

# Plagiarism – An overview

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# What is plagiarism?

- ***Agreed etymology*** from several available online sources: ‘plagiarism’ – Greek and Latin roots (‘plagion’, ‘plagium’ – ‘plagiarius’); poet Martial around the 1<sup>st</sup> century to mean ‘literary kidnapper’
- ***Working definition***: presenting someone else's ideas, words, or other creative forms of expression as one's own (misrepresenting someone else’s work as one’s own)
- Involves a clear violation of scientific ethics;
- may also involve a violation of copyright law (punishable by legal acts).

# Plagiarism includes

- **word for word or verbatim plagiarism, often referred to as 'copy-paste' plagiarism in the common talk;**
- **or intentionally paraphrasing parts of someone else's work without crediting the source;**
- **copying tables, images, figures, equations etc. from another source without giving credit to the source (quoting the source) and/or without permission from the author/copyright holder.**

# Self-plagiarism

- ***Definition:*** Reusing one's own previously written work or data and presenting it as new without informing the reader/publisher (APA 2010, 170).
- It can happen in any of the following ways (Roig 2006, 16):
  - ✓ Republishing the same paper that is published elsewhere without notifying the reader nor publisher of the journal (duplicate publication);
  - ✓ Publishing a significant study as smaller studies to increase the number of publications rather than publishing one large study;
  - ✓ Reusing parts of a previously written (published or unpublished text).

# Examples of plagiarism

- <https://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/plagiarism/>
- <https://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/system/what-is-plagiarism/x>

# Plagiarism and technology (the Internet)

- **Easy access to papers and other resources**
- **More available options for cheating**
- **Changed the way people plagiarize**
- **Contributes to detecting plagiarism**

# Public domain

- Misunderstood
- A very specific meaning – to denote works with no copyright protection
- Most content on the Internet is not public domain
- Even though the content is in the public domain, you still need to quote/cite
- Distinguish between copyright (the right to copy a work) and citation (authorship)
- Creative Commons Licensing  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXe6e-ZHlly>)

# Plagiarism detection

- **manual (usually during the peer review process)**
- **software-assisted (iThenticate, Turnitin, etc.)**
- **comparing new documents with a reference collection**
- **similarity criteria**
- **detection efficiency depends on the scope and size of the reference collection , but also on the language of the paper**
- **unable to detect the plagiarism of ideas**
- **software-assisted screening for plagiarism is just the beginning of an investigation.**

# Academic dishonesty policies

**Consequences in case students are caught plagiarized:**

- **Failed course grade;**
- **Academic dismissal;**
- **Others.**

# What to do against plagiarism

- **Most students get involved in plagiarism unintentionally.**
- **Get them acquainted to a style guide.**
- **Develop an anti-plagiarism culture (increasing awareness of plagiarism).**
- **Guidelines (Fraenkel, Wallen, Huyn 2012, 72):**
  1. **Do not use some else's words without referencing the words the source or citing the info as a direct quotation.**
  2. **Do not use someone else's ideas without citing the sources.**
  3. **Better to over-cite rather than under-cite.**

# Suggested reading

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Thank you very much for your  
attention!