

PLAGIARISM AND ETHICS IN RESEARCH

SANYA JAIN

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt, Haryana
E-mail id- sanyajain1995@gmail.com

RENU

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt, Haryana
E-mail id- renu13renu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Plagiarism is an illegal copying of data from someone's inventive work without even citing his name and his work. It leads to duplicity of information among your work and is not considered to be novel. People should follow research ethics while performing their assigned tasks to avoid the data falsity. One should not deceive the work of others as it can be caught by using various tools and techniques. Due to the wide usage of researches, there has been immense data available on the internet. People use their guile to transform the information and represent it as their own. These issues can be resolved by using the various methods of plagiarism detection that can help to identify the fraudulent data. This can be done even in schools, universities, institutes and colleges so that the students can learn at initial stages and become good researchers. There are various software that help to detect the duplicity to a large extent and prevent them to indulge in illegal presentation of work. We aim to discuss the various software that is used to find out the duplicate work that has been presented by the researcher as his own work. The various ethical codes of conduct which should be used while performing the assigned work of research are also explained.

Key Words: Plagiarism, Plagiarism Detection, Research, Research Ethics, Software, Duplicity

Review of Literature

Prabhas Ranjan (2013) described the conduct to be maintained by the researchers while preparing their work with great knowledge and ideas. The way people should follow various ethics in research is also stated. The languages that must be used and how the help is provided to the researchers who use second language English. The extrinsic and intrinsic analysis of plagiarism is also stated.

Asim M. El Tahir Ali, Hussam M. Dahwa Abdulla, Vaclav Snasel (2011) explained the need of plagiarism detection in the research work and the various method used by the researchers to detect the duplicity of data. There are various online services that assist to find out the work that has been copied from others papers. The textual, online, source code plagiarisms are revealed by the commercial and free software. Two documents can be compared simultaneously for many types of languages.

B.P. Singh (2016) stated many categories and causes of plagiarism in research papers like improper knowledge and guidance given to the students. The use of different software by the universities for studying the plagiarism in the work is also presented. The Government of India has taken various initiatives to prevent the errors through anti plagiarism software.

Connie Strittmatter and Virginia K. Bratton (2014) discussed how the librarians play an important role in maintaining the ethics in research work. The way they instruct the students and explain them the various codes of conduct for preparing the papers is well explained. There are various tests that present the views of the respondents. It has considered that library instructions are very effective for making plagiarism ethics a great importance for the students.

Samuel Bruton and Dan Childers (2016) presents the data on the respondents' attitude towards the use of plagiarism detection software Turnitin and their experience on using it. The students must be aware of the use of Turnitin and should discuss it frequently to be aware of the consequences if dealt with this illicit act. The study reveals the usage of Turnitin on regular basis and the non usage of it.

Introduction

According to Hexman, "Plagiarism is the deliberate attempt to deceive the reader through the appropriation and representation as one's own, the work and word of others." So, plagiarism occurs when there is repetition of more than four successive words without citations and quotations and representing the work as your own. Plagiarism is derived from the latin word 'Plagiarius' meaning 'kidnapper' or 'abductor'. Plagiarism where there is copy of ideas, data, and when paraphrasing is not correct also the citations are not given or given incorrect. This hampers the integrity of the work and against the moral values and ethics of research.

Today plenty of data, resources are available on the internet which makes the task of students easier to copy and cheat the topic without giving quotations. Therefore to overcome with this situation, to make the work ethically correct or to check the authenticity of the work, plagiarism detection software's are developed and used to detect the plagiarism but these software's have some limitations. With the advent of technology many detection software's are developed and used for detecting plagiarism but 100% plagiarism can't be detected. But still the plagiarism detection software plays a pivotal role, to protect the intellectual property rights, or copyrights from violation. (Ali et.al 2011)

Importance of Plagiarism Detection

Plagiarism is the illegal copying of data from others' source and making it your own. In academics, this is a major issue as the students copy the assignments from each other and that is how plagiarism comes into existence. The plagiarism detected manually in the assignments is only 3 percent and when detected by the software Turnitin.com is only 13 percent. (Jocoy et.al 2006) So the online software is helpful in ascertaining the cheated tasks. It helps to detect the data that is deliberately copied from the ideas and original work of others. There is a need of plagiarism checker software in all the fields of academics and research work.

The students must be taught about how to prepare the information themselves and be practical in framing their work. They should have the practical knowledge about their subject matter and must use their innovations and ideas while expressing their point of views. So the students would be able to determine their problems and find out the solutions to them if they are taught corrective ways of writing assignments at the initial stage. This will help them in the long run and will prove to become good academicians.

Once the researchers are caught by the plagiarism detection, they would get to know the way they should express their views. The work of the researchers should be unique and innovative.

Methods of Plagiarism Detection

- 1) Manual Detection- When the plagiarism is detected manually by the teachers for checking the duplicity of information. When some assignments are given to the students, they copy it from various available sources like internet, books and even from others assignments. But this task is cumbersome for the teachers as it consumes a lot of time and energy.
- 2) Automatic Detection- When the plagiarism is detected with the help of computer software like Turnitin, PlagAware, Urkund, Thepensters etc. which are more accurate as compared to manual detection. (Ali et.al 2011)

Turnitin- The American software that is used by most of the researchers to check their work for the ascertainment of copied and duplicate data. This is widely used for educational purposes and supports large documents. This software helps to detect the maximum percentage of duplicity of work presented by the researcher.

iThenticate- INFLIBNET has provided two main plagiarism detection software under the Shodhganga project that are Turnitin and iThenticate. iThenticate is also a well known software for the detection of plagiarism.

Types of Plagiarism

- 1) Direct Plagiarism- When a researcher counterfeits the exact data or information from some other sources and do not mention the citation of the original work, this results in direct plagiarism. Such works are considered to be unethical and illegal in research area. This is an illegitimate activity and is further punishable for whosoever involves into it.
- 2) Self Plagiarism- This is the practice of using one's own work that has been prepared previously, without the permission of the teachers. If a student uses the assignment of his previous class in the various other classes, he is deliberately being caught in self plagiarism. The students must take permission from their teachers to cite

their previous assignments in their present area of work. Moreover the researchers should use citations of their previous data to be quoted in the present papers.

- 3) Mosaic Plagiarism- When a researcher uses the information or facts and figures of some others' work without using the quotation marks or by changing the words of their work, they are indulging in a punishable activity. In academics, this is considered as illicit if your work is not quoted or cited by the source of the work. Thus, this dishonest act should not be performed intentionally as it would lead to severe consequences. One should acknowledge the root of their research.
- 4) Accidental Plagiarism- When a researcher uses some quotes or information from some other work and does not cite their sources or uses the technique of paraphrasing unintentionally. So, they must work as per the norms and guidelines and must not forget to be careful while copying the work of others.
- 5) Paraphrasing- When a researcher reads someone's paper and does some minor changes in his work by altering the words or the sequence of words but the basic idea remains the same. Researchers do not change the main concept of the paper but just modify the presentation of their work.

Research Ethics

Ethics are the code of conduct or principles which may govern the behavior of person. It suggest us what to do or what not to do or what morally is right in the same way there are some ethics in research, which govern our behavior or work as a guiding principle while doing research activities. Societies have their legal rules which govern the behavior of the people of society but ethical norms are broader and more informal then the laws.

Research Ethics helps in making the researcher creative and innovative with which they constantly make their deliberate efforts to pioneer their work.

In the present era, Ethics of Research are omnipresent. (Harris et.al, 2007)

Research Ethics become prudent because researchers are now recognized as professionals. (Graham, 2004)

Following are the points which are elucidated below; highlight the principles of research ethics. They act as guidelines for the researchers.

- 1) Honesty- We all are familiar with the proverb, 'Honesty is the best policy'. Honesty is considered as the most important aspect in research. Honesty means being trustworthy, fair, integrity, and truthfulness with paucity of lying, cheating, and theft. Researcher must follow the principle of honesty while doing their work. They must report their data, methods and results honestly.
- 2) Objectivity- Objectivity means there should be lack of biasness or prejudice, while undergoing a research work. Researcher should not contaminate the reality while doing research. The facts and data collected or presented must be valid and reliable. Self deception should be avoided.
- 3) Integrity- Integrity means doing things in right and reliable manner, having some moral principles. It includes the attributes of responsibility, truthfulness, accountability, loyalty etc. Therefore researcher should follow the ethics of integrity being sincere towards the work and must strive that their action and thought should be in consistently. Researcher will always be accountable for the work.

(Resnik, 2011)

Respect for Intellectual Property

Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind, inventions, literary and artistic works and symbols, names and images used in commerce. Intellectual property rights protect your work against copying or misuse. It means other cannot use your data in their paper. These rights are governed by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) created in 1967 focused on the protection of IPR in world. Researcher should be creative enough not to use the unpublished data or the duplicate data without seeking permission. If using the ideas of others, there should be proper citations quoted in the work of the researchers. So it would lead to non-plagiarism.

Legality- Researcher must be familiar with the laws made by the regulations body, and their approval is necessary before preceding any research. Researchers must follow the rules and regulations stated by the standards.

Plagiarism and the Indian Context

In India there are 677 universities and 35289 colleges providing higher education, this makes India third world's largest country in higher education system (Singh 2017). Plagiarism is considered as the offence in academics. When the words, data, text are copied from the research papers, books, project reports, etc without citations and if cited but copy and paste work is there this may turn into plagiarism (Singh 2017). Plagiarism is considered as the malpractices in the academics, copying the work, text, thesis, data, will hamper the initiative and also lacks in creativity. One should focus on their ideas instead of copying others, with the copy of data only the number of pages will increase which in quantity not in quality. There is lack in creativity and innovativeness in the work presented. To keep a check on this or to check the authenticity of the work INFLIBNET centre has taken a step forward, to prevent the plagiarism in Indian Universities. Anti-plagiarism software “iThenticate” and “turnitin” has been provided by INFLIBNET centre in April 2014, to 110 universities for one year, under Shodhganga project free of cost. There are numerous software's available to universities for automatic plagiarism detection (Kale 2016). 135 Indian universities in 2015, are provided “URKUND” which is an anti plagiarism software. This software is provided to only those universities who are eligible in getting UGC grants and which are covered under section 12B affiliated to UGC. Study is also conducted on the use of anti plagiarism software where 110 Indian universities were selected. JNU has taken an important step to make faculty and students aware about plagiarism. They adopted a tracking system of plagiarism detection for PhD thesis and M.phil dissertations. Since 2012 they are using “Turnitin” (Babber et.al).

Conclusion

Students, researchers, faculty etc. should have to present their work in creative and innovative manner despite of copying it or paraphrasing in not correct manner without giving proper citation or quotations. Work of research done by them should be ethically and morally correct to keep a check. Major contribution is given by IFLIBNET centre to prevent plagiarism in Indian universities, they had developed anti plagiarism software and with the advent of technology many softwares are developed and are developing to stop the practice of plagiarism. The researchers must be aware of the various types of plagiarisms that he can indulge in. The two important softwares for the detection of plagiarism are Turnitin and iThenticate. Every person must respect the thoughts and ideas of others and should not present them as their own ideas. There are various institutions and universities which use the anti plagiarism techniques to avoid the duplicity of work even for the students as well as the researchers. In research one must present their work with authenticity and must follow the norms and ethics.

References

1. Singh, B. (2017). Preventing the plagiarism in digital age with special reference to Indian Universities. *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*, 6(4), 281-287.
2. Ranjan, P. (2013). *Plagiarism and Research Ethics in the Age of ICT: Some Policy Concerns*. *Educational Technology in Teaching and Learning: Prospects and Challenges*, 30.
3. Ali, A. M. E. T., Abdulla, H. M. D., & Snasel, V. (2011). Overview and Comparison of Plagiarism Detection Tools. In *DATESO* (pp. 161-172).
4. Scanlon, P. M., & Neumann, D. R. (2002). Internet plagiarism among college students. *Journal of College Student Development*, 43(3), 374-385.
5. Bratton, V. K., & Strittmatter, C. (2014). Plagiarism awareness among students: assessing integration of ethics theory into library instruction. *College & Research Libraries*, 75(5), 736-752.
6. Bruton, S., & Childers, D. (2016). The ethics and politics of policing plagiarism: a qualitative study of faculty views on student plagiarism and Turnitin®. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 41(2), 316-330.
7. Elliott, T. L., Marquis, L. M., & Neal, C. S. (2013). Business ethics perspectives: Faculty plagiarism and fraud. *Journal of business ethics*, 112(1), 91-99.
8. Valentine, K. (2006). Plagiarism as literacy practice: Recognizing and rethinking ethical binaries. *College Composition and Communication*, 89-109.
9. Blum, S. D. (2009). Academic integrity and student plagiarism: A question of education, not ethics. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 55(24), A35.

10. Potthast, M., Stein, B., Barrón-Cedeño, A., & Rosso, P. (2010, August). An evaluation framework for plagiarism detection. In Proceedings of the 23rd international conference on computational linguistics: Posters (pp. 997-1005). Association for Computational Linguistics.
11. Kale, S. T. (2016). Plagiarism detection of doctoral theses: Current Indian practices and functionalities. In 19th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, Lille, France. Retrieved from <https://etd2016.sciencesconf.org/93431>.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331062965_Overview_of_Plagiarism_Checkers_and_Plagiarism_Detection_Tools_A_Study