Library Resources
Avoiding Plagiarism

University Libraries
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Objectives

• Plagiarism: What it is and how to avoid it
• A brief review of Turnitin
• Library navigation: How do I find what I need?
• Questions
Plagiarism

- We are influenced by information daily
- Our unique analysis of this information is valued in the academic world
- Outright plagiarism is a barrier to the learning process, as it is a failure to engage your mind
Plagiarism
What is it?

• Plagiarism can be unintentional, it’s not just for the chronic procrastinator
• Incorrectly siting sources, or simply forgetting to site sources are considered forms of plagiarism
• Plagiar – Latin root for?

Plagiary
What does it mean?
to kidnap

• Don’t be found guilty of kidnapping someone’s thoughts!
Plagiarism
It can happen to the best of us…

• Stephen Ambrose - a respected historian and writer - was involved in a plagiarism scandal in 2002 after his book *The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s over Germany* was speculated to have been plagiarized from a 1995 book called *Wings of Morning: The Story of the Last American Bomber Shot Down over Germany in World War II*, by Thomas Childers, a history professor from the University of Pennsylvania.

• Ironically, the University of Oregon copied parts of Stanford University's teaching assistant handbook, including its section on plagiarism, failing to cite, or give credit to Sanford U.
Academic Writing
Avoiding Plagiarism

**Expectation**
- Develop a topic based on what has already been said and written
- Rely on experts' and authorities' opinions
- Give credit to previous researchers

**Contradiction**
- Write something new and original
- Improve upon and/or disagree with those same opinions
- Make your own significant contribution

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Plagiarism
Avoidance Strategies

1. Put in quotations everything that comes directly from the text especially when taking notes.

2. Paraphrase, but be sure you are not just rearranging or replacing a few words. Instead, read over what you want to paraphrase carefully; cover up the text with your hand, close the book or article so that you can’t see any of it (and so aren’t tempted to use the text as a “guide”). Write out the idea in your own words without peeking.

3. Check your paraphrase against the original text to be sure you have not accidentally used the same phrases or words, and that the information is accurate.

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Plagiarism
Avoidance Strategies

Common knowledge: facts that can be found in numerous places and are likely to be known by a lot of people.

- Example: John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States in 1960. This is generally known information or “common knowledge” and therefore, you do not need to document this fact.

Document facts that are not generally known and ideas that interpret facts.

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Plagiarism
Avoidance Strategies

Facts that are not generally known, ideas, and statements that interpret facts

• Example: According to the American Family Leave Coalition’s new book, *Family Issues and Congress*, President Bush’s relationship with Congress has hindered family leave legislation (6).

The idea that “Bush’s relationship with Congress has hindered family leave legislation” is not a fact but an interpretation; so the source must be cited.

• Quotation: using someone’s words.

When you quote, place the passage you are using in quotation marks, and document the source according to a standard documentation style, such as APA.

• Paraphrase: using someone’s ideas, but putting them in your own words.

Although you use your own words to paraphrase, you must still acknowledge the source of the information.

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Turnitin

What is it? How is USD using it?

• Turnitin is a cloud-based service designed to assist students and educators with originality checking, online grading, and in some cases, the peer-review process.
• Turnitin preforms an OriginalityCheck®, which compares the paper's text to:
  • Current and archived internet web pages
  • A student archive of submitted papers
  • Regularly updated professional, academic, and commercial journals and other publications
• Turnitin was integrated with D2L (Desire to Learn) Dropbox folders in 2012
  • Instructors have the ability to allow students to see, or not see Originality Reports
  • Instructors can select which submissions an Originality Report is run for
  • Instructors can also select which, if any, sources a students’ submission is run against

Provided by Turnitin, Features, www.turnitin.com
Citation Help

• The *Publication Manual of the APA*
  Created by the American Psychological Association. The most recent edition of the APA Publication Manual is the 6th Edition

• Purdue Online Writing Lab:
  [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)
Sources


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