

Plagiarism: A Challenge to Overcome

Soumya G. Menon

Lecturer, Terna Nursing College, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India- 400706

Email: [soumyam1188\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:soumyam1188[at]gmail.com)

Abstract: *With the increasing contribution towards newer researches, plagiarism has become a growing issue in the academic world. It is very essential for a budding researcher, to acquaint oneself with the concepts of plagiarism at large. This article tries to describe the basic concept of plagiarism. Plagiarism may not be intentional always; it may be unintentional which may be caused due to the author's unawareness about the same. There are various types and forms of plagiarism that an author should avoid while reporting a research finding. The article also informs few of the software tools that can be helpful in detecting plagiarism. A researcher can adopt various ways in order to publish a plagiarism free research report so as to improve scientific knowledge with originality.*

Keywords: Plagiarism, Meaning, Types, Tools and softwares, Solutions

1. Plagiarism: A Challenge to Overcome

Plagiarism is a well-known and growing issue in the academic world contributing to newer researches. Plagiarism is a controversial issue in higher education and it affects the security of scientific knowledge. The progress in computer technology, the copy paste tool and loads of fabricated research papers has increased plagiarism in recent times. Plagiarism is an unethical activity in scientific writing

The word plagiarism comes from the word “**plagarius**”, meaning kidnapper, robber, misleader, and literary thief”. Plagiarism usually refers to stealing ideas or words that are higher than the level of public knowledge

In Webster's Dictionary,

A plagiarist is defined as “One who plagiarizes, or steals the words, writings, or ideas of another, and passes them off as his own; a literary thief” and

Plagiarism is defined as “taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own.

The University of Liverpool defines plagiarism as the “*use of materials from unacknowledged sources or direct quotation of materials from documented references without acknowledging that the words have been taken verbatim from those references*”

The US Federal Policy on Research Misconduct defines “*Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit*”

Types of Plagiarism:

- 1) **Intentional Plagiarism:** In this; author is fully aware of the plagiarism and is willing to do it.
- 2) **Unintentional Plagiarism:** The author plagiarizes due to his or her unawareness and lack of skill in writing

It can also be classified by type of materials, type of authors etc which are as follows:

- 1) **Self Plagiarism:** Authors use their own writings in two or several works without citing the original work or

referring to notes that in chronic phases leads to multiple publications in different resources.

- 2) **Manipulated Plagiarism:** In this case the author uses another author's thoughts, information, opinions or data and then manipulates them and publishes the work as his own.
- 3) **Ideal Plagiarism:** In this case, the author robs the paper or data from private or personal properties of another author before the original work was published. The main author could not prove the plagiarism claim because there was no time to record the writing and plagiarism considered as owner's work.
- 4) **Authors – Fight Plagiarism:** Problems faced for teamwork and co-authorship in terms of order of authors in publication, decision about first and corresponding author.

Forms of Plagiarism:

Sources not cited:

- a) The Ghost Writer: The writer turns in another's work, word-for-word, as his or her own.
- b) The Photocopy: The writer copies significant portions of text straight from a single source, without alteration.
- c) 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.
- d) 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
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

Sources Cited

- a) The forgotten Foot Note: 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.

- b) The Misinformer: The writer provides inaccurate information regarding the sources, making it impossible to find them.
- c) 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.
- d) The Resourceful Citer: The writer properly cites all sources, paraphrasing and using quotations appropriately but 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.
- e) The Perfect Crime: 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.

Plagiarism Detecting Tools and Softwares:

There are various tools developed for detection of plagiarism. Few of the software products used are mentioned below:

- Turnitin
- Urkund
- Copycatch
- WCopyfind
- Eve2(Essay Verification Engine)

Solutions to plagiarism

- Read the instructions for authors provided by the journal.
- Always acknowledge the contributions of others and the source of ideas and words, regardless of whether paraphrased or summarized.
- Use of verbatim text/material must be enclosed in quotation marks.
- Acknowledge sources used in the writing.
- When paraphrasing, understand the material completely and use your own words.
- When in doubt about whether or not the concept or fact is common knowledge, reference it.
- Make sure to reference and cite references accurately.
- If the results of a single complex study are best presented as a cohesive whole, they should not be sliced into multiple separate articles.
- When submitting a manuscript for publication containing research questions/hypotheses, methods, data, discussion points, or conclusions that have already been published or disseminated in a significant manner (such as previously published as an article in a separate journal or a report posted on the Internet), alert the editors and readers. Editor should be informed in the cover letter, and reader should be alerted by highlighting and citing the earlier published work.
- When submitting a manuscript for potential publication, if there are any doubts or uncertainty about duplication of manuscripts originating from the same study, the

authors should alert the editors of the nature of the overlap and enclose the other manuscripts that might be part of them.

Avoiding plagiarism as researcher:

- a) **Plan the manuscript:** Planning the manuscript well is the first and most important step toward preventing plagiarism. If the researcher is aware that they are going to use other sources of information, they need to plan how the information is going to be included in the paper. This means working out a balance between the ideas taken from other sources and original ideas.
- b) **Take Effective Notes:** One of the best ways to prepare for a research paper is by taking thorough notes from all of the sources, so that much of the information is organized before beginning writing.
- c) **When in doubt, cite sources:** If it is unclear whether an idea in the paper really came from originality, or whether it is from somewhere else and just changed it a little, the researcher should always cite the source. Instead of weakening the paper and making it seem like it have fewer original ideas, this will actually strengthen the paper
- d) **Make it clear who said what:** Even if the source is cited, ambiguity in the phrasing can often disguise the real source of any given idea, causing inadvertent plagiarism. Make sure when the original ideas are mixed with those of the sources; try to always clearly distinguish them.
- e) **Know how to Paraphrase:** A paraphrase is a restatement in own words of someone else's ideas. Changing a few words of the original sentences does NOT make the writing a legitimate paraphrase. The researcher must change both the words and the sentence structure of the original, without changing the content. Also, the researcher should keep in mind that paraphrased passages still require citation because the ideas came from another source, even though it is put in the researcher's own words.
- f) **Evaluate the Sources:** Sources should be credible enough in terms of quality in writing, accuracy of the information provided. Also, note the author of the page and from where they got the information and when they wrote it.

2. Conclusion

Plagiarism is a trend that has to be curtailed so that genuine and original researches and scientific or intellectual ideas are brought out to the society at large. It is the responsibility of each of researcher and the academician to control plagiarism through various strategies so as to flourish the scientific knowledge with originality.

3. Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Bahadori M, Izadi M, Hoseinpoufard M. Plagiarism: Concepts, Factors and Solutions. Iranian Journal of Military Medicine. 2012; 14(3): 168-177
- [2] Shokraneh, Farhad & Khan, Salman. (2009). Plagiarism. 10.13140/2.1.4978.0801.
- [3] Kasi PM. Research: What, Why and How? A Treatise from Researchers to Researchers. Author House: Bloomington. 2009
- [4] Unl.edu. 2021. *Types of Plagiarism | Graduate Connections | Nebraska*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/connections/types-plagiarism>> [Accessed 20 March 2021].
- [5] Abbas Ahmed RK. Overview of different plagiarism detection tools. International journal of futuristic trends in engineering and technology. 2015; 2(10): 1-3
- [6] Helgesson G, Eriksson S. Plagiarism in research. Medicine Health Care and Philosophy. July 2014; 18(1):91-101
- [7] Plagiarism.org. 2021. *Preventing Plagiarism when Writing - Plagiarism.org*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.plagiarism.org/article/preventing-plagiarism-when-writing#:~:text=Plan%20Your%20Paper,include%20them%20in%20your%20paper.>> [Accessed 20 March 2021].