

Plagiarism: A Plague

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Abstract

This paper defines the term ' plagiarism', and discusses about the tools, types, studies on plagiarism and the methods to control plagiarism. It also suggests for submission of E-thesis and preparation of databases of thesis and projects in India.

Keywords: Plagiarism, Anti-Plagiarism, JISC

1. Introduction

Plagiarism is an issue of great concern amongst the academicians. Plagiarism is a moral, ethical, and legal issue. Plagiarism has been around for centuries, but the Internet and the subsequent proliferation of information have made the problem more serious. Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as one's own. Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense. Dictionary definition of this tem is as follows:

1. To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. To use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. To commit literary theft
4. To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

5. In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

2. Types of Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit; failing to put a quotation in quotation marks; giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation; changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit; copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work . The types of Plagiarism can be categorized and listed as given below:

2.1 Sources Not Cited

2.1.1 The Ghost Writer

The writer turns in another's work, word-for-word, as his or her own.

2.1.2 The Photocopy

The writer copies significant portions of text straight from a single source, without alteration.

2.1.3 The Potluck Paper

The writer tries to disguise plagiarism by copying from several different sources, tweaking the



sentences to make them fit together while retaining most of the original phrasing.

2.1.4 The Poor Disguise

Although the writer has retained the essential content of the source, he or she has altered the paper's appearance slightly by changing key words and phrases.

2.1.5 The Labor of Laziness

The writer takes the time to paraphrase most of the paper from other sources and make it all fit together, instead of spending the same effort on original work.

2.1.6 The Self-Stealer

The writer "borrows" generously from his or her previous work, violating policies concerning the expectation of originality adopted by most academic institutions.

2.2 Sources Cited (But Still Plagiarized)

2.2.1 The Forgotten Footnote

The writer mentions an author's name for a source, but neglects to include specific information on the location of the material referenced. This often masks other forms of plagiarism by obscuring source locations.

2.2.2 Misinformed

The writer provides inaccurate information regarding the sources, making it impossible to find them.

2.2.3 The Too-Perfect Paraphrase

The writer properly cites a source, but neglects to put in quotation marks text that has been copied word-for-word, or close to it. Although attributing

the basic ideas to the source, the writer is falsely claiming original presentation and interpretation of the information.

2.2.4 The Resourceful Citer

The writer properly cites all sources, paraphrasing and using quotations appropriately. The paper contains almost no original work! It is sometimes difficult to spot this form of plagiarism because it looks like any other well-researched document.

2.2.5 The Perfect Crime

Well, we all know it doesn't exist. In this case, the writer properly quotes and cites sources in some places, but goes on to paraphrase other arguments from those sources without citation. This way, the writer tries to pass off the paraphrased material as his or her own analysis of the cited material.

2.3 Other Types of Plagiarism

Other types of plagiarism have also been recognized. These are:

2.3.1 Copy and Paste Plagiarism

Any time a sentence or significant phrase intact from a source is lifted, you must use quotation marks and reference the source.

2.3.2 Word Switch Plagiarism

If you take a sentence from a source and change around a few words, it is still plagiarism. If you want to quote a sentence, then you need to put it in quotation marks and cite the author and article. But quoting Source articles should only be done if what the quote says is particularly useful in the point you are trying to make in what you are writing. In many cases, a quotation would not really be useful. The

person who plagiarizes is sometimes just too lazy to synthesize the ideas expressed in the Source article.

2.3.3 Metaphor Plagiarism

Metaphors are used either to make an idea clearer or give the reader an analogy that touches the senses or emotions better than a plain description of the object or process. Metaphors, then, are an important part of an author's creative style. If you cannot come up with your own metaphor to illustrate an important idea, then use the metaphor in the Source Article, but give the author credit for it.

2.3.4 Idea Plagiarism

If the author of the source article expresses a creative idea or suggests a solution to a problem, the idea or solution must be clearly attributed to the author.

2.3.5 Reasoning Style/Organization Plagiarism

When you follow a Source Article sentence-by-sentence or paragraph-by-paragraph, it is plagiarism, even though none of your sentences are exactly like those in the Source article or even in the same order. What you are copying in this case is the author's reasoning style.

2.4 Data Plagiarism

In research, often data is plagiarized.

3. Anti-Plagiarism Tools

Where there is an ailment, there is a treatment. So is true with plagiarism and there are many anti-plagiarism tools.

3.1 CopyCatch Gold

<http://www.copycatch.freemove.co.uk/>

A forensic linguist at CFL Software Development with extensive experience in plagiarism developed

this software for teachers and students. The cost of a single user license for educational use is £250 per year.

3.2 EduTie.com

<http://www.edutie.com/>

EduTie.com was founded in August 2000, and is designed to help institutions prevent Internet plagiarism. It is built on the PlagiServe (<http://www.plagiserve.com>) core design. Papers submitted are compared to more than 1 billion "high risk" Web pages in an attempt to detect plagiarism. Free trials of the software are available.

3.3 EVE2: Essay Verification Engine

<http://www.canexus.com/eve/index.shtml>

EVE2 claims to come as close as possible to searching every site on the Internet to detect plagiarism by "employing the most advanced searching tools available to locate suspected sites. Free fifteen day trials are available, but the software must be purchased after that time to continue using it. Each license is a one-time fee of \$19.99 and updates are free.

3.4 Glatt Plagiarism Program

<http://www.plagiarism.com>

Dr. Barbara Glatt has developed the 3 different software programs designed to detect and prevent plagiarism. The 3 parts are the Plagiarism Teaching Program, the Plagiarism Screening Program and the Plagiarism Self-Detection Program. Costs for the programs runs around \$250 each if bought as a complete set or \$300 if purchased individually.

A list of publications that have reviewed the Glatt Plagiarism Program can be found. at <http://www.plagiarism.com/publications.htm>.

3.5 Google

<http://www.google.com>

Google is not designed to be a plagiarism detection tool, but its advanced search engine capabilities are conducive to locating key phrases that may appear in students' research papers. The Google Directory also has numerous links to information about plagiarism detection devices at <http://directory.google.com/Top/Reference/Education/Educators/Plagiarism/Detection/>.

3.6 Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC): Electronic Plagiarism Detection <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/plagiarism/>

JISC completed a plagiarism project in 2001, and they are establishing a plagiarism advisory service as a result of this experience. There were 4 parts to their plagiarism project, and they include:

1. Technical review of free-text plagiarism detection software
2. Technical review of source code plagiarism detection software
3. A pilot of free-text detection software in 5 UK institutions
4. A good practice guide to plagiarism detection

A listserv has also been established to continue discussions dealing with academic dishonest and plagiarism issues.

A copy of JISC's Technical Review of Plagiarism Detection Software Report can be accessed at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/pub01/luton.pdf>.

3.7 JISC Plagiarism Advisory Service http://online.northumbria.ac.uk/faculties/art/information_studies/Imri/JISCPAS/site/default.htm

JISC Plagiarism Advisory Service is a new offering that began in September 2002. It is based in the Information Management Research Institute at Northumbria University (UK). New materials are constantly being added to this plagiarism portal, but it currently offers advice & guidance, educational materials for students and other online resources. A plagiarism detection service, supported by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) until August 2004, is based on the turnitin.com platform and allows instructors to conduct electronic comparisons of work complete by students.

3.8 Jplag

<http://www.jplag.de/>

Guido Malpohl initially developed this software which is designed to detect academic dishonesty. The software does more than merely compare the text of documents. JPlag also looks at program language syntax and program structure so it can also be used to detect stolen software parts. Instructors may use JPlag for free, but they must first set up an account in order to prevent unauthorized use by students.

3.9 Library Electronic Databases

<http://gateway.library.uiuc.edu/ersearch/>

The Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign provides access to numerous electronic resources for students and faculty. Instructors may want to consult these resources when checking for plagiarism.

Full text databases like EBSCO and Expanded Academic ASAP (InfoTrac) are two obvious starting points when checking undergraduate assignments. One thing to keep in mind is that some resources that are not full text but provide abstract information are often used by students.

3.10 MOSS

<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~aiken/moss.html>

Moss or Measure of Software Similarity is a tool that has been used primarily to detect plagiarism. The way it works is that it detects similarities of C, C++, Java, Pascal, Ada, ML, Lisp or Scheme programs. Moss is free to use for instructors and staff of programming language courses only.

3.11 Plagiarism.org

<http://www.plagiarism.org>

University of California Berkeley students and alumni created plagiarism.org to be used to detect plagiarism. One thing to watch out for is that the software doesn't differentiate between quoted materials and original writing.

3.12 The Plagiarism Resource Site

<http://www.plagiarism.phys.virginia.edu/>

Lou Bloomfield, Professor of Physics at the University of Virginia, is the sole author of The Plagiarism Resource Site. The goal of this site is to "help reduce the impact of plagiarism on education and educational institutions". Numerous links are provided to sources on how to deal with plagiarism.

3.13 PlagiServe

<http://www.plagiserve.com/>

Olexiy Shevchenko, Max Litvin and Sasha Lugovskyy, the PlagiServe Team, came up with the concept of a plagiarism detection device in June 2000. The software used by PlagiServe not only detects papers that have been obtained from a term paper company and turned into an instructor, but it also looks for any changes or modifications made to these papers. PlagiServe has a database of over

150,000 student essays, term papers and cliff notes, and they also send out Web robots to check "high risk" sites like Britannica.com, Refdesk.com and Encyclopedia.com for copied materials. NOTE: Instructors may want to be careful about using this particular detection device. Some indicate it may also sell term papers to students.

3.14 Turnitin

<http://www.turnitin.com/>

Turnitin, a plagiarism.org partner, considers themselves to be "the world's most widely recognized and trusted resource to prevent Internet plagiarism". Free trials are also available, and subscription costs vary depending on the type of plan chosen.

Turnitin is currently the subject of a copyright controversy. For more information, check out the following article, "A Plagiarism Detection Tool Creates Legal Quandary" at <http://chronicle.com/free/v48/i36/36a03701.htm>.

3.15 WordCHECK

<http://www.wordchecksyste.ms.com/>

WordCHECK is used by a diverse group including information researchers, copyright attorneys and classroom teachers. This plagiarism detection device was developed by Information Analytics, a Lincoln, NE company owned by Kenneth Livingston and Mark Dahmke. WordCHECK may be purchased for a fee.

4. Suggestions

The following suggestions are made to avoid plagiarism:

- ◆ Preparation of data bases of thesis for Ph.D submitted to universities.

- ◆ Compulsory submission of Electronic copy in a data base of the UGC which should be open before award so that any one can detect plagiarism & bring to the universities.
- ◆ Prepration of data bases of articles published in conferences & journals in India which are not covered international database.
- ◆ Taking an affidavit from the candidate regarding no use of plagirised material.

5. Conclusion

In India, in absence of database of theses and dissertations, it is easy to plagiarize them from one university to another and even in the same university. Plagiarism in project work is common and difficult to detect. I come across unique form of plagiarism where photocopies M.L.I.Sc dissertation have been used by another college in the different years. Also in the case in many other subjects Ph.D. thesis are also alleged to use plagiarism practices. In another kind, Ph.D. thesis includes word toward translation from English to Hindi of a book in most of its chapter. India requires an anti-plagiarism policy in academic and develop its own anti plagiarism software. With the above discussion it is clear that if plagiarism is easy the tools to detect the plagiarism are also available easily. Beware and avoid plagiarism otherwise you may be another example being quoted “XYZ Controversy.”

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