Know More About Plagiarism

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Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary (1995) defines plagiarism as the "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." National Science Foundation's Office of Science and Technology defines plagiarism as "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of others' research proposals and manuscripts." Plagiarism is fundamentally an issue relating to intellectual property and that the unique expression of those ideas in written format belongs to and is owned by the person who expressed them. Consequently, it is not acceptable to copy phrases (short groups of words), sentences, paragraphs or whole articles written by another person or group of people. This is the use of literary composition of another author or expert ideas as one's own creation. Plagiarism is theft of another person's writings or ideas. Generally, it occurs when someone steals expressions from another author's composition and makes them appear to be his own work. Plagiarism is not a legal term; however, it is often used in lawsuits.

Plagiarism involves putting one's own name on someone else's work. This is commonly seen in schools when a student submits a paper that someone else has written. Schools, colleges and universities usually have explicit guidelines for reviewing and punishing plagiarism by students and faculty members. In copyright lawsuits, however, allegations of plagiarism are more often based on partial theft. It is not necessary to exactly duplicate another's work in order to infringe a copyright. It is sufficient to take a substantial portion of the copyrighted material. Thus, for example, plagiarism can include copying language or ideas from another novelist, basing a new song in large part on another's musical composition or copying another artist's drawing or photograph.

Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud and offenders are subject to academic censure, up to and including expulsion. In journalism, plagiarism is considered a breach of journalistic ethics and reporters caught plagiarizing typically face disciplinary measures ranging from suspension to termination of employment. Some individuals caught plagiarizing in academic or journalistic contexts claim that they plagiarized unintentionally, by failing to include quotations or give the appropriate citation.

While plagiarism in journalism has a centuries-old history, the development of the Internet, where articles appear as electronic text, has made the physical act of copying the work of others much easier.

Plagiarism in academic world

Many students feel pressured to complete papers well and quickly and with the accessibility of new technology (the Internet). Students can plagiarize by copying and pasting information from other sources. This is often easily detected by teachers for several reasons. i.e., students' choices of sources are frequently unoriginal; instructors may receive the same passage copied from a popular source from several students. Students may choose sources which are inappropriate, inaccurate or off-topic. Lecturers may insist that submitted work is first submitted to an online plagiarism detector. In the academic world, plagiarism by students is a very serious offense that can result in punishments.

Plagiarism in Journalism

Since journalism's main currency is public trust, a reporter's failure to honestly acknowledge their sources undercuts a newspaper or television news show's integrity and undermines its credibility. Journalists accused of plagiarism are often suspended from their reporting tasks while the charges are being investigated by the news organization.

The ease with which electronic text can be reproduced from online sources has tempted a number of reporters into acts of plagiarism. Journalists have been caught "copying-and-pasting" articles and text from a number of websites.

Online plagiarism

Free online tools are becoming available to help identify plagiarism and there is a range of approaches that attempt to limit online copying, such as disabling right clicking and placing warning banners regarding copyrights on web pages. Instances of plagiarism that involve copyright violation may be addressed by the rightful content owners sending a

DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act) removal notice to the offending site-owner or to the ISP (Internet service provider) that is hosting the offending site.

Plagiarism is not only the mere copying of text, but also the presentation of another's ideas as one's own, regardless of the specific words or constructs used to express that idea. In contrast, many so-called plagiarism detection services can only detect blatant word-for-word copies of text.

Self-plagiarism

Self-plagiarism (also known as "recycling fraud") is the reuse of significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing the original work. Articles of this nature are often referred to as duplicate or multiple publications. In addition to the ethical issue, this can be illegal if copyright of the prior work has been transferred to another entity. Typically, self-plagiarism is only considered to be a serious ethical issue in settings where a publication is asserted to consist of new material, such as in academic publishing or educational assignments. It does not apply (except in the legal sense) to public-interest texts, such as social, professional and cultural opinions usually published in newspapers and magazines.

In academic fields, self-plagiarism is when an author reuses portions of their own published and copyrighted work in subsequent publications, but without pointing the previous publication. Identifying self-plagiarism is often difficult because limited reuse of material is both legally accepted (as fair use) and ethically accepted. It is common for university researchers to rephrase and republish their own work, tailoring it for different academic journals and newspaper articles, to disseminate their work to the widest possible interested public. However, it must be borne in mind that these researchers also obey limits. If half an article is the same as a previous one, it will usually be rejected. One of the functions of the process of peer review in academic writing is to prevent this type of "recycling".

Self-plagiarism and codes of ethics

The American Political Science Association (APSA) has published a code of ethics which describes plagiarism as "deliberate appropriation of the works of others represented as one's own." It does not make any reference to self-plagiarism. It does say that when a thesis or dissertation is published "in whole or in part", the author is "not ordinarily under an ethical obligation to acknowledge its origins." The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) has published a code of ethics which says its members are committed to: "Ensure that others receive credit for their work and contributions," but it does not make any reference to self-plagiarism.

Types of plagiarism

1. Buying a paper for a research service or term paper.
2. Turning in another student's work without that student's knowledge.
3. Turning in a paper a peer has written for the student.
4. Copying a paper from a source text without proper acknowledgment.
5. Copying materials from a source text, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks.
6. Paraphrasing materials from a source text without appropriate documentation.

References

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