Plagiarism in the 21st Century

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Internet Plagiarism
- What is it?
- How do we avoid it?
- How do we detect it?
- How do we report it?
What is it?

- "Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of someone else as your own. Examples include, but are not limited to, failing to properly cite direct quotes and failing to give credit for someone else's ideas."
  
  University of Miami Honor Council, Honor Code

- "Plagiarize To practice plagiarism upon; to take and use as one's own the thoughts, writings, or inventions of another. (With the thing, rarely the person, as object.)"
  
  Oxford English Dictionary Online

Definition in the digital era: Copy and Paste Plagiarism

- downloading a term paper
- failing to give proper credit to the source of an idea
- copying extensive passages without attribution
- inserting someone else’s phrases or sentences (with minor changes) into your own prose and forgetting to supply a set of quotation marks

Rebecca Moore Howard
"Forget About Policing Plagiarism. Just Teach."
Chronicle of Higher Education November 16, 2001

Statistics

"...most students have concluded that 'cut & paste' plagiarism - using a sentence or two (or more) from different sources on the Internet and weaving this information together into a paper without appropriate citation - is not a serious issue. While 10% of students admitted to engaging in such behavior in 1999, this rose to 41% in a 2001 survey with the majority of students (68%) suggesting this was not a serious issue."

Donald McCabe Center for Academic Integrity
http://www.academicintegrity.org/cai_research.asp
Statistics

“A national survey published in Education Week found that 54% of students admitted to plagiarizing from the Internet; 74% of students admitted that at least once during the past school year they had engaged in “serious” cheating; and 47% of students believe their teachers sometimes choose to ignore students who are cheating”.


Statistics

“A study conducted by Donald L. McCabe titled Faculty Responses to Academic Dishonesty: The Influence of Honor Codes found that 55% of faculty “would not be willing to devote any real effort to documenting suspected incidents of student cheating”.


Avoiding Plagiarism

- Clearly define plagiarism to your students and use explicit examples
- Educate students about the honor code and the ramifications if it is violated
- Create assignments that make plagiarism difficult
- Make sure your students are familiar with online resources
- Have students submit evidence of the research process as well as the paper
- Avoid repeat assignments and paper topics
- Inform your students you are Internet savvy and you know about the paper mills (visit the sites with your students to evaluate the quality of the work)
- Inform your students that you use plagiarism detection software
Avoiding Plagiarism

- Encourage your students to seek help from the Writing Center
  - Drop-in Satellite services available at the Richter Library Mondays 9-7 pm, Mahoney Wednesdays 9-7 pm, Hecht Thursdays 9-7 pm.
  - Schedule an appointment (305) 284-2956.
- Encourage your students to visit the library online or in person and ask for help:
  - Ask a Librarian: www.library.miami.edu
- Schedule an appointment:
  - (305) 284-2956
- Refer your students to online writing resources and tutorials:
  - http://www.library.miami.edu/guides/guides_writing.html
  - http://www.plagiarism.org/research_site/e_home.html
- Familiarize your students with proper citation styles:
  - http://www.library.miami.edu/guides/guides_citing.html

Steps for Detecting Plagiarism

1. Visit Plagiarism awareness sites:
   - ALA & ACRL Detecting Plagiarism: http://www.library.miami.edu/services/faculty.html
   - Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning: http://albany.edu/cetl/teaching/plagiarism.html

Steps to Detecting Plagiarism

2. Visit paper mills and plagiarism promotion sites
   - http://www.schoolsucks.com/ (School Sucks)
   - http://www.ezwrite.com/ (Research Papers Online A+)
3. Use traditional search engines
   - www.google.com
   - www.teoma.com
   - www.dogpile.com
4. Search online databases for full-text of cited articles
   - Expanded Academic (InfoTrac)
   - Academic Search Elite (EBSCO)
   - Science Direct
   - Lexis-Nexis Academic
   - JSTOR
   - PROJECT MUSE
Citing Full-Text Articles from Library Databases

- **MLA**

- **APA**

Detecting Plagiarism

Plagiarism Detection Software

[www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
[www.mydropbox.com](http://www.mydropbox.com)
[www.safeassignment.com](http://www.safeassignment.com)
Two schools of thought

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors should use plagiarism detection software to combat plagiarism:</th>
<th>Instructors should NOT use plagiarism detection software to combat plagiarism:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A digital problem needs a digital solution</td>
<td>• The answer is not technology it is careful pedagogy</td>
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Plagiarism Detection Software

**Issues to Consider**

- Traditional print resources are typically not searched
- Full-text subscription databases or subscription web sites may not be searched
- Is the software an infringement of students’ copyrights?
- Does the software violate the University’s Intellectual Property Policy?
- Is it a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act?
- Did you get the student’s permission to submit the paper?
- Subscriptions costs $1000-$10,000 (based on FTE)
- Low use by faculty (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 40 faculty)
- Student-teacher vs. criminal-police relationship
Plagiarism Detection Software

Success Stories
University of Virginia faculty member:

- 157 papers were flagged as suspicious
- 43 students were found guilty and admitted
- 88 were cleared

Reporting Plagiarism & Software Questions

Contact the UM Dean of Students Honor Council
(Papers should be submitted electronically to the honor council)

Tyler Barritt
(305) 284-5354
H Student Services - Building 21
5600 Merrick Drive

Additional Information

Combating Plagiarism: Is the Internet causing more students to copy?
CQ Researcher September 19, 2003
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