RESEARCH PLAGIARISM AND ITS CONTROL IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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ABSTRACT

Plagiarism has become more common in our research work. Most of the neo- researchers are not aware about the issues on Plagiarism. Plagiarism can range from simple dishonesty (minor copy paste / any discrepancy) to a more serious problem (duplication of manuscript). Sometimes it is seen that the ideas those are innovative are not original and those seems original are not ours. Mainly the authors do cut- copy- paste from the original source without giving adequate credit to the main source. It is an emerging area of interest to all the researchers to know how to avoid plagiarism in this digital age. It's time to every young researcher to know ethical guidelines while writing any research paper for publications. By using one's own ideas, we can write the paper completely without looking at the original source. Specific words from the source can be added by using quotations and citing them, which can help in not only supporting the works and amplifying ideas, but also avoids plagiarism. Thus, this paper analyzed the ways to avoid plagiarism in research papers. It is compulsory to all authors, reviewers and editors of all journals and books to know about the research plagiarism and how to avoid it by following ethical guidelines and use of plagiarism detection software, like Ubunto. This plagiarism checker services is a great way to assess the paraphrasing and other anti-plagiarism skills. The researcher must not take the chance of not checking their research paper. Plagiarism could mean the loss of the academic degree or career. This paper addresses all of the above issues comprehensively.

KEYWORDS: Plagiarism, Digital Age, Ethical Guidelines, Neo-Researchers

INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism is the "wrongful appropriation" and "stealing and publication" of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions" and the representation of them as one's own original work. The idea remains problematic with unclear definitions and unclear rules. Thus, in the broad sense, plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as our own with or without their consent, by incorporating it into our work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition. Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a serious ethical offence. It is subject to sanctions like penalties, suspension, and even expulsion. Plagiarism is not in itself a crime, but can constitute copyright infringement. Plagiarism and copyright infringement overlap to a considerable extent, but they are not equivalent concepts, and many types of plagiarism do not constitute copyright infringement, which is defined by copyright law and may be adjudicated by courts. Plagiarism is not defined or punished by law, but rather by institutions (including professional associations, educational institutions etc.).

In a clear distinction, it can be said copyright infringement is a violation of the rights of a right holder, when material whose use is restricted by copyright is used without consent. Plagiarism, in contrast, is concerned with the unearned increment to the plagiarizing author's reputation, or the obtaining of academic credit, that is achieved through false claims of authorship. Thus, plagiarism is considered a moral offense against the plagiarist's audience (for example, a reader, listener, or teacher).

Plagiarism in some contexts is considered theft or stealing, the concept does not exist in a legal sense, and although the use of someone else works in order to gain academic credit may meet some legal definitions of fraud. "Plagiarism" specifically is not mentioned in any current statute, either criminal or civil. Some cases may be treated as unfair competition or a violation of the doctrine of moral rights. Thus, in short, people are asked to use the guideline, "if you did not write it yourself, you must give credit".

The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe only in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic Movement. In the 1st century, the use of the Latin word plagiarius (literally "kidnapper") to denote stealing someone else's work was pioneered by the Roman poet Martial, who complained that another poet had "kidnapped his verses". Plagiary, a derivative of plagiarus, was introduced into English in 1601 by dramatist Ben Jonson to describe someone guilty of literary theft. Plagiarism was introduced into English around 1620. The Latin plagiarius, "Kidnapper", and plagium, "kidnapping", have the root plaga ("snare", "net"), based on the Indo-European root "plak", "to weave".

No universally adopted definition of "Academic Plagiarism" exists, however, some definitions are there to exemplify the most common characteristics of academic plagiarism. According to BelaGipp academic plagiarism encompasses- "The use of ideas, concepts, words, or structures without appropriately acknowledging the source to benefit in a setting where originality is expected."

Furthermore, plagiarism is defined differently among institutions of higher learning and universities:

Stand ford sees plagiarism as the "use without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other form.

Princeton perceives plagiarism as the "deliberate" use of "someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source."

DIFFERENT FORMS OF PLAGIARISM ARE

- **Verbatim (Word for Word) Quotation without Clear Acknowledgement:** Quotations must always be identified as such by the use of either quotation marks and with full referencing of the sources cited. It must always be apparent to the reader, which parts are the own independent work and where one have drawn on someone else's ideas and language.

- **Cutting and Pasting from the Internet without Clear Acknowledgement:** Information derived from the internet must be adequately referenced and included in the bibliography. It is important to evaluate carefully all material found on the internet, as it is less likely to have been through the same process of scholarly peer review

as published sources.

- **Paraphrasing:** Paraphrasing the work of others by altering a few words and changing their order, or by closely following the structure of their argument, is plagiarism if one do not give due acknowledgement to the author whose work one is using. A passing reference to the original author in one's own text may not be enough, one must ensure that one do not create the misleading impression that the paraphrased wording or the sequence of ideas are entirely one's own. It is better to write a brief summary of the author's overall argument in one's own words, indicating that one is doing so, than to paraphrase particular sections of his or her writing. This will ensure one have a genuine grasp of the argument and will avoid the difficulty of paraphrasing without plagiarizing. One must also properly attribute all material what he or she derive from lectures.

- **Collusion:** This can involve unauthorized collaboration between students, failure to attribute assistance received, or failure to follow precisely regulations on group work projects. It is one's responsibility to ensure that he or she is entirely clear about the extent of collaboration permitted, and which parts of the work must be his or her own.

- **Inaccurate Citation:** It is important to cite correctly, according to the conventions of your discipline. As well as listing the sources (i.e. in a bibliography), one must indicate, using a footnote or an in-text reference, where a quoted passage comes from. Additionally, one should not include anything in one's references or bibliography that one has not actually consulted. If one cannot gain access to a primary source, one must make it clear in one's citation that his or her knowledge of the work has been derived from a secondary text (for example, Bradshaw, D. Title of Book, discussed in Wilson, E., Title of Book (London, 2004), p.189).

- **Failures to Acknowledge Assistance:** One must clearly acknowledge all assistance which has contributed to the production of own work, such as advice from fellow students, laboratory technicians, and other external sources. This need not apply to the assistance provided by tutor or supervisor or to ordinary proofreading, but it is necessary to acknowledge other guidance which leads to substantive changes of content approach.

- **Use of Material Written by Professional Agencies or Other Persons:** One should neither make use of professional agencies in the production of one's work nor submit material which has been written for his or her even with the consent of the person who has written it. It is vital to one's intellectual training and development that one should undertake the research process unaided. Under Statute XI ON University Discipline, all members of the University are prohibited from providing material that could be submitted in an examination by students at this University or elsewhere.

- **Auto Plagiarism:** One must not submit work for assessment that one have already submitted (partially or in full), either for his or her current course or for another qualification of this, or any other, university, unless this is specifically provided for in the special regulations for his or her course. Where earlier work by his or her is citable, i.e. it has already been published, one must reference it clearly.

Plagiarism has become more common in our "Research Work". Most of the neo- researchers are not aware about the issues on Plagiarism. As a neo-researcher we have to learn to know and speak by our own mind, not merely to reproduce the opinions of others-at least not without attribution. We should know how to avoid plagiarism by following ethical guidelines and use of plagiarism detection software.

RATIONAL OF THE STUDY

In this digital era every young researcher must know the ethical guidelines while writing any research paper for publications. By using one's own ideas, we can write the paper completely without looking at the original source. Specific words from the source can be added by using quotations and citing them which can help in not only supporting the works and amplifying ideas but also avoids plagiarism. Now days it is very easy to get all the information by accessing internet. Mainly the authors do cut-copy- paste from the original source without giving credit to the main source. It is an emerging area of interest to all the young researchers to know how to avoid plagiarism in this digital age. So the present study is mainly focusing on the ways to avoid plagiarism in the research papers. It is compulsory to all authors, reviewers and editors of all journals and books to know about the research plagiarism and how to avoid it by following ethical guidelines and use of plagiarism detection software. This plagiarism checker services is a great way to access the paraphrasing and other anti-plagiarism skills.

Statement of the Problem

The present study tries to analyze the ways to avoid plagiarism in research papers, and how to avoid it by following ethical guidelines and use of plagiarism detection software. Keeping in mind of all these questions the research problem selected by the researcher is stated as **"Research Plagiarism and its control in the Digital Age".**

Operational Definitions

- **Plagiarism:** In the present study the plagiarism is commonly defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own, i.e. using other work in own research work without proper citation.

- **Digital Age;** The term digital age in the present study means information age. This means the time period with the introduction of the personal computer with subsequent technology introduced and providing the ability to transfer information freely and quickly.

- **Ethical Guidelines:** In the present study ethical guidelines means the guidelines in accordance with principles of conduct that are considered correct for writing research paper and publication.

- **Neo-Researcher:** In the present study the term neo-researcher means the new or young researcher in the field of research study.

Objective of the Study

To analyze the ways to avoid plagiarism in research papers.

- **Sources of Data:** Data has been collected from the secondary sources i.e. researcher collect the data from secondary sources like related books, internet sources etc.

Interpretation

Authors, researchers and publishers all have ethical obligations with regard to the publication of the result of research. Authors have a duty to make publicly available the results of their research on human subjects and are accountable for the completeness and accuracy of their reports. They should adhere to accepted guidelines for ethical

reporting. Negative and inconclusive as well as positive results should be published or otherwise made publicly available. Sources of funding, institutional affiliations and conflicts of interest should be declared in the publication. Reports of research not in accordance with the principles of this Declaration should not be accepted for publication- **Helsinki- Ethical principles for medical research**

We can say scientific writing can be a cognitively demanding and arduous process, for it simultaneously demands exceptional degrees of clarity and conciseness, two elements that often clash with each other. In addition accuracy and transparency, fundamental aspects of the scientific enterprise are also critical components of scientific writing. Good scientific writing must be characterized by clear expression, accuracy and perhaps most importantly honesty. Unfortunately, modern scientific research often takes place within all sorts of constraints and competing pressures. As a result, a portion of the scientific literature, whether generated by researcher or professionals, is likely to be deficient in one or more of the above components.

In scientific writing, plagiarism is perhaps the most serious and the most widely recognized ethical lapse. It can occur in many forms and some of the more subtle instances, while arguably unethical in nature, may not rise to the level of research misconduct by federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) or the office of Research Integrity. (ORI). Even the minor plagiarism may still result in serious negative consequences as per institutional policies, those of professional associations or those of the publishers where the plagiarized material appears. It is commonly found that the authors report and discuss the results of their research only in the context of literature that is supportive of their conclusions, but ignore literature that clearly runs contrary to their findings. Researcher must keep in mind about all these very clearly.

A sizable portion of scientific and scholarly research is carried out by individuals working in academic or research institutions where advancement structures continue to rely on the presentation and subsequent publication of research in peer- reviewed journals. Because the number and the quality of publications continue to be the most important criteria for gaining tenure and or promotion, the more publications authored by a researcher, the better his or her chances of earning a promotion of tenure. There is tremendous amount of pressure for the researchers to generate as many publications as possible. Unfortunately, some of the most serious negative consequences of the present system aside from fabrication, falsification and outright plagiarism, are the problems of duplicate publication and of other forms of redundancy. In the researches, duplicate publication generally refers to the practice of submitting a paper with identical or near identical content to more than one journal, without alerting the editors or readers to the existence of its earlier published version. The new publication may be exactly the same or differ only slightly from the original by, for example changes to the title, abstract, and /or order of the authors. Papers representing instances of duplicate publication is also considered fraud and carries far more serious consequences than plagiarizing part of a paper.

A general principle underlying ethical writing is the notion that the written work of an author be it a manuscript for a magazine or scientific journal, a research paper submitted for a course, or a grant proposal submitted to a funding agency, represents an implicit contract between the author of that work and his/her readers. Accordingly, the reader assumes that the author is the sole originator of the written work and that any material, text, data or ideas borrowed from others is clearly identified as such by established scholarly conventions, such as footnotes, block- indented text and quotations marks. The reader also assumes that all information conveyed therein is accurately represented to the best of the

author's abilities. In sum, as Kolin (2015) points out, " Ethical writing is clear accurate, fair, and honest"(p.29) and its promotion conveys to readers a commitment to ethical practice in other aspects of the author's work.

Some of the Guidelines to Avoid Plagiarism are as Follows

- An ethical writer always acknowledges the contributions of others to his/her work.

- Any verbatim text taken from another source must be enclosed in quotation marks and be accompanied by a citation to indicate its origin.

- When we summarize others' work, we use our own words to condense and convey others' contributions in a shorter version of the original.

- When paraphrasing others' work, not only must we use our own words, but we must also use our own syntactical structure.

- Whether we are paraphrasing or summarizing we must always identify the source of our information.

- When paraphrasing and/or summarizing others' work we must ensure that we are reproducing the exact meaning of the other author's ideas or facts and that we are doing so using our own words and sentence structure.

- In order to be able to make the types of substantial modifications to the original text that result in a proper paraphrase, one must have a thorough command of the language and a good understanding of the ideas and terminology being used.

- When in doubt as to whether a concept or fact is common knowledge, provide a citation

- Authors who submit a manuscript for publication containing data, reviews, conclusions etc, that have already been disseminated in some significant manner must clearly indicate to editors and readers the nature of the previous dissemination.

- Authors of complex studies should need the advice previously put forth by Angell and Relman (1989). If the results of a single complex study are presented as a 'cohesive' single whole, they should not be partitioned into individual papers. Furthermore, if there is any doubt as to whether a paper submitted for publication represents fragmented data; authors should enclose other paper under consideration (Kassirer and Angell, 1995). Similarly old data that has been merely augmented with additional data points and that is subsequently presented as a new study is an equally serious ethical breach.

- Because some instances of plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and even some writing practices that might otherwise be acceptable can constitute copyright infringement, authors are strongly encouraged to become familiar with basic elements of copyright law.

- Where there are some situations where text recycling is an acceptable practice, it may not be so in other situations. Authors are urged to adhere to the spirit of ethical writing and avoid reusing their own previously published text unless it is done in a manner consistent with standard scholarly conventions (e.g. by using of quotations and proper paraphrasing)

- The references used in a paper should only be those that are directly related to its contents. The intentional inclusion of references of questionable relevance for purposes of manipulating a journal's or a paper's impact factor or a paper's chances of acceptance is an unacceptable practice.

- Authors should follow a simple rule. Strive to obtain the actual published paper. When the published paper cannot be obtained, cite the specific version of the material being used whether it is conference presentation, abstract, or an unpublished manuscript.

- Generally, when describing others' work, do not rely on a secondary summary of that work. It is a descriptive practice, reflects poor scholarly standards, and can lead to a flawed description of the work described. Always we have to consult primary literature.

- Authors have an ethical obligation to report all aspects of the study that may impact the independent replicability of their research.

- Researchers have an ethical responsibility to report the results of their studies according to their prior plans. Any post hoc manipulations that may alter the result initially obtained, such as the elimination of outliers or the use of alternative statistical techniques must be clearly described along with an acceptable rationale for using such techniques.

- Authorship determination should be discussed prior to commencing a research collaboration and should be based on established guidelines, such as those of the Intentional Committee of Medical Journal Editors

Apart from the above guidelines now a days even we are using webmaster for checking plagiarism such as Writecheck.com is there which is a great way to assess our paraphrasing and other anti- plagiarism skills. This site is generated towards university or college students who want to turn a paper in to ensure that it is accurate and well-cited as well as being free from plagiarism. Upon submission, the writing is checked for similarities and phrases and quotes that are not cited against 250 million student papers, 110,000 published works and the World Wide Web. This is one of the most comprehensive plagiarism checkers available online. Another site is Copyscape.com. In this site simply we cut and paste our URL into the given search box and the tool searches around online to see if there are copies of the content on the net. The advantages of this are that we can get an accurate picture of any of our content that is being copied and the magnitude of that being copied. When we plugged in the URL of the content from the site, we received a list of 10 sites that apparently have similar content. The content listed includes exact matches, content that is similar to the copy, partial copies and content that has been modified from our original form. Some other sites that are available to check plagiarism are Plagscan.com, Turnitin.com, Plagium.com, Scanmyessay.com, Plagiarism-detect.com, Dustball.com, and Plagiarism.net.

However plagiarism is not always the willful or intentional misappropriation of ideas, thoughts and language. The best way to avoid the consequences of "accidental" plagiarism is to learn good research techniques. We commit certain "accidental" plagiarism due to some reason like-

- By falling or forgetting to include one source or multiple sources in the bibliography or reference list.

- By failing or forgetting to enclose a direct quote taken from another writer within quotation marks.

- By failing or forgetting to provide the reference for each summary or paraphrase or another writer.

- So we must know how we can avoid this "accidental" plagiarism-

- We must learn how to properly integrate quotes and references into our own writing.

- We must learn how to paraphrase and summarize properly, then remember to attribute each paraphrase or summary to its original source.

- We must take good notes when conducting research. Use symbols or different colors of highlighters to distinguish our words and ideas from those belonging to other writers.

- We must use electronic sources carefully. It is best to print out or copy the entire document into a separate file instead of copying small sections directly into the draft we are writing

- We must keep a meticulous working bibliography of all the books, journals, electronic full-text documents, and web sites we use.

- We must proof read our paper carefully for research mistakes.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, from the above discussions as a neo- researcher first it may seem very difficult to develop our own views, and we will probably find ourselves paraphrasing the writings of others as we attempt to understand and assimilate their arguments. However, slowly it is important that we learn to develop our own voice. We are not necessarily expected to become an original thinker, but we must be an independent one- by learning to assess critically the work of others, weigh up differing arguments and draw our own conclusions. We should avoid plagiarism because we aspire to produce work of the highest quality. Once we have grasped the principles of source use and citation, we should find it relatively straightforward to steer clear of plagiarism. Moreover, we will get the additional benefits of improvements to both the lucidity and quality of our writing. It is important to appreciate that mastery of the techniques of academic writing is not merely a practical skill, but one that lends both credibility and authority to our work, and demonstrates our commitment to the principle of intellectual honesty in scholarship.

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