

## **Dealing with Plagiarism in Scholarly Communication**

**Bijayananda Pradhan**

Central University of Orissa  
Koraput – 764 021  
e-mail: ncsipradhan@gmail.com

**Abhimanyu Pradhan**

Central University of Orissa  
Koraput – 764 021

***Abstract** - Plagiarism has become a serious issue in the academic and research world. Plagiarism is an unethical academic work where one author represents some others work or ideas as its own. It is increasing rapidly due to pressure in getting popularity/recognition, getting promotion and the internet acts as a catalyst for the same. The availability of materials in the internet gives an opportunity for copy and pastes someone's work and ultimately this deliberate inclination towards copy paste culture resulted in plagiarism. The attempt should be made at an early stage in the academic and research setup, so that the plagiarism issue may be avoided through good ethical practice and by the use of technology. In this paper an attempt has been made to discuss about the plagiarism, its causes, tools for detection and efforts to combat it.*

**Key Words:** Plagiarism, Anti-plagiarism, Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri, Plagiarism detection tools, Academic Misconduct.

### **Introduction**

India's higher education system is the world's third largest in terms of students, next to china and the United States. Universities and constituent college are the main institutes of higher education in India. At present there are 46 central universities, 356 state universities, 261 private universities and 122 deemed universities. Higher education is of vital importance for the country, as it is a powerful tool to build knowledge-based society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The higher education system in India has grown in a remarkable way, particularly in the post-independence period, to become one of the largest systems of its kind in the world. However, the system has many issues of concern at present, like financing and management including access, equity and relevance, reorientation of programs by laying emphasis on health consciousness, values and ethics and quality of higher education together with the assessment of institutions and their accreditation. In one hand the institutes of higher learning is increasing day by day, whereas the quality of the institutions are decreasing. Moreover there is also added pressure in ranking of the institutions by the government of India. This ranking of institutions and the race for publishing more number of articles in less time resulted in doing some unethical practice by the academicians as well as by the researchers. The unethical practice of publishing is sometimes called as academic misconduct. Plagiarism is a serious problem now everywhere and now all are finding the ways to detect it to maintain intellectual integrity. It is violation of one's original work and it violets the fair use of work in academic environment and it's taken as a morally wrong practice. Rapid development in data harvesting, internet and WWW gave a big push to do plagiarism. Web technologies indirectly enable not declaring sources and using cut and paste or drag and drop technology to steal work or words of someone else without any permission or any credit to author for same. So

literary theft has gained acceleration in research areas across the world and hence it has become inevitable to stop this malpractice. Academic institutions should be concerned about this serious problem and creates a guideline to combat with the plagiarism.

### **What is plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct when someone duplicates words or ideas of another writer and claims for his own work. Taking the words or ideas of another person and using them without proper acknowledgement is a commonly accepted definition of plagiarism.

Oxford Dictionary defined plagiarism as “The practice of taking someone’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own”. The word plagiarism originated from the ‘plagium’ a Latin word which means “kidnapping”. The word plagiarist used under various contexts for murdered, plundered, seducer and literary thief as well.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines word plagiarize as “to use another person’s ideas or work and pretend that it is your own”. Merriam-Webster dictionary define the word plagiarism as “the act of using another person’s words or ideas without giving credit or acknowledgement to that person”.

### **Causes Of Plagiarism**

There are various causes of plagiarism. Some of the important causes are:

- Lack of knowledge about subject – The author may not have clear cut knowledge of the subject in which he is perusing research.
- Poor research skills – if the writer has not adequate research skill so it causes plagiarism.
- Lack of command over language – Poor command over English language causes plagiarism.
- Lack of understanding about plagiarism – Not sufficient knowledge and understanding about plagiarism.
- Not aware about the consequence of plagiarism.
- Lack of moral responsibility.
- Desire to get recognition at the earliest: People plagiarized to get instant or immediate recognition in the community. In the desire do so, they get trapped to plagiarism.

### **Types Of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism can broadly be divided into four types:

- Complete Plagiarism: When someone copied a whole work from another author.
- Copy and Paste: The information which are available on internet in form of electronic journals. The writer may use it in his work.
- Word Switch: If you change few words from a sentence or paragraph and use it in your work it treated as plagiarism.
- Self-plagiarism: If someone reuses its own previous work in a new assignment and do not reference it appropriately.

## **Plagiarism Detection Methods**

Anti-plagiarism means a process of find and locating the instances of plagiarism with a work or document. There are two methods of detecting plagiarism. One is manual method and another is using Anti-plagiarism software. The manual method involves substantial effort, vast reading of materials and excellent memory. Apart from this it also consumes precious time. Only the subject expert will do the job easily. Even then, when it requires too many documents to be traced and compared, it will become practically impossible. In the present scenario, where there is huge amount of information is publishing in a day, it is next to impossible to detect it by manual method.

In contrary to detect the plagiarism there is another method by using anti-plagiarism software. It is more efficient, faster and easier to detect plagiarism. The thesis or dissertation (Word, PDF or an HTML form) which has to be checked for plagiarism is uploaded into the software. First, the document is scanned, and then it matches the same with the databases which contains thesis/dissertation, also it cross-checks with proceedings of conference/seminar, research papers/reports, e-books, e-journals, institutional repositories and other web resources, which are already available on the internet. There are different types of software available to detect plagiarism.

## **Commercial / Open Source Software**

To check or detect the plagiarism there are a number of anti plagiarism software available in the market, both commercial as well as open source. Some of them are given below:

- Turnitin, California - Commercial
- iThenticate, California - Commercial
- WriteCheck, California – Open Source
- Viper, England – Open source
- PlagAware, Germany - Commercial
- PlagScan, Germany - Commercial
- Urkund, Sweden - Commercial
- Docoloc, Germany - Commercial
- Plagiarism Checker X, New York – Open Source
- Plag Tracker - Commercial

## **How to Avoid Plagiarism**

- When we use someone's ideas, quotes, paraphrases etc., then it should be duly acknowledged to the original authors.
- The fact that other sources support your ideas should be highlighted.
- Citations make the ideas stronger and more valid.
- A good paraphrasing makes the ideas of original source fit smoothly into your paper, thus emphasizing more relevant points and leaving out unwanted information.

## **Usefulness of Citations**

A "citation" is nothing but a way to tell your readers that certain material in your work came from another source. It also gives your readers the information necessary to find that source which should includes:

- information about the author
- the title of the work
- the name and location of the company that published your copy of the source
- the date your copy was published
- the page numbers of the material you are borrowing

Giving credit to the original author by citing sources is the only way to use other people's work without plagiarizing. But there are a number of other reasons to cite sources:

- It helps others to find original resources in turn helps in finding more information on the topic.
- To verify contents and quotations.
- It shows the amount of research work the writer has done.
- It supports the writer's arguments.
- It strengthens the research work.

### **When to Cite?**

Whenever you make use of words or ideas, you need to acknowledge their source. The following situations almost always require citation:

- whenever you use quotes of someone.
- whenever you paraphrase.
- whenever you use an idea that someone else has already expressed
- whenever you make specific reference to the work of another
- whenever someone else's work has been critical in developing your own ideas.

### **Citation Styles**

There are different ways to give citations and some standard citation styles are followed to cite articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings and other materials which are consulted for the references. In humanities, generally Chicago Style Sheet or MLA (Modern Language Association) citation style is generally followed. In science and engineering discipline, ACS (American Chemical Society), IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), NLM (National Library of Medicine), Vancouver Style (Biological Sciences). In social sciences, AAA (American Anthropological Association), APA (American Psychological Association), APSA (American Political Science Association) are used.

### **Bibliography**

A bibliography is a list of all of the sources that someone used (whether referenced or not) in the process of writing any research work. In general, a bibliography should include:

- the authors' names
- the titles of the works
- the names and locations of the companies that published your copies of the sources
- the dates your copies were published
- the page numbers of your sources (if they are part of multi-source volumes)

An annotated bibliography is the same as a bibliography with one important difference: in an annotated bibliography, the bibliographic information is followed by a brief description of the content, quality, and usefulness of the source. A bibliography is different from a "works

cited" or "references" in a way that the works cited or references list is only comprised of references to those items actually cited in the paper.

### **Footnotes**

Footnotes are notes placed at the bottom of a page. They cite references or comment on a designated part of the text above it. For example, say you want to add an interesting comment to a sentence you have written, but the comment is not directly related to the argument of your paragraph. In this case, you could add the symbol for a footnote. Then, at the bottom of the page you could reprint the symbol and insert your comment. Whenever possible, put the footnote at the end of a sentence, immediately following the period or whatever punctuation mark completes that sentence. Skip two spaces after the footnote before you begin the next sentence.

The difference between footnote and endnote is the "placement" -- footnotes appear at the bottom of the relevant page, while endnotes all appear at the end of your document. If you want your reader to read your notes right away, footnotes are more likely to get your reader's attention. Endnotes, on the other hand, are less intrusive and will not interrupt the flow of your paper.

### **UGC's Initiatives For Plagiarism**

In order to minimize the plagiarism and duplicity of research work the UGC has created two remarkable platforms to combat this serious issue. These two initiatives are "ShodhGanga" and "ShodhGangotri". Apart from this the UGC has conduct different seminars, workshops time to time to aware about the evils of the plagiarism.

#### **Shodhganga: A Reservoir of Indian Theses**

The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET Centre provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. Since the awarded PhD thesis is available online, one can check how much work has been done by the earlier researcher and the scope for further pursuing of research can be drawn.

#### **Shodhgangotri: Repository of Indian Research in Progress**

Under the initiative called "ShodhGangotri", research scholars / research supervisors in universities are requested to deposit electronic version of approved synopsis submitted by research scholars to the universities for registering themselves for the Ph.D programme. As the synopsis is available to anyone, the duplicity of the works may be avoided at an early stage.

#### **Anti-Plagiarism Software: URKUND**

University Grants Commission has directed to all the states, central Universities and academic institutions to check the research work through the anti-plagiarism software "URKUND" before awarding M.Phil and Ph. D. The particular initiative was undertaken by UGC to stop plagiarism in research sector is admirable.

## **About Urkund**

URKUND is a plagiarism detection tool. At present Urkund is provided to all the Universities of India who are members of INFLIBNET. It can be accessed to all the faculty members, research scholars and students of the University. The thesis, dissertation, and research papers can be checked by the faculty and research scholars. It supports all file formats like .Doc, .Docx, .Swx, .Ppt, .Pptx, .Pdf., .Txt, .Rtf, .Html, .Htm, .Wps, and .Odt etc.

## **Process of Checking Through Urkund**

- Step 1: Prepare your document in one of the above file format with your name and department e.g. Raghav\_Soc.pdf, Ritesh\_Anthro.docx, Rekha\_JMC.ppt etc.
- Step 2: E-mail your document in attachment to analysis address.
- (Note: URKUND will not accept emails without an attachment. Nothing that is pasted into or written directly in the body of the e-mail will be analyzed. It is advised to write only “Plagiarism Check” in the subject area and name, department and faculty in the body area of the e-mail.)
- Step 3: When you have successfully submitted your document, you will receive a confirmation email in return.
- Note: If this is your first time submission of a document through URKUND, you might want to CLICK on the link to register your name and adjust your language setting.
- Step 4: Reports will be sent to you by email as soon as possible, otherwise you can send request on library’s email address after 2 days.
- Step 5: Click to the link given to open the analysis and then click on “export” button to get the analysis report in .pdf file format.

## **Conclusion**

Plagiarism is considered as an unethical academic work and it must be eradicated from the academic society. In order to combat plagiarism a systematic approach should be taken by the academic community in India. Initiatives should be taken to educate the students and academic community to aware about the plagiarism and its consequences. For that we have to make course starting from elementary level when a researcher begins his research work. Every institutes and universities should make an awareness programs regarding plagiarism and its consequences to its students and researchers. The unethical practice of scholarly publishing must be eradicated and efforts should be initiated to instill self belief and realization amongst the scholars from the grass root level to avoid plagiarism issues in the future. Internet should not be taken as boon for plagiarism rather it helps to detect plagiarism.

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