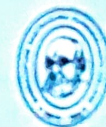


RESEARCH ETHICS AND LIBRARY

Edited by **Joydip Chandra**



BARRACKPORE RASTRAGURU SURENDRANATH COLLEGE

West Bengal

Research Ethics and Library



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Edited by

Dr. Joydip Chandra

Librarian

Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College



Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College

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An Overview of Plagiarism and Role of Libraries & LIS Professionals to Overcome the Issue

Rumpa Pal*

***Abstract :** In general word, plagiarism means stealing one's creative property. This paper discusses on overview of plagiarism in first portion. Types of plagiarism and causes of plagiarism are described here briefly. In this paper, guideline for avoiding plagiarism and some anti-plagiarism software/ tools are discussed. Role of LIS professionals for preventing plagiarism become a necessary topic of discussion in recent time. So the main focus of this article on role of LIS professionals for preventing plagiarism.*

***Keywords:** Plagiarism, Plagiarism Detection Software/ Tools, Research Scholars Academic Integrity, Role of LIS Professionals.*

Introduction

Plagiarism is a form of cheating that has been defined as false authorship. any type of plagiarism in creative expression (literature, music, paintings, etc.) a big challenge to almost all academicians due to easy availability of resources. The easy availability of electronic information through internet creates another challenge for librarians.

Rapid growth of plagiarism if occurred due to lack of awareness about it. And so Librarian must be well informed to detect plagiarism and to educate their users about ill effect of plagiarism.

Objectives of the Study

- To study overview of plagiarism including types of plagiarism and causes of plagiarism
- To study best ways to avoid plagiarism and reduce the percentage of plagiarism
- To study some plagiarism detection tools and software
- To study the role of library and LIS professionals to overcome issues and challenges of plagiarism

* Librarian, Vidyannagar College, West Bengal,
E-mail : pal.rumpa@gmail.com

Review of Related Literature

Dutta (2018) examined the features of two different plagiarism detection tools- Turnitin and Urkund. This paper found that similarity detection percentage varied in two different tools.

Mishra and Gautam (2017) studied on issue and challenges of plagiarism in digital environment. This paper discussed the possible way to avoid plagiarism and compared the characteristics features of plagiarism detection software.

Tripathi (2016) investigated on awareness of research scholars about plagiarism and attitude towards plagiarism. this study also tries to found out the ways and means of helping research scholars of selected eighteen universities in Chennai to avoiding plagiarism.

Meaning & Definition of Plagiarism

The word 'plagiarism' derived from the Latin word *plagiarius*, which means kidnapping.

Plagiarism is defined as "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work". Plagiarism means using another's work without giving credit.

"Work" includes the words and ideas of others, as well as art, graphics, computer programs, music, and other creative expression. The work may consist of writing, charts, data, graphs, pictures, diagrams, websites, movies, TV broadcasts, or other communication media.

Types of Plagiarism

Under two circumstances plagiarism is occurred –

- Intentional and
- Accidental/ Unintentional

Intentional Plagiarism: Intentional plagiarism occurs by copying other's work, copying from online sources, purchasing papers, etc. but not citing the sources deliberately. Including by copying other's work, by downloading from website, by buying, by copying-paste and publish without permission or acknowledgement.

Accidental/Unintentional Plagiarism: Unintentional plagiarism occurs by not giving references of sources in proper way without any intention of

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plagiarism. Including Authorship Plagiarism, Direct and Complete Plagiarism, Patchwork/Mosaic Plagiarism, Paraphrasing Plagiarism, Self-Plagiarism etc.

Authorship Plagiarism: Authorship Plagiarism occurs by using the whole literary creation of another author without crediting him. New author just changes the name of the main author but all the other literary work remains same.

Direct and Complete Plagiarism: Direct and Complete Plagiarism occurs by copying a portion of someone else's work without proper citation, reference, without quotation marks.

Patchwork/ Mosaic Plagiarism: Here author collects ideas from different literary resources and joins them together without citation and references.

Paraphrasing Plagiarism: It occurs by summarizing the actual author's expression with synonyms but maintaining the original meaning without using proper citation and references.

Self-Plagiarism: An author uses most portion of his own previous publications, mixed their and create new literary work without proper references.

Causes of Plagiarism

Plagiarism has become a main problem in all educational institutes and research centers. Plagiarism is increasing rapidly. There are many reasons for plagiarism. People in general plagiarize others work because

- Lack of awareness about the word plagiarism and its consequences
- Ignorance: because they don't know that plagiarism is wrong.
- Lack of knowledge about the topic of research
- Lack of relevant policies and their implementations
- Lack of awareness how to avoid plagiarism
- Lack of knowledge about citation and reference style
- Lack of knowledge about how to use quotation
- Lack of ability to express own thoughts
- Lack of guidance from the very beginning stage

Rumpa Pal

- Lack of knowledge about effective paraphrasing
- Lack of knowledge about different languages
- Laziness
- Poor study habits
- Easily availability of reading material on the internet/ electronic resources
- Poor time management and planning skills
- Pressures to publish (for career advancement)
- Competition (parental/ colleague pressures)
- Fear of failure
- Lack of enforcement
- Desire for getting recognition
- Confusion about terminology
- Cut and Paste culture
- To influence others etc.

Guidelines for Avoiding Plagiarism

To avoid plagiarism authors always mind that never pass off the work of others as your own. The best way to reduce percentage of plagiarism are following:

- Using own words and ideas
- Giving credit for copied, adapted or paraphrased material (use quotation marks and cite)
- Avoiding changing and rearranging the words of published work of any author
- Good writing skill
- Good knowledge of using research methodology
- Proper referencing of self-plagiarism words/ text which is already published anywhere
- Avoiding to outsourcing of academic and research work

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- Don't use word/ text from any social media website without verify its origin
- To put the copied word/ text in quotation marks
- For extensive quotation, obtain permission from the publisher of the original work
- Using plagiarism detection software (free or paid)
- Giving actual references
- Describing all source of information
- Giving acknowledgements
- Providing footnotes

Academic Integrity Issue

Plagiarism is an academic integrity issue, a great concern and is considered an academic crime. Consequences can lead to:

- Discontinuation of studies
- Withdraw of certificates awarded
- Conviction
- Surcharging
- Demotion or loss of job

Plagiarism Detection Software/ Tools

Present time, many open source and proprietary software are available to fight against plagiarism. Plagiarism detection software provide a plagiarism detection service in detecting similar or matching text between documents and respective source.

Some available Plagiarism Detection Software are:

- *iThenticate* is the premier tool for researchers and professional writers to check their original works for potential plagiarism. With an easy to use submission process that checks for similarity against the world's top published works, researchers and institutions can feel confident that their academic reputation will be protected.

• *Turnitin* is an American commercial, Internet-based plagiarism detection service which is a subsidiary of Advance. It checks submitted documents against its database and the content of other websites with the aim of identifying plagiarism. Results can identify similarities with existing sources, and can also be used in formative assessment to help students learn to avoid plagiarism and improve their writing.

• *Urkund* is an easy to use, efficient and reliable plagiarism checker. Many university are using this software for detection of plagiarism.

Beside these some other software are given below:

- Dupli Checker
- Copyleaks
- PaperRater
- Plagiarisma
- Plagiarism Checker
- Plagium
- PlagScan
- PlagTracker
- Quetext
- Viper

The MHRD, Govt of India has initiated a programme “Shodh Suddhi” which provides access to Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) to all universities/ Institutions in India since Sept 1, 2019.

Factors for Selecting Plagiarism Detection Tools

Many plagiarism detection tools/ software are available. To choose which one is suitable, the following criteria may be helpful.

- Languages support
- Documents format support
- Database type and coverage

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- Customization option
- Cost effectiveness

Role of Library and LIS Professionals

Many tools and software are available in market and all are good. But machine works to some extent, every plagiarism detecting software have some limitations. Beyond these limitation, some touch of mankind is necessary to prevent plagiarism. And for this gap, LIS (Library and Information Science) professionals can provide their services to help researchers.

On the other hand, detecting of plagiarism in a research paper or publication is not only role of LIS professionals, but also inform the ways to the researchers to avoid plagiarism in early stage of research.

In the present situation i.e. rapid growing of plagiarism, role of library professionals are essential to prevent plagiarism. Libraries are knowledge center, but easy availability of electronic resources has ignited plagiarism. LIS professionals have a major role to conserve and preserve the intellectual assets with sincere efforts and continuous awareness.

- Raising awareness of plagiarism
- By helping to examine their existing or future assignments
- By helping to researcher to develop higher level of thinking and evaluation skill
- Librarians and instructor should collaborate to develop discipline-specific plagiarism instruction to make academic integrity more meaningful
- Libraries should make it easy for users to locate information
- A separate committee may be setup for checking plagiarism

In the academic world, LIS professionals can only guide to their user regarding the actual process of giving references, process of uses of footnotes, etc. LIS professionals should aware that plagiarism is not occurred on only written publication but also audio and visual creations also.

LIS professionals should take initiatives for users or research scholars to develop self-discipline to stop plagiarism. Initiative of today can bring light in future.

Conclusion

At present there are no guaranteed tools available to detect plagiarism but sincere efforts are being made from LIS professionals. Librarians should come forward to stop plagiarism. They must inform to research scholars to cite properly the sources with due acknowledgement to the original author. LIS professionals should conduct workshop and training programs for users and faculty to create awareness about plagiarism. Almost all disease have some medicine, but all time it is true that 'prevention is better than cure'. So LIS professionals should prevent plagiarism in early stage of research by raising awareness about plagiarism and to give knowledge about its bad effect towards researcher himself/ herself and towards future research scholars.

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