Complete plagiarism

Complete plagiarism is the most severe form of plagiarism where a researcher takes a manuscript or study that someone else created, and submits it under his or her name. It is tantamount to intellectual theft and stealing.

### Source-based plagiarism

Plagiarism may occur because of the different types of sources. For example, when a researcher references a source that is incorrect or does not exist, it is a misleading citation. Plagiarism also occurs when a researcher uses a secondary source of data or information, but only cites the primary source of information. Both these types lead to an increase in

the number of references sources. This, in turn, increases the citation number of the references.

Finally, data fabrication and falsification are also forms of plagiarism. Data fabrication is the making up of data and research findings, while data falsification involves changing or omitting data to give a false impression. The consequences of this type of plagiarism can be grave, particularly when it comes to medical research, because it can adversely affect clinical decisions.

### **Direct plagiarism**

Direct or verbatim plagiarism occurs when an author copies the text of another author, word for word, without the use of quotation marks or attribution, thus passing it as his or her own. In that way, it is like complete plagiarism, but it refers to sections (rather than all) of another paper. This type of plagiarism is considered dishonest and it calls for academic disciplinary actions. It is not as common, but it is a serious infraction of academic rules and ethics.

### **Self or auto plagiarism**

Auto-plagiarism, also known as self-plagiarism or duplication, happens when an author reuses significant portions of his or her previously published work without attribution. Thus, this type of plagiarism is most likely to involve published researchers, rather than university students. The severity of this kind of infraction is under debate, depending on the copied content. Many academic journals, however, have strict criteria on the percentage of author's work that is reusable. Many journals run manuscripts through a plagiarism-detection software before considering them for review.

### **Paraphrasing plagiarism**

This is, as published on Wiley, the most common type of plagiarism. It involves the use of someone else's writing with some minor changes in the sentences and using it as one's own. Even if the words differ, the original idea remains the same and plagiarism occurs. Because students often do not have a clear understanding of what constitutes plagiarism, there are recommendations for research and writing available to reduce the risk of paraphrasing plagiarism.

### **Inaccurate authorship**

Inaccurate authorship or misleading attribution can happen in two ways: In one form, when an individual contributes to a manuscript but does not get credit for it. The second form is the opposite: when an individual gets credit without contributing to the work. This type of plagiarism, whichever way it occurs, is a violation of the code of conduct in research. It is also possible to commit this form of plagiarism when someone else edits a manuscript, leading to substantive changes. In this case, the recommendation is to acknowledge the contributors at the time of publication, even if they are not listed as authors.

### **Mosaic plagiarism**

Mosaic plagiarism may be more difficult to detect because it interlays someone else's phrases or text within its own research. It is also known as patchwork plagiarism and it is intentional and dishonest.

### **Accidental plagiarism**

Whether intended or unintended, there is no excuse for plagiarism and the consequences are often the same. However, plagiarism may be accidental if it occurred because of neglect, mistake, or unintentional paraphrasing. Students are likely to commit accidental plagiarism, so universities should stress on the importance of education about this form of plagiarism [7].

### **Types of plagiarism as identified by Turnitin**

Turnitin surveyed both higher and secondary education instructors to take a measure of how prevalent and problematic these instances of plagiarism are among their students. The Plagiarism Spectrum ranks the types of plagiarism by intent and then provides data on the prevalence and problematic nature of type based on the feedback from survey respondents.

Types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe are as follows.

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece of text that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key

- words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
  5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one's own previous work without citation; To self plagiarize.
  6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
  7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
  8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
  9. AGGREGATOR: The “Aggregator” includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
  10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure [12].

### **Reasons of plagiarism**

There are many reasons students/researchers choose to plagiarize or cheat. Reasons range from the more genuine lack of knowledge to outright dishonourable intentions. Collectively, the most frequently stated reasons students choose to plagiarize or cheat include:

- Desire to get a good grade
- Fear of failing
- Procrastination or poor time management
- Disinterest in the assignment
- Belief they will not get caught
- Confusion about what constitutes plagiarism or current university policies

None of these instances are acceptable reasons to plagiarize, cheat, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Those who choose to plagiarize or cheat give themselves an unfair advantage on assignments and disrespect the hard work of others in the academia [3].

### **Consequences of plagiarism**

The consequences of plagiarism can be personal, professional, ethical, and legal. With plagiarism detection software so readily available and in use, plagiarists are being caught at an alarming rate. Once accused of plagiarism, a person will most likely

always be regarded with suspicion. Ignorance is not an excuse. Plagiarists include academics, professionals, students, journalists, authors, and others [5].

### **Consequences of plagiarism for students**

Plagiarism in colleges can be deliberate or accidental, but it almost always has serious consequences.

#### **Accidental plagiarism**

If you unintentionally plagiarize, and you have no previous infractions, then most colleges will lower your grade or fail you for the course. You might also be required to attend a workshop on plagiarism and how to prevent it. Some universities might place you on disciplinary probation.

#### **Deliberate plagiarism**

If you intentionally commit plagiarism (for example, by copying and pasting text or paraphrasing another author's ideas without citing the source), you will probably fail the assignment or the course, be subject to disciplinary action, and potentially be suspended.

If your college finds that you have directly plagiarized (i.e. by submitting a paper that is wholly or mostly someone else's work and passing it off as your own), you could be expelled from your program and university.

Plagiarism of this type is likely to appear on your permanent record and have long-term consequences for your career. Some universities will even revoke your degree long after you've graduated if they discover that you plagiarized in your thesis or dissertation.

### **Consequences of plagiarism for researchers**

In academia and other research-based professions, plagiarism has serious personal and professional consequences. An accusation of plagiarism can severely damage reputation; it could result in the loss of research funding and even position of researchers.

Plagiarizing has both short- and long-term consequences for researcher's research career. In one example, Chinese researchers attempted to publish a plagiarized article in the Journal of Korean Medical Science. When they were caught, the researchers were banned from submitting to the journal for five years. If you're an academic or researcher who has committed plagiarism, you will have trouble finding

another position. Additionally, you will have difficulties finding journals that will publish your work or investors who are willing to fund your research.

### **Consequences of plagiarism for other professionals**

Plagiarism is not only an academic issue: it is considered a serious offense in all professional fields. While public figures and writers often bear the most serious repercussions of plagiarism, other professionals can also face strict consequences at work.

If you're found plagiarizing, it could potentially end your career, ruin your reputation, and reduce your job prospects [4].

### **Legal Repercussions**

The legal repercussions of plagiarism can be quite serious. Copyright laws are absolute. One cannot use another person's material without citation and reference. An author has the right to sue a plagiarist. Some plagiarism may also be deemed a criminal offense, possibly leading to a prison sentence. Those who write for a living, such as journalists or authors, are particularly susceptible to plagiarism issues. Those who write frequently must be ever-vigilant not to err. Writers are well-aware of copyright laws and ways to avoid plagiarism. As a professional writer, to plagiarize is a serious ethical and perhaps legal issue

### **Monetary Repercussions**

Many recent news reports and articles have exposed plagiarism by journalists, authors, public figures, and researchers. In the case where an author sues a plagiarist, the author may be granted monetary restitution. In the case where a journalist works for a magazine, newspaper or other publisher, or even if a student is found plagiarizing, the offending plagiarist could have to pay monetary penalties.

### **Plagiarized research**

Plagiarized research is an especially egregious form of plagiarism. If the research is medical in nature, the consequences of plagiarism could mean the loss of peoples' lives. This kind of plagiarism is particularly heinous. The consequences of plagiarism are far-reaching and no one is immune. Neither ignorance nor stature excuses a person from the ethical and legal ramifications of committing plagiarism. Before

attempting any writing project, learn about plagiarism. Find out what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. The rules are easy to understand and follow. If there is any question about missing attribution, try using an online plagiarism checker or plagiarism detection software to check your writing for plagiarism before turning it in. Laziness or dishonesty can lead to a ruined reputation, the loss of a career, and legal problems [6].

### **Strategies to avoid plagiarism**

It is usually not enough to know what plagiarism is, writers must also know how to avoid plagiarism. Writers are as responsible for intentional plagiarism as they are for accidental plagiarism. Therefore, set of strategies to avoid plagiarism is provided as below

- Always acknowledge the contributions of others and the source of ideas and words, regardless of whether paraphrased or summarized.
- Use of verbatim text/material must be enclosed in quotation marks.
- Acknowledge sources used in the writing.
- When paraphrasing, understand the material completely and use your own words.
- When in doubt about whether or not the concept or fact is common knowledge, reference it.
- Make sure to reference and cite references accurately.
- When submitting a manuscript for publication containing research questions/hypotheses, methods, data, discussion points, or conclusions that have already been published or disseminated in a significant manner (such as previously published as an article in a separate journal or a report posted on the Internet), alert the editors and readers. Editors should be informed in the cover letter, and readers should be alerted by highlighting and citing the earlier published work.
- When submitting a manuscript for potential data that was previously published with new additional data and presenting it as a new study can be an ethical breach and should be fully disclosed to the editors.
- Write effective cover letters to the editor, especially regarding the potential for overlap in publication. The cover letter should detail the nature of the overlap and previous dissemination and ask for advice on the handling of the matter.
- Become familiar with the basic elements of copyright law

### Detection of plagiarism

Plagiarism detection is the process of locating instances of plagiarism within a work or document. The widespread use of computers and the advent of the Internet have made it easier to plagiarize the work of others.

Detection of plagiarism can be undertaken in a variety of ways. Human detection is the most traditional form of identifying plagiarism from written work. This can be a lengthy and time-consuming task for the reader and can also result in inconsistencies in how plagiarism is identified within an organization. Text-matching software (TMS), which is also referred to as "plagiarism detection software" or "anti-plagiarism" software, has become widely available, in the form of both commercially available products as well as open-source software. TMS does not actually detect plagiarism per se, but instead finds specific passages of text in one document that match text in another document [8].

A plagiarism checker tool provides accurate results within seconds of running the test, helping the checker establish the authenticity of work. Nearly all the tools out there use their unique algorithms to test large chunks of texts against indexed web pages.

That being said, here are the top 3 commercial plagiarism detection software that will prove to be helpful:

#### Turnitin

The Turnitin software checks for potentially unoriginal content by comparing submitted papers to several databases using a proprietary algorithm. It scans its own databases and also has licensing agreements with large academic proprietary databases [8].

Content coverage of Turnitin is vast and every document submitted in Turnitin will be compared against below three vast databases.

**The Current and Archived Web:** Turnitin has built a web crawler that crawls currently over 60 billion web pages from the web as well as archived web pages.

**Student Papers:** over 337 million papers in the Turnitin paper database are archived in students database. On an average 190,000 papers are added every day.

**Content Partnerships:** Turnitin has partnered with leading content publishers who have contributed over 130 million articles to database.

#### iThenticate

iThenticate is the premier tool for researchers and professional writers to check their original works for potential plagiarism. With an easy to use submission process that checks for similarity against the world's top published works included in leading aggregators like ABC CLIO, EBSCO Host, Gale, ProQuest, Wiley, PubMed/Medline and SAGE Reference etc. iThenticate Internet crawler is equivalent to major search engines and it crawls over 10 million web pages per day and currently over 60 billion web pages are archived in the database[10].

#### Urkund

Urkund is a plagiarism detection system that offers a fully-automated system for handling plagiarism. Urkund matches submitted text against material from three source areas: 1) The internet 2) Previously submitted student texts (over 23 million) 3) Publisher's content: Urkund has formed strategic partnerships with a number of leading information providers. When the documents arrive at Urkund, they are analyzed against the content of three source areas: content published on the internet, publisher's content, and student material. When the analyses are finished, the documents and generated reports are forwarded to the teachers.

Major open source plagiarism detection software are as follows

- **Dupli Checker:** This is one of the most effective free plagiarism detection tools on the Internet.
- **PaperRater:** A multi-purpose free plagiarism detection tool that is used in over 140 countries.
- **Plagiarisma:** Basic and easy-to-use, multi-purpose plagiarism detection tool that is used by students, teachers, writers, as well as various members of the literary industry.
- **Plagiarism Checker:** User-friendly, entirely free plagiarism detection tool to check whether content is plagiarized
- **PlagScan:** Plagiarism detection tool for both individuals and businesses that checks texts against online content, scientific journals and the user's documents as well.

- Viper: A 3-step free plagiarism detection tool with user-friendly interface.[9]

## Functions of software

### The Originality Report

It is generated by software to each document when a piece of work is submitted. The originality report shows where matches have been found between the submitted document and other existing sources in the software's database. Side by side comparison can be made between submitted document and the sources that were compared against. This enables the researcher to improve the quality of work by citing the works properly and to know his contributions in the paper. This report usually include minor matches and quoted texts. So, to avoid noise in originality report and to get precise similarity index some filters are provided in the software and the same were explained below.

### Exclusion of quoted material

Quotation is for a specific purpose not to convey general information. When someone else's words are directly used in a piece of work quotation is used giving proper in text citation. Hence quotation can be considered as an effective mean to support or illustrate points that are made in work. PDS will disregard any matches that use the following quotation marks

Possible circumstances of quoting text as per APA style of reference in a work are stated below.

1. When the author's ideas are complex and difficult to paraphrase.
2. While making specific reference to the work of another.

### Exclusion of references

Every piece of academic work needs material written by others to back up and prove or disprove the points that are being made, reference is to show how properly work has been researched and what sources have been used. It is not only for a text that has been created by someone it can also be for a charts, diagrams, models, and tables of statistics. Software will not exclude any cited materials however proper the works are cited but a list of reference/bibliography will be excluded from the originality report generated by iThenticate and

Turnitin. Urkund has no option to exclude the part of references.

### Exclusion of small sources and matches

Since the software check word by word for similarity trivial matches will also include in originality report. Therefore, to potentially reduce the noise and to get more representative similarity index exclusion of small sources and matches are provided.

The small source exclusion option excludes the aggregate matches for a single source. While small match exclusion excludes match instances within the report, to further clarify, if the small match exclusion is set to exclude match instances below 10 words, every match system finds that is less than 10 words will automatically be excluded from a report. Likewise if the small source exclusion is set to exclude sources having below 10 words, every source system finds that is less than 10 words will automatically be excluded.

**iThenticate** has the ability to exclude both small matches and sources whereas **Turnitin** can exclude only small matches. To exclude Instructor has to enter numerical value in to either the words or % fields. Urkund has no ability to exclude small matches and sources by setting number of words or percent. Alternative to this ability each highlight can either be activated or deactivated form originality report in Urkund.

### Conclusion

Of late, UGC notified in its gazette that all the higher education Institutions in India should endeavor to avoid plagiarism and improve the quality of researches by adopting suitable plagiarism detection software. In pursuant to this notification most of the higher education Institutions formulated their own plagiarism policy and started scanning their scholarly content against plagiarism prevention tools. Therefore, this paper covered all the significant elements of plagiarism to keep the research community informed.

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