

FACTORS OF ACADEMIC PLAGIARISM IN THE INFORMATION ERA : ISSUES AND CHALLENGES



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INTRODUCTION

In the present modern day, we have Google, WWW, Social Networking Sites and many different applications to help us to quench our thirst for knowledge. As it is well known that we require information in the same way as we require the other basic necessities of life, i.e., food, clothing and shelter.

In the teaching and learning process, writing assignments, and doing research at higher level is mandatory. It requires certain skills and methods and above all, thorough subject knowledge. In the process of research, generating new ideas and inventions are the basics of any research study. Along with these what are important are hard work, proper guidance and stipulated time. But the scenario of the academics is quite different. In the absence of knowledge, improper guidance and time constraint, students fall prey to copying and pasting, which is actually leading them to a wrong direction in their long term career. The unacknowledged patch work has resulted in the discovery of a new term in the field of writing i.e., “Plagiarism”.



WHAT IS A PLAGIARISM?

Definitions

“Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own.”

—New Oxford American Dictionary.

“Plagiarism 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”

—Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

—IEEE defines plagiarism as “the use of someone else’s prior ideas, processes, results, or words without explicitly acknowledging the original author and source”.

Copy & Paste

Missing
Quotations

Plagiarism

Unacknowledged
Work

Remix

PLAGIARISM?

If I change
a
few words,
I'm okay,
right?

Wrong! Paraphrasing
original ideas without
documenting
your source,
is plagiarism too!



ORIGIN OF PLAGIARISM

The word Plagiarism originated from the Latin word “plagiarius” , which means kidnapping, or plundering. The English word ‘plagiary’ firstly surfaced in 1601 in Ben Johnson’s, ‘The Poetaster’, means a literary thief who wrongfully takes another’s words or ideas.
—(Wikipedia)

Types of plagiarism

There are different types of plagiarism and all are serious violations of academic honesty. The general types of plagiarism are as follows:-

➤ **DIRECT PLAGIARISM**

Direct plagiarism is the word- for- word transcription of a section of someone else's work without attribution and without quotation marks. The deliberate plagiarism of someone else's work is unethical academically dishonesty and ground for disciplinary actions, including expulsion.

➤ **SELF-PLAGIARISM**

Self-plagiarism occurs when a student submits his/her own previous work, or mixes part of previous works, without permission from all professors involved.

➤ **MOSAIC PLAGIARISM**

Mosaic plagiarism occurs when a student borrow phrases from a source without using quotation marks or find synonyms for author's language, while keeping the same general structure and meaning of the original. It is also called patch writing.

➤ **ACCIDENTAL PLAGIARISM**

Accidental plagiarism occurs when a person neglects to site their sources or misquotes their sources or unintentionally paraphrases a source by using similar words, group of word and sentence structure without attribution.

FACTORS BEHIND PLAGIARISING



The various basic factors that are responsible for academic plagiarism are:

- ❖ Unfair means and lazy mentality of students and people.
- ❖ Language and content problem faced by the students.
- ❖ Lack of understanding the importance of citations and references.
- ❖ Lack of linguistic mechanics to successfully integrate sources within their academic writing.
- ❖ Lack of motivation among students.

- ❖ Lack of adequate and stringent laws of copyright
- ❖ Lack of aspiration for higher grades.
- ❖ **Lack of desire for a better product.**
- ❖ The delay and hassles in the implementation of such regulations.
- ❖ Cultural background is a major factor (one of the problem but not a sole problem).
- ❖ Lack luster attitude on the part of the authorities.

The diagram features a central red rounded rectangle with the text "DETECTION OF PLAGIARISM" in white. This rectangle is flanked by two black rounded rectangles: "MANUAL DETECTION" on the left and "AUTOMATIC DETECTION" on the right. Green arrows point from the central red rectangle to each of the black rectangles. The entire diagram is set against a blue textured background with green geometric shapes on the right side.

DETECTION OF PLAGIARISM

MANUAL
DETECTION

AUTOMATIC
DETECTION

MANUAL DETECTION

Done manually by human beings. It is suitable for lecturers and teachers, while checking student's assignments, theses, dissertations, research papers etc. But it is not so effective and useful. It is impractical for large number of documents. It is not economical and requires a lot of effort and wastage of time. Therefore, it is not successful in the internet era.

AUTOMATIC DETECTION (COMPUTER ASSISTED DETECTION)

There are many free and commercial types of software are used in automatic plagiarism detection. Every software has its own unique features and work differently. Some check originality and some detect correct grammar in documents.

FREE SOFTWARES

Viper

DupliChecker

Copyscape

Plagiarism Detect

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARES

Turnitin

iThenticate

Writecheck

Plagscan

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

The basic consequences of academic plagiarism are:

- Plagiarism can get students expelled from their courses of study.
- Plagiarism can result in destroying works.
- Plagiarism can result in expulsion from academic institution.
- Plagiarism can result in legal action.
- Plagiarism destroys the chances of developing critical, creative and independent thinking.

- Plagiarism decreases the chances to develop skills in students.
- Plagiarism leads to receiving a reduced grade in studies.
- Plagiarism can lead to failing in the assignments.
- Plagiarism can lead re-doing the assignments.
- Finally, the student-teacher relationship is damaged and students lose the trust of their teachers.

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

Some of the important points that can be useful in avoiding academic plagiarism are:

- To minimize plagiarism it is needed from the part of educationists like teachers, lecturers, professors etc., and facilitators like LIS professional to work together and create such an environment where the basics of writing a paper for an assignment or a research is taught.
- By teaching how to quote the source properly?
- By paraphrasing the source properly.

- Also, generate in student the necessary skills required for critical analysis and building an argument.
- By different free and commercial plagiarism detection software we can, avoid it.
- And, above all the emphasis should be on the total involvement of the students and generating interest rather than giving punishment or penalties.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The greatest challenge today in some of the academic institutions, like universities, colleges and schools is the detection and prevention from rising plagiarism. The various issues and challenges are as follow:-

- Detecting cheater is of course an important issues but the greatest challenge is to prevent it from doing so.
- Intentional plagiarism is also a matter of great concern and important issues.
- Unintentional plagiarism in the darkness of proper guidance about citation and references is also an issue.

- Creating awareness and educating the student about what constitutes plagiarism and the penalties for it also due an issue.
- Generating an understanding of creating something new and unique of their own by the students is one the major issue at academic level.
- Cultural issues like religious beliefs, customs and assumptions, all of which are product of our societal upbringing. These are not sole problem but also significant part of plagiarism.
- Linguistics problem is also an issue, but it is not count as major

ROLE OF LIBRARY AND LIS PROFESSIONALS TO OVERCOME ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The number of emerging cases of plagiarism arising every now and then for the last couple of decade has necessitated our interference. Although we have been the hub of knowledge since ancient time but still the easy availability of electronic resources has ignited plagiarism. Therefore we LIS professionals have a very major role to play i.e., to conserve and preserve the intellectual assets. It is obvious that plagiarism can be prevented but with sincere efforts and continuous awareness. The LIS professional's role can be:

- a. To develop web pages, guides, instructions for proper citation and referencing.
- b. To educate the user and faculty through library users training programmed.
- c. To provide plagiarism checking services to its users.
- d. To discuss about the problem of plagiarism with the user from time to time.
- e. Generating awareness by conducting seminars and conferences can be a good way to combat the plagiarism.

CONCLUSION

The growth of plagiarism among the students and in the learning Centre's i.e., academics is a matter of great concern. Today in the reign of internet we have been graced with easy accessibility to enhance, increase and multiply our knowledge. But, still we indulge our shelves in the cobweb of plagiarism. Although we know the dire consequences but we are unable to refrain our shelves from it. Therefore, how we can refrain and restrict from practicing plagiarism? Is a great challenge. We librarians being the proactive facilitators of information need to universally acknowledge the problem of plagiarisms along with the teachers, instructors and information producers. Specifically we need to take some solid steps in explaining, illustrating and promoting good writing practices and dedicated writing modules. Above all what is most important is creating self-consciousness against the practices of plagiarism among the future generation.



Thanks For Your
Attention

