Plagiarism and Anti-Plagiarism Software

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Abstract:

Plagiarism is a crime in the academic environment. It deceives the original creator or its author. It hurts and gives them no acknowledgement of the work or idea they have presented to society. This article is focused on the plagiarism and anti-plagiarism software or scanners to prevent plagiarism. This article would provide the fundamental view of plagiarism and anti-plagiarism detectors including what is plagiarism, its definitions its scanners available commercially or freely on web.

Key words: Plagiarism, Anti-plagiarism, Plagiarism Scanner, Anti-plagiarism Software, Infringement, Academic Misconduct.

Introduction to Plagiarism

The word plagiarism is of Greek origin '*plagion*' and in Latin it is '*plagiarius*', which means kidnapper. In early 17th century, the term plagiarism was adopted in English, which means "the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own." (Oxford 2013). "To use another person's idea or a part of their work and pretend that it is your own." (Cambridge Dictionary 2013). In other words we can use piracy, theft, stealing, poaching alternatively for plagiarism and this word is also used in other field other than academic

plagiarism.

The online Etymology dictionary describes the origins of the word plagiarism as coming from Latin *plagiarius* meaning "kidnapper, seducer, plunderer" (Harper 2001). It seems like that someone who plagiarizes kidnaps or plunder another's work, words or idea, claiming them as his own.

According to Stanford University plagiarism is defined as

> the use, without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other forms(s). (Stanford University 2013).

The Council of Writing Program Administrators, define plagiarism as,

> "In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source" (Council of Writing Program Administrations 2003).

This definition permits the use of work if the original source is acknowledged in an appropriate manner and limited it to instructional settings only but it is not clear what falls in category of instructional settings.

Hexham writes "Academic plagiarism occurs when a writer repeatedly uses more than four words from a printed source without the use of quotation marks and a precise reference to the original source." (Hexham 1992).

From the above definition it is clear that the plagiarism is simply copying someone else's work and not giving them its credit but rather twist and turn the language to some extent to make it their own work. It is directly related with copyright but plagiarism word is mostly used in academic writings instead of copyright on things or product's logos or something similar. It's the starting of last few decades when this all came in big picture about copyright, intellectual property right (IPR) and

copyright as well. In academic environment the plagiarism and copyrights were used more commonly and the use of technology, its ease in copying and pasting available work, gave a big push to copy other's original work or idea and making small changes and get it use as own work without giving any credit or acknowledgement of its creator or original author. This is actual plagiarism which is very common now.

In academic environment where the goal is to produce new ideas, theories or new invention or putting light on something from a different angle for the sake of knowledge, plagiarism is crime and it is of no use to produce the work in a new set of word as it does not have importance in academics. It's a sort of strange crime when the goal is to create new knowledge.

Self-Plagiarism and Plagiarism of Secondary Sources

The publication of the same or the very much similar work/article in multiple journals is often labeled as self-plagiarism and it is also wrong. Giles writes that plagiarism is

> attempting to pass off someone else's work as your own. Duplicate publication, or self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of their own published work without providing the appropriate references. (Giles, 2005).

iThenticate, a company, defines self-plagiarism as, "a type of plagiarism in which the writer republishes a work in its entirety or reuses portions of a previously written text while authoring a new work" (iThenticate 2011).

Plagiarism of secondary sources occurs when a person gives the references to original sources, and perhaps quotes them, but never looks them up, having obtained both from a secondary source-which is not cited. This can be labeled as plagiarism of secondary sources.
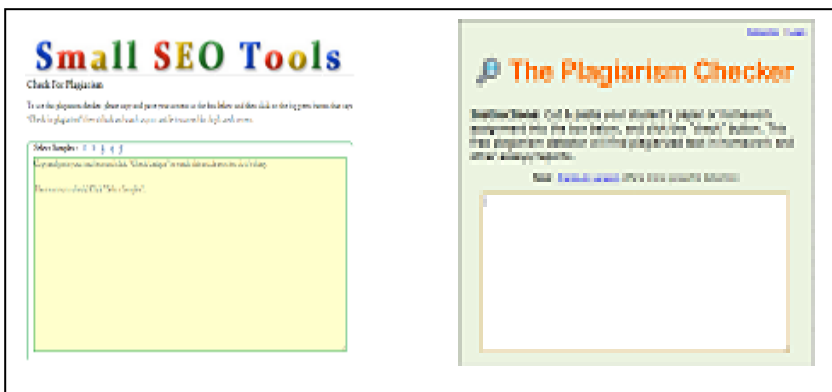
Anti-Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a growing problem now everywhere and now all are finding the ways to detect it to maintain intellectual integrity. It is infringement of one's original work and it violets the fair use of work in academic environment and it's a morally wrong practice. Availability of computer, internet and WWW gave a big push to do plagiarism. Web technologies indirectly facilitate not mentioning sources and using cut and paste or drag and drop technology to steal work or words of someone else without any permission or any credit to author for same.

"Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of authorship, an ethical crime. Its detection is also possible using anti-plagiarism software available and by following some strategies for same purpose," as suggested by Harris. Harris R. (2012) lists several strategies to detect and prevent plagiarism in his article on plagiarism. In his article he wrote that "The availability of textual material in electronic format has made plagiarism easier than ever. Copying and pasting of paragraphs or even entire essays now can be performed with just a few mouse clicks." He emphasize that by employ few strategies, like making students aware about it, educate them about plagiarism, discussing benefits of citing sources etc., help a lot to encourage students to value the assignment and to do their own work.

Anti-plagiarism means a process of find and locating the instances of plagiarism with a work or document. It can be done manually which requires substantial work effort and excellent memory and it is impractical in nature whereas it can be done using software which check plagiarism by searching and comparing, detecting and giving result on submitted work or document from the databases. These software detect text documents by string matching, bag of words, Citation analysis etc.

Anti-plagiarism means a technology which avails the facility to detect and prevent plagiarism. Anti-plagiarism

software is designed to effectively detect and prevent plagiarism. These are the versatile tools to deal with WWW copy-paste information of authorship. They are designed to effectively detect by comparing submitted article by already available articles or books from the database worldwide. Many Universities worldwide are using anti-plagiarism software to detect inputs and works came from the academic field for its authenticity and originality in writing and in views or theories represented from a new angle. Universities worldwide for example AMA International University, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, The University of Jordan, University of Colorado, University of Michigan, University of Manchester and in India Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Galgotias Universities Uttar Pradesh India, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, IIIT Kolkata, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Jaipuria Institute of Management, Lovely Professional University, SRM University, have employed anti-plagiarism software to prevent plagiarism.[1]

Image 1 - screen shots of some free online plagiarism scanners

Many anti-plagiarism commercial software are available to prevent plagiarism like Turnitin, WCopyfind, DigiMarc Guardian, VeriGuide and some online free plagiarism detectors

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[1] Retrieved from http://ikc2.tup.km.ua/index_us.shtml on October 10, 2013.

or scanners are available such as Small SEO Tools (http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker), Plagiarism detect (http://plagiarism-detect.com), Plagiarisma.net (plagiarism.net) and free downloadable software like Viper (http://www.scanmyessay.com), Plag Tracker (https://www.plagtracker.com) etc.

Example of plagiarism checking using 'Plagiarism checker' from http://www.dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker
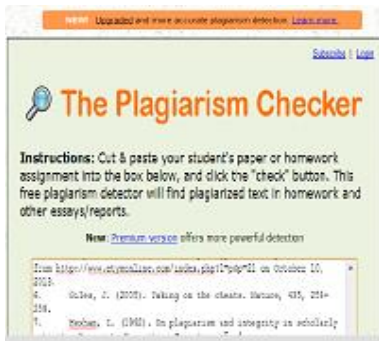
Image 2 – step 1: pasting work to check its originality using Plagiarism checker

Image 3 – step 2: pasting work to be checked

Image 4 – Step 3 : processing and scanning the work from its databases
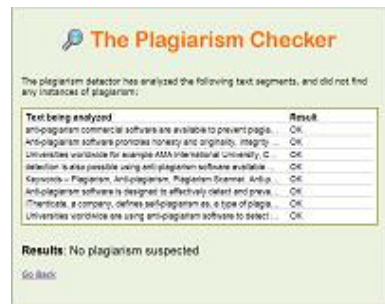
Image 5 – Step 4: Final report of checking (this report shows that work is original as there is no copying from other's work found so far)

Conclusion

The internet has changed the ethics associated with academic writings and provide a platform from which to just copy or steal

others' works and present them in their own name. Anti-plagiarism software promotes honesty and originality, integrity in academic publications as well as in assignments etc. These scanners works with English and traditional languages as well like VeriGuide supports English and Chinese both. They support the electronic submission of various file formats to provide flexibility in submission format. These software or scanners also report similarity and readability statistics to check further for authenticity as well as comparison.

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