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Plagiarism and Application of Plagiarism Prevention Tool: An Overview

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Abstract: In this study an attempt has been made to understand and summarize the current state of understandings of plagiarism and functions of plagiarism prevention tools. In this view publications related to plagiarism were analyzed to know the opinions and views of library professionals and others experts who are expertise in the same field. Opinions of such authorities are the primary information for the study and they were categorized as the following concepts such as definition, causes and impact of plagiarism. Besides explaining these concepts repercussions for plagiarism and misconception about Turnitin were also explained.

Keywords: Plagiarism, Plagiarism prevention software and Academic Integrity

Introduction

Though the ethics and honesty are the two significant concerns of the academic activities like teaching and research many academicians accidentally or purposely present other's work as their own in research materials. This deed will distort reputation of the institute as well as the individual. Hence, many Institutions and Universities started implementing plagiarism check for the research materials produced at their premises. Thus study was undertaken to assess the understandings those who involved in applying plagiarism prevention tools. Researcher hopes that the study will provide clear insights in to the functions of plagiarism prevention tools to the research community to make the optimum use of the software.

Definition of plagiarism

An act of appropriation or copying someone else's written, artistic or other creative work as your own, either in part or in whole, without specifying the source or authorship of the original is plagiarism (**Masic Izet, 2014**). It is a literary term for stealing, copying others' works (**Cromwell, 2000**). Stealing ideas and texts are the two distinct forms of Plagiarism. (**Farrokh Habibzadeh & Shashok, 2011**). Plagiarism of words is easier to detect and prove than plagiarism of ideas (**F. Habibzadeh & Winker, 2009**) In recent years, it is interpreted as a violation of copyright and by far a grim form of delinquency in academics (**Harkanwal Preet Singh & Namrata Guram, 2014**). Generally, plagiarism is when someone uses someone else's ideas, statements, linguistic style and does not recognize the intellectual authors (**Masic Izet, 2014**). Plagiarism is immoral act in academic research (**Syed**

Shahabahuddin, 2009) and this sort of act may lead to breach of scholarly ethics (**Brian Martin, 1994).**

Causes of plagiarism

Now a days, plagiarism has become the focus of many academic discussion and a hot topic for many researches. Several studies have already been conducted to detect the root cause of occurrence of plagiarism in scholarly materials. Few of such major causes identified in the reviews are represented here. According to **Davis & Ludvigson (1995)** students think there are no technologies to getting caught and no punishment for the plagiarism hence lack of deterrence was considered to be the root cause of plagiarism**. Odiléa Rocha Erkaya (2009)** and **Park (2006)** identified in their study that students were neither taught what plagiarism meant nor how to develop and structure a research paper. **Sentleng and King (2012)** students plagiarize unintentionally because of unfamiliarity with proper ways of quoting, paraphrasing, citing and referencing. Desire of getting grade among students tends them to make plagiarism **(D. straw, 2002).** Scholars plagiarize constantly due to pressure of upgrading himself by writing articles, presenting papers to maintain the societal status gained through the job. So the factors like fear of failure and pressure to publish were a major reason among the research scholars to commit plagiarism in scholarly work **(Prabhu Shankar, M. & Ramasesh, C. P. 2014).** At the same time lack of facilities in private institutions in respect of research work was the major factor for researcher to involve in plagiarism **(Singh, H. P. & Guram, N., 2014)**

Perceptions on application of plagiarism prevention tools

In academic enterprises like university, school and institution plagiarism detection and prevention became one of the educational challenges **(Ahmed, Rana Khudhair Abbas 2015)** and is a serious problem identified amongst research community. The use of Internet and easy access to material in electronic format has made it easier to plagiarize materials of others. On the other hand plagiarism detection is now easy using either freely or commercially available anti-plagiarism software, which can be used for plagiarism detection **(Tripathi, Tiwari, & Nithyanandam, 2015).** Scholarly materials must be checked against anti-plagiarism tools which helps to avoid the duplications of wok and encourages the self-writing or rewrite the texts with own ideas and improve existing research **(Jayashree Jagadish & Venkatesha, 2016).** Detection of plagiarism can be either manual or automatic **(Ali, Asim M. El Tahir, Abdulla, Hussam M. Dahwa & Snasel, Vaclev, 2011).** Manual

method requires human effort and skill which is not effective for a large number of documents and consumes much time. But in case of software, scanning will be an automated process. Manually detection will be a very labour intensive process and may be impossible to conduct within time and personnel resource constraints. The advent of plagiarism detection technology was of great benefit for institutions to effectively utilize the technologies **(Beasley James Douglas, 2004).** Implementation of plagiarism identifying software like Turnitin and iThenticate **(V Brown, N Robin, R Jordan, 2008)** reduces unoriginal writing in classes **(Kiriakidis, Peter P., 2013)** and works as a formative tool to assist students to develop their writing, citation and referencing skills **(S. F., Cox, 2012)**, to identify the theft of scholarly works Urkund is also one of the good tools among the software **(Sabiha Bhoomigowda, 2016).** But these tools are not capable of identify the texts copied from printed sources

Impact of plagiarism

Whether the incidence of plagiarism intentional or unintentional it is considered as a crime against academy **(Bouville, 2008)**. The consequences of plagiarism for students will be devastating, since their failure to learn and use appropriate study skills will affect both their University experience and their subsequent career **(Dawson & Overfield, 2006)** Consequences/punishments depends on the extent of the plagiarism **(Roma Goswami, Pooja Arora, Kanika Agarwal & Raman Shrimant, 2015)**. A student may receive a reduced grade on an assignment, fail the assignment, fail the course, and be placed on academic probation or be suspended from the College. Serious sanctions, including public disclosure, loss of research funding, loss of professional stature and termination of employment may result in legal action.

Repercussions of plagiarism

The consequences of plagiarism can be personal, professional, ethical, and legal and it destroys the reputation of individual as well as associated institution. The possible repercussions for the plagiarists are as follows (http://www.ithenticate.com/resources/6-consequences-of-plagiarism, 2018)

1. **Destroys Professional Reputation:** Plagiarism damages a professional business person, politician, or public figure they may likely be fired or asked to step down from their present position. Once the name is ruined it is difficult to obtain another respectable job.

2. **Destroys Academic Reputation:** Publishing is an integral part of a prestigious academic career. Once scarred with plagiarism allegations, an academic's career can be ruined and resulted to lose the ability to publish most likely means the end of an academic position.

3. **Legal Repercussions**: Writers should be well-aware of copyright laws and ways to avoid plagiarism. One cannot use another person's material without citation and reference as legal repercussions of plagiarism can be quite serious and possibly lead to a prison sentence.

4. **Monetary Repercussions:** When author sues a plagiarist the author may be granted monetary restitution. So, journalists, authors, public figures and researchers need to be careful while publishing their work author may be granted monetary restitution.

5. **Retractions of papers:** In the case of suspected plagiarism, the author will be asked for an explanation. If the editor receives unsatisfied explanation and cases of alleged plagiarism are often complex and paper is as determined by an appropriate body with jurisdiction, a notice of retraction will be published along with a notice on the article itself on the journal's Web site.

Misconceptions about plagiarism avoidance tools

There are many misconceptions about the plagiarism avoidance which needs be addressed to the faculty, instructor, students and research scholars who are all using it. (https://www.turnitin.com/blog/top-15-misconceptions-about-turnitin)

The major misconceptions are as follows

1. **Detection of plagiarism:** No software detects plagiarism automatically but matches to text in its databases and leaves the judgment up to the instructor. So these software cannot be called as plagiarism detection software.

2. **The "Similarity Index" shows the percentage of paper that is plagiarized**

   Similarity index is not a percentage of plagiarised content it is a similarity of words, phrases, sentences matched in its database. Texts properly cited and quoted will also be included in the similarity index.

3. **Determination of quality based on similarity index.**

   Quality of assignment should not be based on similarity index but instructor has to look in to the work and interpret the quality. There is no "threshold" Similarity Index that is either "good" or "bad"--each Originality Report needs to be examined to understand what a student did and whether or not there is a problem. For example 5%

of similarity doesn't mean the work is good or 40% of similarity is bad, since software scans online content. Texts copied from printed may not include in the similarity index.

4. **Identify the exact source used by student**

There are many matches because of extensive duplications of material on the web. The source named may not be the exact source the student used.

5. **Exclusion of cited materials**

Software doesn't exclude the cited texts but reference/bibliography part can be

Measures to be taken by librarians in curbing plagiarism

It is important for librarians and discipline faculty to discuss plagiarism detection software and more attention needs to be collaboratively placed on developing effective ways to capture student attention about understanding of plagiarism. So, librarians and discipline-based faculty should develop anti-plagiarism based information literacy curricula that provides methods for educating students about how to ethically cite and integrate outside information into their own writing (Lampert, 2004) Librarians must be familiar with standard citation conventions, citation style guides, and might provide access to Web-based citation management software (Dames, K. Matthew, 2007). Harris (2001) mentions that librarians should be capable of serving as plagiarism detectives. Librarians as deterrent to plagiarism should help classroom teachers to improve the quality of their research assignments (Hand, 2006). Lampert (2008) makes the point that if database vendors have developed connections to citation management software and services such as EndNote and RefWorks, it makes sense for librarians to help students with citing since libraries are providing the research resources and technology. Thus Librarians educate all researchers in the effective, efficient, and ethical use of information if they do not receive education on using sources ethically and when they don't know how to research and use reference management software for complete and correct citations

Conclusion

Based on the above literature it is observed that the repercussion of plagiarism is sever and efforts has to be made by teaching and library professions to curb the amount of plagiarism taken place at research works. Inclusion of curricula on plagiarism will be a good move for cringing the plagiarism.

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