# PLAGIARISM & TURNITIN

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## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism means presenting the work of others as your own work" (University of Liverpool, n.d.). It is a disregard to original authors' academic contribution. Improper use of citation and referencing (Pear and shield, 2013). Academic dishonesty carries penalties.

## Academic Integrity

This aims for an outstanding academic honesty and ethics, trust, respect, honesty, fairness, courage, respect and responsibility. It is an achievement in the course of one's training. It identifies us in our professional life, thus, allowing us to set an example for the next generation of scholars. A key approach to achieving academic integrity is by appropriate citation and referencing.

## Citation and Referencing

It shows how far our own research has gone on a given topic (Day, n.d.). It recognizes the contribution of available scientific knowledge to our work, allows us to effectively articulate concepts, support personal arguments with evidence based scholarly work, and develop the writing skill for credible sources (Columbia College, n.d.)

## Forms of Plagiarism

- The verbatim (word for word) copying of another's work without appropriate and correctly presented acknowledgement and citation of the source; direct plagiarism
- submitting one's own previously submitted or assessed work without permission or acknowledgement (Garba, 2017)
- submitting one's own previously submitted or published work for publication elsewhere without permission or acknowledgement
- the close paraphrasing of another's work by simply changing a few words or altering the order of presentation, without appropriate and correctly presented acknowledgement and citation of the source; Mosaic plagiarism
- failure to reference appropriately
- failure to adequately identify the source of material used

- allowing or contracting another person to do academic work for you
- allowing or contracting another person to edit and substantially change your work
- collusion or collaborating with other(s) to present or publish academic work you did not participate in

## Why do individuals plagiarize?

- Didactic approach to teaching where the teacher is passing knowledge to the studentstudents who are expected to memorize textbooks and lecture note
- students who add originality in their work score less than those who write exactly what they have been given by the lecturer
- andragogical approach where the focus is on the student being prompted to discover the knowledge through theory and practice (Laureate University Online n.d.)
- publish or perish pressure phenomenon (Miller, Taylor & Bedeian, 2011)
- failed educational system where a student is never thought importance of citing and referencing
- cultural – notions of plagiarism are constructed culturally and expectations of scholarship are not made clear (Duff 2006)
- learned plagiarism – method of teaching using, memorization as a means of transferring knowledge from student to teacher as done in the majority of African and Asian countries
- memorization is not necessarily a bad didactic method; in medical studies it comes in very handy, but it may hinder understanding of "textual ownership" (Maxwell, Curtis, Vardanega, 2008).
- the continued advancement in technology and increased reliance on the online arena for course delivery and management amplifies the risk to academic integrity (Azulay Chertok, Barnes, Gilleland, 2014)

## Plagiarism Checkers

- Did I know this information before I started my course?
- did this information/idea come from my own brain'?'
- if the answer is 'no' to either of the questions above, than I would consider it as 'other's thought' and cite properly (Cite them right, n.d.).
- one can regard something as common knowledge if you find the same information undocumented in at least five credible sources but when in doubt, cite. (Karl, Allen and Joshua, n.d.)
- information and technology tools such as Turnitin also contribute in boosting the ability to produce original work rather than only being a tool for plagiarism detection

## Dealing with Plagiarism

- Pear and Shield (2013, p.2) stated, and I agree, that due to lack of knowledge, many authors usually cite and reference wrongly and they are said to be plagiarizing.
- The lack of education in academic integrity has led to high rate of academic misconduct in India with plagiarism being observed in as high as 53% (Dhingra, & Mishra, 2014), therefore, there should be
- A policy or plan to deal with plagiarism.
- Standard to teach residents and trainers principles of academic integrity.
- A consistent recommendation in the literature is for institutions to provide clear education and communication regarding expectations of academic integrity for students (Azulay Chertok, Barnes, Gilleland, 2014).
- Residents should sign academic honesty documents at admission into residency training.
- Considering cultural inclinations, there is need to instill the idea of intellectual property in Africa institutions as obtains in Western Universities, from Europe to the Americas, more needs to be done
- Penalties – should be clearly defined a priori and communicated to both residents (at inception of training) and faculty/HODs/training institutions
- Define role of supervisors, HODs, and faculty in training of students/residents
- Turnitin

## Turnitin

Turnitin anti plagiarism software is widely used in the developed world and provides quality feedback to the students, ultimately improving the citation and referencing skill of the students (Turnitin 2014). Awareness and use is low in Nigeria (Garba, 2017).Turnitin as a plagiarism detection method will serve as a quality check and gauge the authenticity of the work produced in reference to other writings or published work.

Turnitin is accurate in detecting plagiarized content in a paper with an accuracy of 93.5% on average (Kasen, 2021), uses a matching algorithm to identify strings of words within submissions that match those within its repository. Interpreting the similarity report is critical! .Colour code- Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Red

High similarity score does not tantamount to plagiarism. The score should be reviewed with reference to acceptable forms of similarity, like quotations, citations, and bibliographic material. Human judgment is necessary to determine if an instance of plagiarism has occurred.

Uses institutions' acceptable thresholds. Overall similarity index - This shows the total amount of matched text as a proportion of the submitted work. This 'at a glance' guide should not be used as a measure of plagiarism. Even a 1% score could potentially be plagiarized. Single source similarity index

## Similarity Score Panel

The "match overview" - reveals the overall similarity score and a list of sources that match the submission. The colours in this list match the colours highlighted in the write-up.

Access to all sources -every source that matches the text in the submitted work is available for review

Filters/settings - usually controlled by assessors, use filters and settings to exclude citations, quotes, or references, titles/headings, previous submissions.

## Interpreting Similarity Score (SS)

The need for improvement in attitude and practice of contraception is without question great. Family planning was defined by the [2]WHO in 1971 as a way of thinking and living that is adopted voluntarily, [3]upon the basis of knowledge, attitude and responsible decisions by individuals and couples [4]in order to promote the health and welfare of the family group and thus contribute effectively to the social development of a country.[2] [5]Termination of pregnancies following induced abortions

**9%**

< >

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **sport5.co.uk** <br> Internet Source | 3% | > |
| 2 | **www.ibreathefootball.c...** <br> Internet Source | 2% | > |
| 3 | **Submitted to Manchest...** <br> Student Paper | 1% | > |
| 4 | **sportsvibe.co.uk** <br> Internet Source | 1% | > |
| 5 | **www.threelionsnews.c** | | |

9

**Match Breakdown**
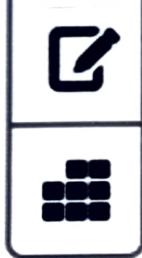
**1**  www.reading.ac.uk **14%**
Internet Source

Match 1 of 1

- www.reading.ac.uk **14%**
  Internet Source - 10 urls

- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  14%
- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  14%
- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  13%
- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  13%
- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  13%
- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  8%
- ready-to-study/study/open-...  8%
- ready-to-study/study/open-...  8%
- ready-to-study/visiting-and-...  8%

20

Report shows a 14% match to a single online source.
Viewing the match breakdown of this source and the original text will show how it has been used within the assignment. This will help determine if this source has been used appropriately.

Larger scores may indicate over reliance on a single source even if this is referenced correctly. University of Reading (n.d)

**Very high match to a single score**

# 100%

| < | Match 1 of 1 | > |

**1** **Submitted to University...** **100%** >
Student Paper

**100**

Report shows a 100% match in a single assignment

Check if it is a previous submission by same student

If this is not a match to the student's own work submitted prior, then explore the original source for probable plagiarism.  University of Reading (n.d)

**Limitations of Turnitin**

▸ Turnitin cannot match to text books, unless they are publicly available in digital format on the internet.

▸ Turnitin cannot match to translated materials from one language to English

▸ Turnitin cannot detect, display or process hidden content, linked documents or documents that contain multiple files such as PDF portfolios

### Turnitin – NPMCN Experience
- Introduced in 2018 November examinations
- Dissertation only.
- Overall similarity index of 30%
- Single source score of 10%
- Gaps in implementation observed at all levels

### Turnitin – NPMCN Experience: Challenges
- Awareness – average among examiners, low among residents
- Knowledge – poor among both examiners and residents
- Extent of use in detecting plagiarism - significantly low among both examiners and residents
- Access – minimal to supervisors, assessors
- Limited resources - late payment of annual subscription, inability to register all fellows

### Turnitin- NPMCN Experience:        Recommendations
- Unlimited license of the software is necessary
- Plagiarism checkers – supervisors at proposal, dissertation, casebook drafts
- Universal access – integrated in the portal so assessors/examiners can review SS; availability and use of plagiarism checkers in training institutions
- Extend to proposals and casebooks
- College/Faculty/Training Institutions Workshops – on academic integrity and turnitin for both examiners and residents
- Clear guidelines on communicating/review of flagged SSs

### Conclusion
Purdue OWL (2013) statement

"there are a few intellectual offenses more serious than plagiarism in academic and professional contexts", and "it is subject to sanctions like penalties, suspension, and even expulsion".

ALL HANDS MUST BE ON DECK TO REDUCE PLAGIARISM TO VERY MINIMAL LEVELS GLOBALLY!

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