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Ritu Rana
M.L.I.Sc (University of Delhi)
SPA (Aryabhatta College, DU),
New Delhi, India

Plagiarism detection software: An overview

Ritu Rana

Abstract

Research is an original and systematic investigation undertaken to discover new facts and information about a phenomenon. Plagiarism in research has become a serious issue for the academic community. This paper presents a brief analysis of plagiarism along with information on few commercial and free online plagiarism detection software and elaborates the role of UGC regarding plagiarism control.

Keywords: Plagiarism, plagiarism detection software, citing

Introduction

Plagiarism is an act of fraud. Plagiarism involves copying material, either word from word or as a paraphrase, from anything ranging from books, to internet sites, course notes, oral or visual presentation, lab reports, computer assignments or any artistic work. Plagiarism does not refer to works alone – it can also refer to copying images, graphs, algorithms, tables and ideas. Even translating the work of another person into another language without citation is Plagiarism.

In simple words “Any form of cheating, or plagiarism, as any other form of dishonest behavior, intentional or not, related to the intention of gain, academic or otherwise, or the interference in evaluative exercises committed by a student is an offence under the Academic Code of Conduct. Any attempt at or participation related in any way to an offence by a student is also an offence (Article 18)”.

Plagiarism is turning out to be big challenge to researchers and academicians due to the easy and simple availability of resources anytime from anywhere. Now a day it is a serious threat to the integrity of their work. Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and is considered a serious breach of professional conduct, with potentially severe ethical and legal consequences”. The prominent reasons considered for rapid growth in plagiarism cases are lack of awareness about it and its consequences, fierce competition and easy availability of digital resource online. Plagiarism has become a root problem in all educational institutions and research centers. Even in other fields of life, the issue of plagiarism is increasing rapidly as in the artistic work.

Causes of plagiarism

Broadly classifying the reasons encourage the existence of plagiarism

Personal Reasons

1. **Recognition:** Students or faculty members deliberately plagiarize so that they may get recognition by publishing more research papers.
2. **Lack of language knowledge:** Students some time tend to explore the plagiarism options to complete their projects if they are incompetent in language.
3. **Ease:** Students tend to adopt plagiarism (copy, cut, paste or paraphrasing of text) because they find easy and convenient to do it.

Professional Reasons

1. **Academic Pressure:** Academic pressure on students or faculty members enforced them to look for plagiarism. When students feel overloaded with the study then they adopt means of plagiarism.
2. **Promotion in Academic jobs:** In most of the countries promotions are based on academic or research performance and on the basis of research publications produced by the faculty

Correspondence
M.L.I.Sc (University of Delhi)
SPA (Aryabhatta College, DU),
New Delhi, India

members. Therefore, it also provokes plagiarism.

- 3. Lack of awareness about plagiarism:** Many of students and researchers simple do not know what plagiarism all about and how it can be avoided.

Types of plagiarism

It is important to know types of plagiarism so that one can have proper measures to avoid it. Following are the types of plagiarism being used in majority of cases.

- 1. Direct Plagiarism:** It is using word to word text of other's work without acknowledging the original source
- 2. Self-Plagiarism:** When someone use his/her own pervious works without citing them.
- 3. Paraphrasing:** Using text of other's work with minor changes without changing the meaning of the sentence.
- 4. Verbatim:** Copying the sentence/s word by word and not citing the original source.
- 5. Plagiarism of secondary source:** When original source is cited from another secondary source without referring the original source.
- 6. Plagiarism of idea:** When someone claims other ideas as his/her own.
- 7. Cluster Plagiarism:** When someone copied ideas from the secondary source in form of verbatim and paraphrase it by using synonyms of few words.
- 8. Accidental Plagiarism:** Paraphrasing without properly cited the reference. It happens when one does not know how to properly use and cite the copied text.
- 9. Mash up plagiarism:** Use text of many sources without citing them.

How to Reduce Plagiarism

- 1. Paraphrase:** If you found any information that is perfect for your research paper. Read it and put it into your own words. Make sure that you do not copy verbatim more than two words in a row from the text you have found. If you do use more than two words together, you will have to use quotation marks
- 2. Cite:** Citing is one of the effective ways to avoid plagiarism. Follow the document formatting guidelines (i.e. APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.). This usually entails the addition of the author(s) and the date of publication or similar information.
- 3. Quoting:** When quoting a source, use quotes exactly the way it appears. No one wants to be misquoted. This process may take time but quoting must be done correctly to avoid plagiarism allegations.
- 4. Citing Quotes:** Citing a quote can be different than citing paraphrased material. This practice usually involves the addition of a page number, or a paragraph number in the case of web content.
- 5. Citing Your Own Material:** If some of the material you are using for your own research paper was used by you in your current class, a previous one, or anywhere else you must cite yourself. Treat the text the same as you would if someone else wrote it. It may sound odd but using material you have used before is called self-plagiarism
- 6. Referencing:** One of the most important way to avoid plagiarism is including a reference page or page of work cited at the end of research paper.

Plagiarism detection software

Plagiarism detection is the process of locating instances of plagiarism within a document or research. The comprehensive use of internet has made it easier to plagiarize the work of

others. The plagiarism detection software will scan and compares the subject matter submitted by the researcher with an electronic database to detect the plagiarism and generate a report. There is number of software is available to detect the plagiarized material. These software's can be divided into two sections one is commercial software for which the user has to pay money for use. Another is open source software which is freely available on the internet.

Commercial or proprietary software

- **Turnitin:** It compares a submitted document against a vast electronic database of billions of websites, millions of periodicals, books, and archives of assignments and documents previously submitted to Turnitin from all over the world.
- **Urkund:** This is fully-automated system for handling plagiarism. In short the students send their documents to the teacher by e-mail. Alone the electronic route between student and teacher, the documents are check against three central source areas: Internet, publishing material and student's material. If any document displays similarities with the content in the three sources, the system will flag it for possible plagiarism. An analysis overview is generated and sends by e-mail to the teacher concerned.
- **Viper:** Viper Plagiarism check is web-based software launched in 2007. It detects plagiarism by scanning a document against millions of electronic resources such as books, journals and articles.
- **Plagscam:** Plagiarism detection tool for both individuals and businesses that checks texts against online scientific journals and the users documents as well.

Open source plagiarism detection software

- **Duplichecker:** Duplicheckers is online free plagiarism detecting software available on internet and its limitation is maximum 1000 words per search.
- **Copyleaks:** Copyleaks is basically cloud-based authentication platform enables you to track how e-learning content is being used all around the internet. After creation of the account after that it allowed to check 2500 words per month. After that users have to pay charges.
- **Paperrater:** A multi-purpose free plagiarism detection tool that is used in over 140 countries. It is free of charge and allows submission of up to 5 pages, grammar and spelling check.
- **Plagiarisma:** User can check plagiarism online by simply copy and paste the text into the box and get the plagiarism check result. It is available with 190 plus languages.
- **Plagiarism Checker (Quetext):** User-friendly, entirely free plagiarism detection tool to check whether content is plagiarized. Basic layout and functional detection tool that checks against the Internet, as well as on various databases.
- **Small Seo Tools:** Small SEO Tools is a bundled collection of free SEO Tools. Popular SEO tools like Plagiarism checker, Article Rewriter, Backlink maker, etc.
- **Plagium:** Fully functional free plagiarism detection tool with different levels of search. For frequent uses users have to pay price for that.
- **Plagtracker:** Fast free plagiarism detection tool that

searches both websites and academic databases by copying pasting texts or files uploading.

- **Unicheck:** It is freely available freely online plagiarism checking software.
- **Custom Writings:** It is a free tool for checking plagiarism and maximum limit of words to enter is 1000 per search.

Advantages of Plagiarism Detection Software

1. Plagiarism detection software help in saving time compared to that of scanning manually.
2. The software certifies the work.
3. Plagiarism detection software additionally, checks for spelling and grammar mistakes and give correct suggestion. It helps the researchers to give quality research report.

Disadvantages of plagiarism detection software

1. Software's are searched generally online resources or the available on the Internet only.
2. Detect plagiarism words only not plagiarized thoughts or ideas.
3. Inability to process textual images for similarity checks.

Role of university grant commission (UGC)

The UGC took great step in 2009. It mandates submission of electronic version of thesis by the researchers in University with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian thesis to the academic community world-wide. Online availability of electronic theses centrally maintained digital repositories not only ensures easy access and archiving of Indian Doctoral theses but will also help in raising the standard and quality of research. As per regulation, the responsibility of hosting, maintaining and making the digital repository of Indian Electronic Thesis called Shodhganga, and Dissertation called Shodhgangotri accessible to all Institutions and Universities E-Shodhshindhu provides access to e-resources to Universities, Colleges and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions in India. It is a good step to improve the quality of research and to avoid any literature theft or to control plagiarism.

According to UGC draft If any research scholar and faculty's research work found plagiarized someone else's work and found guilty then he/she could be debarred from publishing any work, denied annual increments and disqualification from supervising any scholar and research scholar could face cancellation of his/her registration.

Conclusion

Plagiarism is a biggest threat to the education. Today we heard the terms like academic theft, academic misconduct, unethical use in academics, academic dishonesty representing plagiarism because extensive use of information communication and technology. Plagiarism detection software's are supportive but not sufficient. For a successful use of software's, it is very important that all research report should be available in electronic form. This will helpful to the software to access maximum database to provide the plagiarism report. Now UGC has taken efforts that's a soft copy of thesis is to be submitted.

Identification of plagiarism is simple, however to control is greatly challenging. Best way to control plagiarism is making awareness across the academic and scholarly group. All the academic institution takes initiation to prevention rather than punishment.

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