


Plagiarism
Keeping up with the Cheats

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ECIS November Conference
2001
The Hague
16 – 18 November 2001


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What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas without due attribution or acknowledgement, an attempt to pass off those words or ideas as one's own.


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WHY cite?

- Give credit where it's due
- Provide evidence of research
- Strengthen your arguments
- Build on what is known
- In turn, the writer will want, expect, & deserve recognition


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Why is plagiarism wrong?

- It is cheating, it is theft, it is fraud.
- “You didn’t learn the material. Your writing skills didn’t improve. Your grade is based on deception.” (Edlund)
- “Cheating takes away from everyone’s achievement. If you are working hard and doing your best, it’s not fair when somebody cheats.” (Hess, quoted by Chidley, 1997).


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Why they cheat

- Ignorance
- Need to pass, need to achieve
- Laziness, bad time management
- Everyone else does it (and seems to get away with it)
- The teacher won’t know
- The teacher does not care
- Culture
- Lack of understanding, lack of interest

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Carlson’s Conundrum

- Kids copy when they don’t understand. (McGregor)
- We learn best when we engage with the material. (Fitzgerald; McGregor; McKenzie; etc.)
- Most Internet documents are written for an adult audience.

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Two kinds of plagiarism

<p>From published materials, traceable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Books, journals ➤ Cinema, radio, television ➤ Cd-rom, web pages and web sites ➤ Invisible web, databases ➤ Internet cheat sites 	<p>From unpublished materials, more difficult to trace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Personal diaries ➤ Big brother, friend in last year's class ➤ Mail & email networks ➤ Paper mills ➤ <i>Probably untraceable: translations</i>
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The image shows a screenshot of an advertisement. At the top, there is a red banner with the word 'ADVERT' in white. Below this, there are several sections of text. The first section is titled 'COLLEGES' and lists 'www.SPEEDYRESEARCH.NET' with details about reports, papers, and theses. The second section is titled 'UNIVERSITY DEGREES' and describes services for earning degrees. The third section is titled 'TERM PAPER ASSISTANCE' and features a large graphic with the text 'TERM PAPER ASSISTANCE' and 'SEND FOR OUR FREE CATALOG'. It also includes a toll-free number '800-351-0222' and a website URL 'http://www.tp.research-assistance.com'. The bottom section is titled 'FINANCIAL SERVICES'.

The cheat sites and the paper mills

- Some are free and some for fee
- Many condemn plagiarism (?), many condone it
- Some display their essays, some fax or email
- Some custom write essays
- Many link to other sites, tied-in
- Cost is no guarantee of quality

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Figuratively speaking (3)
(McCabe)

- 54% high school students have plagiarized from the internet.
- 26% college students admit to plagiarising at least once.

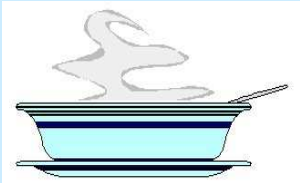
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Stone Soup



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Good news, bad news

- The good news : most of the essays on the free essay sites are mediocre.
- The bad news : teachers may not realise that mediocre students are plagiarizing mediocre essays.
- The worst of it : second language students may not recognize poor language, poor composition.

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Figuratively speaking (4) (McCabe)

- Fewer than one-third who plagiarize use a cheat site.
- *47% high school students believe instructors ignore cheating, prefer to avoid confrontation.*
- *Colleges with honor codes have lower rates of plagiarism.*

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On the one hand...

A student too lazy to do his own research may be too lazy to proofread the results, which can be of great benefit to those trying to prove that plagiarism has taken place
(Ryan; Black).

“Students who cheat tend to think that their teachers are extremely stupid.”

(Black)

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on the other...

“(Some students) put a lot of work into cheating – probably as much as they would have expended to write the piece in the first place.”

(Renard)


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The tricks they get up to

- Copy a large section but reference/ quote just a small portion
- Build a pastiche from several sources
- Make up false citations/ references
 - Use an author available in the library
 - Invent an author/ source
 - Use a real web site
 - Reference a web site but not the web page
- Make up quotations/ misquote

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Subtle giveaways

<See the original Dead Giveaways at plagiarized.com>

- Lack of citations; mix of references
- Lack of bibliography
- ‘Interesting’ references to page numbers
- Level of works cited
- Reference to items not included
- Failure to cite good evidence!
- Spelling (US/ UK etc)
- Non-sequiturs


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You won't catch them all

- The searchable web
- If it's not there, even the most powerful search engine won't find it...
 - The rest of the web (the invisible web)
 - The rest of the internet
 - *All other sources of information*
 - Translations
 - Scanned materials
 - Obscure publications, unpublished materials
 - The invisible network
 - The thrill of the chase


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The detective work

- Ask to see books, printouts, p/copies etc
- Check the sources cited
 - Check what has been used and how
 - Check for false citations
- Check resources available to students
- Internet search for essay title, quotations, unique words, random keywords, phrases
 - Use Yahoo!
 - Use multiple search engines
- Use your librarian
- Use a search site/ use a search service


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Plagiarism Detection Services

<p><u>Database based</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TurnItIn.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ also searches internet ➤ Digital Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ also searches internet ➤ Integriguard ➤ WordCHECK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build own database ➤ CopyFind (Bloomfield) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build own database <p><i>Glatt Plagiarism Program</i></p>	<p><u>Internet Searchers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TurnItIn.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ also database based. ➤ FindSame <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Search element of Digital Integrity ➤ HowOriginal.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Search element of Integriguard ➤ Internet Essay Explorer ➤ EVE2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ downloadable software
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The bottom line

- Integriguard : \$ 4.95 per month per instructor.
- WordCheck : \$ 95 basic, \$ 293 pro.
- Eve2 : \$ 19.99 per instructor, site @ \$ 400
- Glatt : \$ 250 to \$ 300
- TurnItIn : \$ 25 per teacher per 30 papers, \$1000 per school, colleges \$1800 to \$4000.

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Questions to ask

Apart from questions of cost, database size, number and size of submissions, ask:

- Can the detection service distinguish and check citations and references?
- Does the service seek ALL matches or does it stop at the first match?
- How good is the search service's search engine?
- Does the service search the invisible web, databases, online encyclopedias, et al?
- How well does the service cope with paraphrases and transformations?
- Does the service search non Internet resources?

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User beware!

Search Services Seek Similarities.
A match is NOT necessarily proof of guilt.

Still Need to Check Citations.
No matches is NOT necessarily proof of innocence.


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Prevention
is better than cure

... but that's another story!

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