Understanding Plagiarism

in the Academic World

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Academic Writing & Plagiarism

- Academic writing refers to a particular style of expression that researchers use to define the intellectual boundaries of their disciplines and their areas of expertise.

- Characteristics of academic writing include a formal tone.

- Use of the third-person rather than first-person perspective.

- Evidence-Based Arguments.

- It is essential to always acknowledge the source of any ideas, research findings, data, or quoted text that a researcher has used in his/her writing as a defense against allegations of plagiarism.
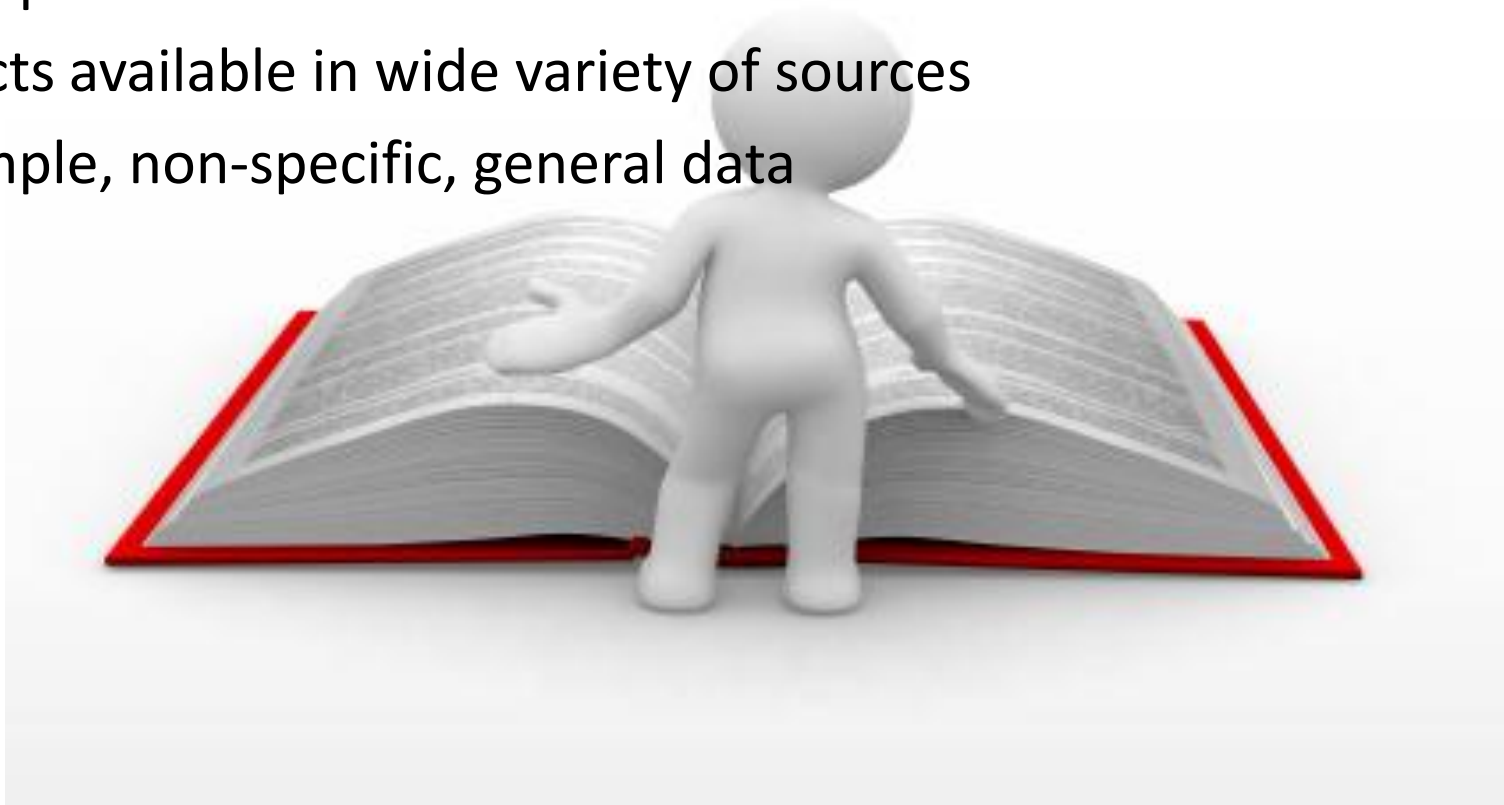
Source: http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/academicwriting

Plagiarism: meaning

- *The Cambridge English Dictionary* (2017) defines plagiarism as "to use another person's ideas or work and pretend that it is your own"
- *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (2017) defines to "plagiarize" with the description in the definition below:
  - To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source
  - To commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source
- Plagiarism can apply to anything, from term papers to photographs to songs, even ideas.

What is not Plagiarism?

- Common knowledge
- Simple facts
- Facts available in wide variety of sources
- Simple, non-specific, general data

Types of Plagiarism

Sort by: Most Common	Sort by: Most Serious
➢Paraphrasing	➢Complete
➢Repetitive Research	➢Verbatim
➢Secondary Source	➢Unethical Collaboration
➢Duplication	➢Misleading Attribution
➢Verbatim	➢Replication
➢Unethical Collaboration	➢Repetitive Research
➢Misleading Attribution	➢Paraphrasing
➢Invalid Source	➢Duplication
➢Replication	➢Invalid Source
➢Complete	➢Secondary Source

Complete Plagiarism
aka
Intellectual theft, Stealing

Complete plagiarism is an extreme scenario when a researcher takes a study, a manuscript or other work from another researcher and simply resubmits it under his/her name.

How to avoid it-

Never sign your name to someone else's work. Conduct original research and write papers in your own words.

Verbatim Plagiarism
aka
Copy-and-paste, Intellectual theft

Verbatim plagiarism is the copying of another's words and works without providing proper attribution, indentation or quotation marks. It can take two forms. First, no attribution at all is provided, essentially claiming the words of someone else to be their own. In second, plagiarists may cite the source they borrowed from, but not indicate that it's a direct quote.

How to avoid it-

If you have used someone else words or works cite them. If the source is used as it is use quotation mark along with the citation.

Unethical Collaboration
aka
Cheating, Stealing, Ghostwriting

Unethical Collaboration happens when a researcher does not cite the collaborative nature of the study and participants involved in documenting the work, outcomes and ideas that are the result of a collaboration.

How to avoid it-

Always cite collaborators' contributions using proper citation. Avoid copying words, works and figures or ideas from collaborators without their permission.

Misleading Attribution
aka
Inaccurate authorship

Misleading Attribution is an inaccurate or insufficient list of authors who contributed to a manuscript. It occurs when authors are denied credit for partial or significant contributions made to a study, or the opposite – when authors are cited in a paper although no contributions were made.

How to avoid it-

Do not remove co-authors who have contributed to the study or do not insert others as co-authors who do not at all contributed to the study.

Replication
aka
Author submission violation, Copyright infringement

Replication is the submission of a paper to multiple publications, resulting in the same manuscript being published more than one.

How to avoid it-

Ideally, manuscripts should only be submitted to one publication at a time. If sent accidently to multiple publications please try to cancel the submission before it get publish more than one location.

Repetitive Research Plagiarism
aka
Intellectual theft, Copyright infringement

Repetitive Research Plagiarism is duplication or repeating of data or text from a similar study with a similar methodology in a new study without proper attribution.

How to avoid it-

When using someone else's methodology, and in a situation when the similar study can not be started differently, citing those sources can prevent the foul play.

Paraphrasing
aka
Intellectual theft

Paraphrasing is taking someone else's writing and change the words and use in own work. It ranges from simple rephrasing to completely rewriting content while maintaining the original idea or concept.

How to avoid it-

Paraphrasing can be done with due citation to the authors.

Duplication
aka
Self-plagiarism, Reuse

Duplication occurs when a researcher reuses work from previous studies and does not give attribution.

How to avoid it-

When using data and text from own previous published work, take care to cite those works.

Invalid Source
aka
False citation

Invalid Source occurs when a researcher cites either an incorrect or non-existent source.

How to avoid it-

When working for a paper or thesis or dissertation (any academic writing), keep track of the sources and double check their accuracy before submission. Never fabricate or falsify a source.

Secondary Source
aka
Inaccurate Citation

Secondary Source Plagiarism occurs when a researcher uses a secondary source, but only cites the primary sources contained within the secondary one.

How to avoid it-

When pulling information from a secondary source, cite that source as well as any primary ones.

What percentage of plagiarism is generally treated as acceptable in the Academic world?

The question is usually asked by many researchers and guides who have received originality reports from any plagiarism testing software, and the short answer is zero per-cent.

What percentage of plagiarism is generally treated as acceptable in India, that criteria has been defined by UGC through a ***Gazette Notification dated July 31, 2018***. It says Level 0 (means plagiarism up to 10%) is acceptable for submission of Thesis and Dissertation and also other academic and research publications.

In case of other publishing houses or agencies the criteria depends upon on their own policy.

Penalties in case of plagiarism in submission of thesis and dissertations

❑ **Level 0: Similarities upto 10% -** Minor Similarities, no penalty.

❑ **Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40% -** Such student shall be asked to submit a revised script within a stipulated time period not exceeding 6 months.

❑ **Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60% -** Such student shall be debarred from submitting a revised script for a period of one year.

❑ **Level 3: Similarities above 60% -** Such student registration for that programme shall be cancelled.

Penalties in case of plagiarism in academic and research publications

❑ **Level 0: Similarities up to 10%** - Minor similarities, no penalty.

❑ **Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40%** - Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript.

❑ **Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60%** - Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript. Shall be denied a right to one annual increment.Shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any new Master's, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of two years.

❑ **Level 3: Similarities above 60%** - Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript. Shall be denied a right to two successive annual increments. Shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any new Master's, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of three years.

Anti-plagiarism Tools

Fee based	- URKUND (www.urkund.com) - Turnitin (www.turnitin.com) - iThenticate (www.ithenticate.com)
Free	- DupliChecker (www.duplichecker.com): 50 Plagiarism Scans Per Day For Registered Users - PlagiarismChecker (www.plagiarismchecker.com/): Click on the "For authors" option to check unlimited Scans. - Quetext (www.quetext.com)
Both (Fee+Free)	PlagTracker (www.plagtracker.com)

Few notable points regarding Anti-Plagiarism Tools

- Anti-Plagiarism Software detects plagiarism for only those resources which are in the web.

- Anti-Plagiarism software not only provides access to crawled and indexed online content, it can compare texts of gated resources too. The software may also compare submissions to a database as well as submitted paper contents.

- Anti-Plagiarism software are not easy to deceive.

- The combination of technology (Anti-Plagiarism Tools) and human analysis yields the most thorough plagiarism assessment.

Source: http://www.ithenticate.com/resources/papers/plagiarism-detection-software-misconceptions

Avoiding Allegations of Plagiarism

- Simply be honest.

- Give credit where it's due.

- Style Guide or Manual of Style-
  APA, MLA, Chicago, Harvard Style,
  Vancouver Style etc.

MLA
Modern
Language
Association

AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Thank You