

Plagiarism: Some Concerns & Issues

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ABSTRACT

“Plagiarism” it is an act of presenting other author’s work and then proving it as one’s own so as to get literary and career advance benefits from it. Such a practice is seen increasing now-a-days and people especially ‘white-collars’ are doing it with their choice and without any fear. The recent upsurge of cases of plagiarism has broken all the records in the world. The increasing trend has made professionals, administrators, teachers and scholars in a discombobulating manner. The information explosion, the emergence of world wide web, the availability of databases and online free resources have offered trouble-free chances for plagiarists and other literary thieves to copy and reproduce the literature in their own way. The present situation of plagiarism needs strict and rigid rules, strategies and resources like anti-plagiarism tools and software so that the increasing trend can be minimized. In spite of the fact that most of the universities have adopted anti-plagiarism tools and the results are in good favour but the need is to make every single author aware about the concept of plagiarism and citation styles, so that they will be more careful while making notes. In this paper the efforts have been made to put forward the concept of plagiarism, different types of plagiarism, Plagiarism detection software and possible strategies.

Keywords: *Plagiarism, Academic dishonesty, Legal provision, Anti-Plagiarism,*

Introduction

Plagiarism is not a new phenomenon. 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 (More & Shelar, 2011). Plagiarism is defined as

the “wrongful appropriation,” “close imitation,” or “purloining and publication” of another author’s “language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions,” and the representation of them as one’s own original work, but the notion remains problematic with nebulous boundaries (Plagiarism, 2013). The word plagiarism may be uncommon to many, although ninety percent of people do it once in their life. The word plagiarism first appeared in English, Ben Jonson given the credit of being the first to use it in print (Vinod et al, 2009). According to the Encarta encyclopaedia, plagiarism is to steal somebody’s work or idea. It is the process of copying another person’s ideas or written work and then claiming it one’s original and own work (Microsoft Encarta, 2009). Plagiarism is sometimes called as academic dishonesty, in other manner academic dishonesty includes cheating; plagiarism or furnishing knowingly false information to the society which will create an adverse effect to the esteem of an institution where the students or scholars proceed their research. Thus it can be said that when a person presents any sort of information whether complete or partial from whatever source either it is print or non-print without documentation and without giving credit to the original author is plagiarized work. It is important to note that according to the research on faculty perceptions of plagiarism there are varying degrees and working definitions of the act of plagiarism. Defining plagiarism is not as simple as one may think. Everyone seems to know it is wrong, including those who commit the offense, but few know how to completely define it. There are auto-plagiarism and self-plagiarism, substantial plagiarism and incidental plagiarism, and finally there is unconscious plagiarism or cryptomnesia, which seemingly would allow an excuse to all but the most obvious plagiarists (Wilhoit, 1994). Among the above types, self-plagiarism is one of the dangerous plagiarisms which occur in scholarly and scientific writings. This happens when an author reuses portion of their previous writings in subsequent research papers. It is detrimental to scientific progress and bad for academic community. Finally whenever a self-plagiarized paper is allowed to be published, other more deserving papers are deprived of its merits (Amin & Kota, 2012). But, when the plagiarism is conceptualized as theft, the notion of self-plagiarism may seem impossible. Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarism as defined in the 11th edition of Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary as: To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own or to use (a created production) without crediting the source (Merriam Webster, 2013).

Thus plagiarism includes the following:

- 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.

The word Plagiarism derived from the Latin word 'plagiarius' which means to 'kidnap' or 'abduct'. Thus it is the theft of someone's intellectual work or creativity, ideas or language; something that strikes at the very heart of academic life. It is considered as a form of cheating and leads to intellectually deceitful. In simple words, plagiarism refers to the crime of stealing someone else's work and passing it off as one's own. For researchers, this form of scientific misconduct represents fraud of the worst order (Peh & Arokiasamy, 2008). World Association of Medical Editor WAME (2008) further states that the intent and effect of plagiarism is to mislead the reader as to the contributions of the plagiarizer. The concept applies whether the work is taken from abstracts, research grant applications, institutional review, board applications, or unpublished and published work in any format, whether print and electronic. Therefore the boundaries of what plagiarism constitutes are not limited to journal articles, or conference proceedings or other work, but includes some one's ideas in any form as long as intellectual theft occurs. In the words of McKenzie, (1998): the New Plagiarism requires little effort and is geometrically more powerful. Discussing the past one might misappropriate a dozen of ideas from a handful of thinkers, but in the present modern societies, students can download hundreds of pages per hour. We have moved from the horse and buggy days of plagiarism to the Space Age without stopping for the horseless carriage (Williams, 2002). Thus plagiarism is the act of stealing from the writings of another person and passing the material off as one's own is a form of intellectual property theft. In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and pretending that this is to be one's own and, lying about it afterward. Many a time it happens due to our ignorance about how and where to cite, previous works (More & Shelar, 2011). The most forms of plagiarism identified among students is a failure to acknowledge the original author and the factors which probably lead to plagiarism is the lack of knowing that what are ways of citing and what are the ways of paraphrasing the original work (Smith, Ghazali & Noor Minhad, 2007).

Types of Plagiarism

Different authors stated different types of plagiarism, some broader categories of plagiarism include:

1. **Accidental:** Lack of plagiarism knowledge and understanding of citation or referencing style can lead to accidental plagiarism.

2. **Unintentional:** Vastness of available information influences thoughts and the same ideas may come out via spoken or written expressions as one's own.
3. **Idea plagiarism or Intentional:** Simply the act of copying the idea of someone else's and deliberately not giving proper citation and credit to original creator.
4. **Self-plagiarism:** using one's own work (self-published work) in some other form without referring to original one.
5. **Complete Plagiarism:** A piece of work copied entirely from one or more sources.
6. **Copy and Paste:** Available information off internet or electronic journals (copying word to word).
7. **Word Switch:** If you copy a sentence or paragraph into your assignment and change a few words it will still be considered to be plagiarism.
8. **Style 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 (Vij, Soni, &Makhdumi, 2009).

Plagiarism has been classified by peer reviewers into different categories based on the type of material, type of authors etc. Klausman identified three main types of plagiarism:

- **Direct plagiarism** - taking the similar words from the original source and presenting them one's own without documenting them.
- **Paraphrase plagiarism** - this type of plagiarism occurs when a writer takes the ideas of another writer in nearly the exact words as the original. This may be the most common type of unintentional plagiarism. Researchers do not understand that proper paraphrasing is using all of your own words and phrases to convey the author's general idea, and still giving credit to the author for the original idea.
- **Patchwork plagiarism** - this is another often and unintentional form of plagiarism which states that when a writer takes the ideas of another and patches them together as his own. This type of plagiarism often includes both paraphrase and direct (Klausman, 1999).

Some different methods commonly in practice of plagiarism these include:

- **Paraphrasing:** Using grammar and synonym or reordering sentences in original work without giving credit.

- **Artistic plagiarism:** Presenting someone else's work using different media, such as text, images, voice or video.
- **Code plagiarism:** This plagiarism can be found mostly in computer programming. Using program code, algorithms, classes, or functions without permission or reference.
- **Forgotten or expired links to resources:** Not providing updated links in the reference of the original sources.
- **No proper use of quotation marks:** Unable to quote properly.
- **Misinformation of references:** Providing wrong links in the reference section.
- **Translated plagiarism:** cross language content translation and use without reference to original work (Maurer, Kappe & Zaka, 2006).

Plagiarism Detection Software & Tools

Plagiarism detection involves the process of evaluating or examining the work or document which contains plagiarized work. The use of computers and internet has made it too easy to kidnap and to theft the documents and materials of other authors. Most cases of plagiarism are found in academia, where documents are typically essays or reports. However, plagiarism can be found in virtually any field, including scientific papers, art designs, and source code (Plagiarism, 2013). Detection can be either manual or computer-assisted. Manual detection requires substantial effort and excellent memory, and is impractical in cases, where too many documents must be compared, or original documents are not available for comparison. Computer-assisted detection allows vast collections of documents to be compared to each other, making successful detection much more likely. There are several software and tools that provide services to help academia in detecting intellectual dishonesty. Some of these tools which are currently popular in the market are web based services and the detection processing is done remotely. The user uploads the suspected document to the system database; the system creates a complete fingerprint of the document and stores it. While the process completes, the suspects are displayed. The system generates the originality report within some minutes of submission. The report contains all the matches detected and links to original sources with colour codes describing the intensity of plagiarism (Turnitin tour, 2012). However it is not a final statement of plagiarism. A higher percentage of similarities found do not necessarily mean that it actually is a case of plagiarism. One has to interpret each identified match to deduce whether it is a false alarm or actually needs attention. Finally the trend and the race towards combat of plagiarism have started. In the market, there are a bundle of tools and software available, out of some of them are listed below:

Anti-Plagiarism Software and Services

- ✓ Ithenticate <http://www.ithenticate.com>
- ✓ Custom Writings <http://www.Customwritings.com>
- ✓ Catch It first <http://www.catchitfirst.com>
- ✓ Turnitin Safety <http://www.turnitoutsafey.com/>
- ✓ Plagscan <http://www.plagscan.com>
- ✓ Check for plagiarism <http://www.checkforplagiarism.net>
- ✓ Veri guide <http://www.veriguide.org>
- ✓ Plagspotter <http://www.plagspotter.com>
- ✓ Plagiarism-detector <http://www.plagiarism-detector.com>
- ✓ Plagiserve <http://www.plagiserve.com>
- ✓ Plagium <http://www.plagium.com>
- ✓ The plagiarism checker <http://www.dustball.com>
- ✓ Plagtracker <http://www.plagtracker.com>
- ✓ Grammarly <http://www.grammarly.com>
- ✓ Plagiarism.Org <http://www.plagiarism.org>
- ✓ White check <http://www.whitecheck.com>
- ✓ Plagiarism detect.Org <http://www.plagiarismdetection.org>
- ✓ EVE <http://www.canexus.com>
- ✓ Plagiarismchecker <http://www.plagiarismcheckertool.com>
- ✓ Copyscape <http://www.copyscape.com>
- ✓ Nbridge <http://www.nbridge.net>
- ✓ Plagiarism detect <http://www.plagiarismdetect.com>
- ✓ Small SEO tools <http://www.smallseotools.com>
- ✓ See source <http://www.seesource.com>
- ✓ Dupli checker <http://www.duplichecker.com>
- ✓ Plagiarism software <http://www.plagiarismsoftware.net>
- ✓ Plagiarism checker <http://www.plagiarismchecker.com>
- ✓ Plagiarism check <http://www.plagiarismcheck.org>
- ✓ Plagiarism detect <http://www.plagiarism-detect.com>
- ✓ Plagiarism checker <http://www.searchenginereports.net>
- ✓ Viper <http://www.scanmyessay.com>

Anti-plagiarism Strategies

Strategies to overcome plagiarism; the technology in the present times and availability of material in various formats have made plagiarism a serious threat. A single click can bring essay mills and paragraphs on student's desk or even entire essays now can be downloaded and used. But the race is in combating plagiarism by means of strategies and tools. There are different strategies discussed which can be used to minimize or to tackle the increasing trend of plagiarism and can help in encouraging students to do their own work. These include Strategies of Awareness 2) Strategies of Prevention 3) Strategies of Detection.

1) Awareness strategy: This includes that an instructor must aware his students about plagiarism. He should understand that why students cheat, what are the reasons behind the evil deed. Sometimes it may happen due to the following reasons

- Many students are unaware and do not know what plagiarism is.
- On the Internet everything is public domain, can be used by anybody.
- Some students know all about plagiarism but don't consider it as wrong.
- Some students are interested in the shortest and easiest route, as they don't want to work hard. So they do copy and paste and present the same.
- Students lack writing and have inadequate capacity in generating ideas. Fear of a bad grade and inability to perform cause some students to look for a superior product.

Educate about plagiarism; the instructor must educate students as well as must be fully aware about plagiarism. He should make clear what is plagiarism, how it can be avoided by making use of examples.

Discuss benefits citation; the benefits and importance of citing must be put-forward in front of students. When they will know how to cite, they will definitely give credit to the original author. And when they will know what the benefit of giving credit is, they will never miss the chance. Citing a source, whether paraphrased or quoted, reveals that they have performed research work and synthesized the findings into their own argument. Using sources shows that the student has done something and has engaged in the great conversation.

Make penalties clear; the instructor should make the penalties clear to the students; he should tell straight forward what will be the result of a person found guilty, while keeping in view the policies and penalties of institution.

2) Strategies of Prevention: Prevention strategies help to make the assignment and requirements unique enough. This can be done by making use of following;
Make assignment clear; the instructor must clear assignment to his students. The topic should be such that a student can easily handle it. If the topic needs collaborative efforts, then permit it.

Provide specific topics; the students should be provided different topics and should be allowed to select topic of his/her interest.

Have students included an annotated bibliography; the annotation should include a brief summary of the source, where it was located and an evaluation about the usefulness of the source. (Optionally, as a lesson in information quality, ask them to comment on why they thought the source credible.) The normal process of research makes completing this task easy, but it creates headaches for students who have copied a paper from someone else since few papers include annotated bibliographies like this. Another benefit of this assignment is that students must reflect on the reliability and quality of their sources.

Require up-to-date reference; make students clear that the references they write, should clear and some of them should be up-to-date. While students submit their work, many of the papers online are quite old, with correspondingly old references will be automatically eliminated. Such a recent date restriction is not usually workable for some subjects, such as history or English literature, but can always require a few sources of recent date.

Evaluate work; while the students submit their work, have students an in-class summary test. Ask them what you have learnt from your assignment, have they faced any problem while doing their work? What methodology they follow? What resources they consulted. These types of questions will definitely make distinguish between the learners and the dull students. The students who did the research will think about their problems and the students who did nothing will not be able to give respond. The test can be either orally or can be written.

3) Strategies of Detection: whenever the instructor finds any suspects he should not take the case easy but should implement such strategies which will find the theft and detect the unoriginal work. Implementing these strategies may help in detecting the suspects include:

Look for the clues; while checking the assignment, look for internal evidence that may indicate plagiarism. Among the clues are the following:

- Mixed citation styles.
- Lack of references or quotations.
- Unusual formatting Off topic

- Signs of datedness
- Anachronisms.
- Anomalies of diction

Smoking guns; this category might be called “blunders of the clueless,” since it includes obvious indicators of copying. Reported in the past have been labels left at the end of papers (“Thank you for using Term Paper Mania”), title pages stapled to Web printouts (complete with dates and URL in the corners), title pages claiming the paper is by Tom Jones when subsequent pages say “Smith, page 2,” and papers with whiteout over the previous author’s name. Few of these clues will provide courtroom proof of plagiarism, of course, but their presence should alert you to investigate the paper. Even if you do not find the source of the paper, you may be able to use these clues profitably in a discussion with the student in your office.

Search for the paper online: if the instructor finds that the content is from internet, he can try these strategies to find it:

- **Search engines:** Simply use search engines to find the text. The instructor can copy some phrases and can paste it on any search engine like Google, Yahoo or Bing. They will easily disclose the original source from which the text is being copied.
- **Use plagiarism checkers.** The instructor can also use plagiarism detectors to detect the doubtful content. There are free as well as fee based tools and services to help instructors in disclosing plagiarism content. While using the tool, an instructor must be well aware about the functioning of it and must be well aware how the results are to be handled and evaluated (**Harris, 2012; Pritee, Grover & Malik, 2012**).

Conclusion

The scandals of plagiarism can be seen in profusion and the past years are evident of it. Such shameful act not only degrades the reputation of societies but also disappoints scholars and makes them apathy. As already discussed different types of plagiarism, one should be aware about all the types of plagiarism, so that the right care can be taken while citing the source. The academicians’ must be aware about the strategies and tools in order to minimize and to tackle plagiarists. The students must be taught about the advantages and disadvantages of citation. Students must be made aware about penalties and drawbacks of improper reference styles, so that while doing their job of research they will take care about plagiarism and will put forward their effort to use their own intellectual power instead of copy and paste. The development of a nation wholly depends upon the intellectual output; if the final output is

plagiarism free, then definitely the results will be in favour of nation's pride and spirit. For this it is the right time to put the possible efforts in order to overcome and to minimize such a hazard.

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