

Plagiarism in HEI and how to avoid it

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Two fundamental Characteristics of Research Work:



Novelty

Originality

Novelty and originality of a research work is holistically depended on:

Experimental or observed facts

Analytic/scientific truth

Intellectual honesty

In one phrase:

“Academic Integrity”

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Academic Integrity

UGC Regulation 2018 defines:

“Academic Integrity” is the **intellectual honesty** in proposing, performing and reporting any activity, which leads to the creation of **intellectual property**.

When we talk about upholding “intellectual honesty” of any research work, it means, the research work is completely free from the following:

Fabrication

Falsification

Plagiarism



PLAGIARISM



PLAGIARISM

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Plagiarism: Definition

Bela Gipp (2014) defined plagiarism as the following:

"The use of **ideas, concepts, words, or structures** without appropriately acknowledging the source to benefit in a setting where originality is expected

Gipp, Bela (2014). Citation-based Plagiarism Detection: Detecting Disguised and Cross-language Plagiarism using Citation Pattern Analysis. Springer Vieweg. ISBN 978-3-658-06393-1. p.10

Contd...

The 'Council of Writing Program Administrators' of Princeton University , in their Statement on Best Practices (2012), describes plagiarism as:

'the "deliberate" use of "someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source'

"Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices". Princeton University. 2012-07-

Contd...

As defined by the Brown University Writing Center,
Plagiarism is

‘Appropriating another person's ideas or words (**spoken or written**) without attributing those word or ideas to their true source...’

Source: <https://library.brown.edu/libweb/plagiarism.php>

Why do people plagiarize?

- Study Pressure,
- Disorganization,
- Poor Study habits,
- Cut-and-Paste culture,
- English as the international language
- Lack of understanding of seriousness of plagiarism.
- Lack of strict Academic Discipline
- Careless attitude
- Lack of referencing skills

Plagiarism: Forms

Different classifications of academic plagiarism forms have been proposed by many scientists like:

John Walker (1998)

Mozgovoy et al (2010) (Maxim Mozgovoy, Tuomo Kakkonen, and Georgina Cosma)

Zakiy Firdaus Alfikri and Ayu Purwarianti (2014)

Debora Weber-Wulff (2014)

Velasquez et al (2016) (Juan D. Velásquez , Yerko Covacevich, Francisco Molina, Edison Marrese-Taylor, Cristián Rodríguez, and Felipe Bravo-Marquez)

Hussain A. Chowdhury and D.K. Bhattacharyya (2016)

contd...

In 2015, Turnitin , made a survey of professors and teachers both from HEI and Secondary Education and based on feedback from 879 survey respondents , identified **10 main forms** of plagiarism and ranked them according to frequency of occurrences:

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Source: "WHITE PAPER The Plagiarism Spectrum" Turnitin, retrieved on 26/05/2020

Contd...

1. CLONE:

An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.

2. CTRL-C:

A written piece 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.

Contd...

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.

A systematic literature review by Tomas *et. el.* in 2019 deductively derived a typology of academic plagiarism extending the classic three-layered language model (lexis, syntax, and semantics) to four layers (ideas & structures) and categorized plagiarism forms according to the layer of the model they affect as the following:

Contd...

1. Characters-preserving plagiarism

- Literal plagiarism (copy and paste i.e. Verbatim copying)
- Possibly with mentioning the source

2. Syntax-preserving plagiarism

- Technical disguise (e.g. using identically looking glyphs from another alphabet)
- Synonym substitution

3. Semantics-preserving plagiarism

- Translation
- Paraphrase (mosaic, clause quilts, restatement, additional manner of expression)

Contd...

4. Idea-preserving plagiarism

- Structural plagiarism (Reusing text structure)
- Appropriation of concepts and ideas only

5. Ghostwriting

- Collusion (secret cooperation or deceitful agreement in order to deceive others)
- Contract cheating (to pay others to complete their coursework)

Besides above, the following are also categorised as plagiarism:

- Failure to acknowledge assistance
- Use of materials written by professional agencies
- Repetitive research
- Replication
- Re-publication in translation without permission & acknowledgement
- Reverse plagiarism refers to falsely giving authorship credit over a work to a person who did not author it, or falsely claiming a source

The Menace

The problem of academic plagiarism is not new but has been present for centuries in the literary world.

The Latin word "*plagiarius*" (literally "kidnapper") was coined in the 1st century, to denote stealing someone else's work . It was pioneered by the Roman poet Marcus Valerius Martialis, who complained that another poet had "kidnapped his verses"

The Latin word *plagiarius*, meaning "kidnapper" and *plagium*, meaning "kidnapping", is based on the Indo-European root - *plak*, "to weave"

The word *plagiarism* was derived from here and introduced into English around 1620 indicating its existence in 17 Century AD

Contd...

However, the rapid and continuous advancement of information technology (IT), which offers convenient and instant access to vast amounts of information, has made plagiarizing easier than ever.

At the same time, IT also facilitated the detection of academic plagiarism in a faster and convenient way.

Technology driven society

- The massive ongoing explosion of information
- Impact of Social Media
- Growing impact of technology
- Increasing complexity and volatility due cross disciplinary research.
- increasingly questioning the value of the research in universities and also the economy and of graduate employability

Contd...

Plagiarism in HEI:

For the first time in the year 2000, the higher educational institutions in UK started deeper investigation into problems of plagiarism.

Scientists like, Carroll & Appleton (2001) Bretag (2005) , Joyce (2008), East (2009), highlighted holistic approach towards plagiarism prevention and claimed that it is impossible to reduce the extent of plagiarism in higher educational institutions, applying separate or isolated measures.

How to avoid Academic Plagiarism

Scientists believe that avoiding the menace of academic plagiarism needs a holistic approach, may be divided in to three ways:

1. National approach
2. Institutional approach
3. Individual approach

1. National Approach:

Sarlauskiene (2012) summarised results of research policies that could be suggested following groups of plagiarism prevention measures at national level:

- It is recommended in all countries and institutions to use holistic approach for plagiarism prevention;
- Universities and other institutions of higher education are initiating preparation of plagiarism prevention policy more often and easier, if are conducted research surveys and (or) are established responsible offices on national level;
- Plagiarism prevention policies and measures at universities have be prepared and implemented systematically, pursuing management of institutional changes;

- Measures for plagiarism prevention and procedures of implementation these measures have meet legal
- Each institution can and have follow regulations approved by the state authorities and examples of good practice published in scientific literature, however, institutional plagiarism prevention policies have be prepared taking into account experience of a certain institution, existing academic culture, procedures and peculiarities of study process. Otherwise suggested regulations could be not understandable for academic society and procedures would not be implemented.



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NEW DELHI, SATURDAY, JULY 11—JULY 17, 2009 (ASADHA 20, 1931)

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(Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation)

भाग III—खण्ड 4

[PART III—SECTION 4]

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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018/SHRAVANA 9, 1940

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NOTIFICATION
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (PROMOTION OF
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PREVENTION
OF PLAGIARISM IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS)
REGULATIONS, 2018
New Delhi, the 23rd July, 2018**

2. Institutional approach:

Gibson et al. (2006) proposed practical measures for plagiarism prevention in institutions:

- Combat ignorance (faculty members should help students to select proper sources);
- Sharing responsibility (the procedure should be provided at the faculty so, that students could present their works in parts and lecturers could to check them and to provide remarks);

Contd...

- Prevention of bought works (all lecturers have to know how many possibilities students have to buy works and to give students actual topics and ask to show the sources analysed);
 - Changes in academic environment and culture (requirements have be determined, accepted and followed, students have be informed about academic integrity);
 - Creation of barriers for plagiarism (for instance, using measures for plagiarism detection).

3. Individual approach

The case analysis done at Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University (UVSQ), Paris by Annane & Annane (2012) reveals six principles to follow by each student to avoid plagiarism.

A student has to commit that he or she not to:

- Copy books and other parts of the sources, but use only small parts quoting them and indicating the source;
- Illustrate works with pictures, figures and diagrams without referencing their original source;

- Present other authors ideas without referencing their authorship;
- Present texts translated by other authors without referencing their authorship;
- Use works of other people even in case of having their permission or agreement on co-authorship if co authorship is not indicated in the document;
- Appropriate the part or entire work prepared by another person.

Important terminologies related to Plagiarism:

Author/Writers and the researchers need to understand the intricacies of the following terminologies before writing a research output:

1. Attribution
2. Citation
3. Copyright
4. Quote/Quotation Mark
5. Public Domain
6. Fair Use
7. Common Knowledge

1. What is Attribution ?

Attribution is an act of providing acknowledgement to the source from where some ideas have been borrowed.

For example:

Barrow, in his book "The Manufacture and Testing of Durable Book Papers," demonstrated that it was possible to treat newly manufactured papers with solutions of magnesium and calcium bicarbonates, thus neutralizing acidity and prolonging the life of such papers materially.

2. What is Citation?

A “citation” is a piece of detail and complete information which describes the source(s) from where certain materials / ideas have been borrowed or analysed. It must enable the readers to find out the source(s) again. A citation includes:

- information about the author(s)
- the title of the work
- the name and location of the company that published the copy of the source
- the date the copy was published
- the page numbers of the material that have borrowed/analysed

Example of Citation:

1. Gelbrich, J., Mai, C., & Militz, H. (2008). Chemical changes in wood degraded by bacteria. *International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation*, 61(1), 24-32.
2. Agrawal, O. P., & Barkeshi, M. (1997). *Conservation of books, manuscripts and paper documents*. Lucknow, India: INTACH Indian Council of Conservation Institute.

(There are many citation styles: APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, IEEE, etc; author may choose any one style according to the need and convenience)

When does a writer need to cite?

The following situations always require citation:

- Whenever a writer uses quotes
- Whenever a writer paraphrases
- Whenever a writer uses ideas that someone else has already expressed
- Whenever a writer makes a specific reference to the work of another
- Whenever someone else's work has been critical in developing writer's own ideas

3. What is Copyright?

Copyright is a law that protects the intellectual property created by an individual. It provides the individual exclusive legal rights over distribution and reproduction of that property. Intellectual property of an individual may include music, images, written words, text, video, and a variety of other media.

Without written permission of the owner, reproducing someone else's ideas or information is considered illegal as per copyright law.

Use of © symbol:

Till 1989, the © symbol was used as trademark to indicate that the materials are protected by copyright. But as per Law that established in 1989, however, works are now copyright protected with or without the inclusion of this symbol.

Is copyright violation is legal offence?

Improper use of copyrighted material, such as, copying without permission, alteration of the original text, not providing acknowledgement or citation, substantial similarity to the original, etc. are severe violation of the Copyright Act and considered as legal offence which may invite prosecution in the court of law.

Can facts be copyrighted?

When “facts” are result of some individual research then it is considered as intellectual property of the researcher and thus absolutely copyrighted

Are all published works copyrighted?

All published works may not be copyrighted. One can borrow from the following domain without fear of plagiarism:

- Compilations of readily available information, such as the phone book, yearbook, atlas, etc.
- Works published by the government, such as Economic Survey, Census of India, etc.
- Facts that are not the result of original research of an individual (such as, there are 29 states & 7 union territories in India, or Hemoglobin contains 4 iron molecules)
- Works in the “**public domain**”.

In all the above cases one need to cite properly.

4. USING QUOTE- HOW MUCH

A quote is a word, sentence, or sentences that a writer copies exactly from a source

- You may use **3-4 words without citing** a source. if you use five or more words from a sentence, you should quote and cite it.
- A quote is enclosed in quotation marks (for quotes **up to 39 words**).
- For quotes of 40 or more words, it stands alone without quotation marks and is **indented five (5) spaces** from the left margin.

SINGLE VS DOUBLE QUOTATION MARKS

- You should use **double quotation** marks when you quote material from a source. If you are also quoting passages from that source that were quoted in the original source, use **single quotation** marks to indicate that the original source contained the quotation.

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- <http://sites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup108986>

5. What is Public Domain?

All works that are no longer protected by copyright, or never under any copyright act, are considered as “public domain.”

One may freely make use material from these works without fear of plagiarism, provided he or she provides proper attributions of it.

How do I know if something is public domain or not?

In general, anything published more than 75 years ago is now in the public domain.

Works published after 1978 are protected for the lifetime of the author plus 60 years.

6. What is “fair use”?

Fair use is a doctrine in the law of the United States that **permits limited use of copyrighted material** without having to first acquire permission from the copyright holder.

The “**fair use policy**” acts as guideline to decide whether the use of a source is acceptable or contravene copyright laws. Below some are viewpoints that determine the fairness of any given usage

The nature of use

The amount used

The effect of used material on the original

The nature of use

If an author has merely copied something from an original source, it is unlikely to be considered 'fair use'. But if the original source has been transformed through interpretation, analysis, modification, etc. and presented as an original output, it is more likely to be considered as 'fair use.'

The amount used

If the amount of borrowing from an original source is less then it is less likely it is to be considered fair use. The more you borrow, the more it is likely to be considered as fair use.

The effect of used material on the original

If an author has substantially borrowed from an original source and created a work that competes with the original source in the market which may do the original author economic harm, is likely to be considered fair use.

It is always better to have difference in objective of the work or its target audience from that of the original work to avoid possibilities of 'fair use'.

7. WHAT IS “COMMON KNOWLEDGE”?

- A well-known fact
- Information that is likely to appear in numerous sources and to be familiar to large numbers of people
- This is the only time you do not need to cite information, provided that you do not copy that information word-for-word from a source
- If you are not sure if the information you want to use meets these definitions, cite it
- If at least 10 peer-review papers in your discipline don't give a citation for the information, then you don't need to

EXAMPLES OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE

- Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968
- East Carolina University is located in Greenville, NC and is part of the UNC system
- Smoking can cause respiratory diseases such as emphysema and cancer

What may be Excluded from Plagiarism check?

The following may be excluded at the time of performing the plagiarism check:

- A. Quotes
- B. Bibliography
- C. Phrases
- D. Small matches upto 14 words
- E. Mathematical Formula/Scientific Laws
- F. Name of Institutions, Departments etc.
- G. Small similarity less than 1%

As Per **UGC Regulation 2018**, the similarity checks for plagiarism shall exclude the following:

- i. All quoted work reproduced with all necessary permission and/or attribution.
- ii. All references, bibliography, table of content, preface and acknowledgements.
- iii. All generic terms, laws, standard symbols and standards equations.

The UGC Regulation 2018 also states that

- The **research work** carried out by the student, faculty, researcher and staff shall be based on **original ideas**, which shall include abstract, summary, hypothesis, observations, results, conclusions and recommendations only and **shall not have any similarities**.
- It shall exclude a **common knowledge** or coincidental terms, up to **fourteen (14) consecutive words**

Whether plagiarism invites penalty?

a. Penalties for independent researcher:

Violation of Copyright Act by independent researcher or author through plagiarism is considered as legal offence which may attract prosecution in the court of law leading to several kinds of penalties depending on the severity of crime

b. Penalties for student/research scholar

An academic institute may consider following penalties for **student** depending on the severity of crime as it deems fit:

- i. Written apology
- ii. Rewriting or alternate piece of work
- iii. Deduction of marks (Partial or Full)
- iv. Imposing Fine
- v. Restriction in publication of thesis or any chapter as article
- vi. Withdrawal of degree
- vii. Rustication, temporarily or permanently for further higher education

c. Penalties for academician

An academic institute may consider following penalties for **academician** depending on the severity of crime as it deems fit:

- i. Disgrace to both Individual and institution
- ii. May face disciplinary action as per institute rules
- iii. It can cost a person his or her professional credibility or even a job
- iv. Debarment from eligibility to receive research funds for grants and contracts from any government agency in India

UGC Regulation 2018 defines Levels of Plagiarism

Plagiarism would be quantified into following levels in ascending order of severity for the purpose of its definition:

- i. Level 0: Similarities upto 10% - Minor similarities, no penalty
- ii. Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40%
- iii. Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60%
- iv. Level 3: Similarities above 60%

Acknowledgement

Thanks to the authors of various sources from where references have been cited in this presentation

In spite of all-round efforts to cite the references, any omission is duly regretted

This presentation is only a part of awareness campaign by this author against plagiarism & its growing menace in the academic research, so suggestions are welcome to make this presentation more effective

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