



UNIVERSITY OFTM
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

Plagiarism Policy Policy

Induction Workshop: 4 November 2013

M.J. Chimbari : College Dean of Research



EDGEWOOD CAMPUS

HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS

NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS

WESTVILLE CAMPUS

UKZN INSPIRING GREATNESS

Background

- Council approval: 4 December 2009 and currently under revision
- Purpose
 - Employs a **development and education** approach to **deter** and **prevent** plagiarism.
 - It reinforces existing systems, policies, procedures, rules and regulations of UKZN aimed at detecting, reacting to and reducing the occurrence of plagiarism

Plagiarism is a component of Research **Misconduct**

- Fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in

- Making up data and recording them

- Manipulating research materials, equipment
- Manipulating processes
- Changing or omitting data

- Appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without appropriate credit

Where do you draw the line for honest ?

“Honest Error” does not constitute research misconduct”

Definitions

- Plagiarism constitutes
 - Presenting **ideas** of another as if they are your own
 - Representing **words or works** of another as they were your own
 - **Utilisation of ideas, words** or work of another without appropriate acknowledgement
 - **Actions involving utilization** of printed text, electronic text, images, computer programs, sound, performance, etc without appropriate acknowledgement
 - Work utilised in the learning process or submitted for publication or assessment without **appropriate acknowledgement**
 - Any infringement of the need **to reflect group effort** or acknowledging previously published work

Responsibilities

- Prevention through education and awareness
 - All staff
 - Overall responsibility of academic managers
- Reporting
 - All staff and students must immediately report allegations to relevant academic managers or university authority
 - Anonymous reports may be made through the whistle blowers policy
 - Members of the public
- Action on allegations
 - academic manager for action or further referrals
 - Forensic investigators for detailed investigation
 - Any other relevant external authorities, e.g. professional bodies or South African Police Services

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- [Plagiarism Policy FLOW CHARTS RV.xlsx](#)

Processes for dealing with alleged plagiarism in a Masters dissertation or Doctoral thesis

Approved by Senate 5 November 2012

Masters dissertation

- School Higher Degrees committee (SHDRC) in conjunction with the College Dean of Research (CDR) must manage issues of plagiarism
 - possible referral back for revision in minor cases
 - consequent failure of the degree under the general framework of the procedures relating to examination of masters and doctoral degrees.
- If the degree is failed recommendation comes from the **SHDRC to CAAB.**

Doctoral thesis

- College Dean for Research should deal with the matter
 - it is recommended that, in conjunction with the College DVC, a

In all cases, the student must be given sufficient time and clarification to respond to the allegation of plagiarism and be accorded a fair hearing.

Indications of possible consequences of plagiarism

- Details of offense captured in plagiarism database
- Counseling for first minor offense
- In cases exceeding minor arrangements, student is given opportunity to redo the work
 - Zero percent awarded if work is not redone
- Disciplinary hearing
- Possible withdrawal

Varies depending on level of study particularly for undergraduates

Turnitin as a deterrent

Batane, T. (2010). Turning to Turnitin to Fight Plagiarism among University Students. *Educational Technology & Society*, 13 (2), 1–12.

Turning to Turnitin to Fight Plagiarism among University Students

Tshepo Batane

Department of Educational Technology, University of Botswana, P. O. Box 70014, Gaborone, Botswana // batane@mopipi.ub.bw // Tel. +267 355 2785

ABSTRACT

This paper reports on a pilot project of the Turnitin plagiarism detection software, which was implemented to determine the impact of the software on the level of plagiarism among University of Botswana (UB) students. Students' assignments were first submitted to the software without their knowledge so as to gauge their level of plagiarism. **The results recorded the average level of plagiarism among UB students to be 20.5%.** The software was then introduced to the students and they were warned that their second assignments would be checked through the software. **The results showed a 4.3% decrease in the level of plagiarism among students.** A survey was conducted to find out the reasons why students plagiarise and also get the participants' views on the use of the software to fight plagiarism. To win the fight against plagiarism, the paper recommends that the university adopt a more comprehensive approach in dealing with the problems that addresses, among other things, the fundamental reason why students plagiarise.

Keywords

Turnitin, Plagiarism, Assignments, Social Cognitive Theory

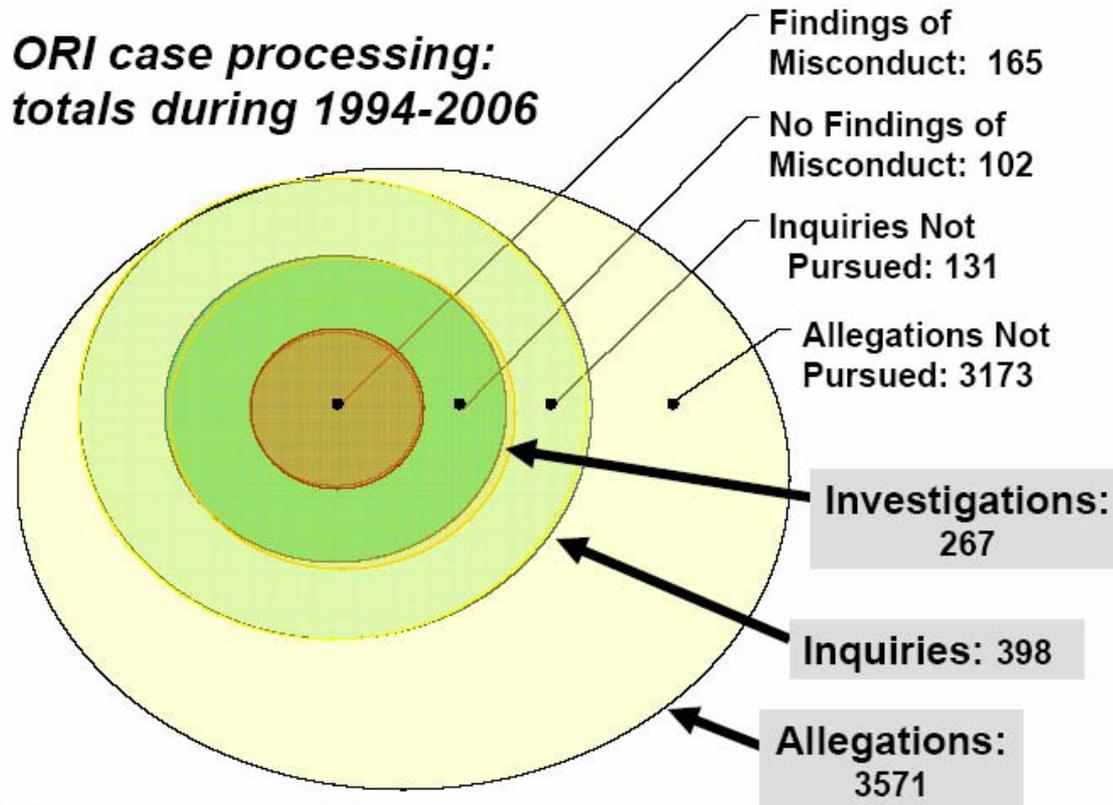
Limitations of Turnitin

- Cannot detect cleverly paraphrased passages
- Ineffective for detecting works that have been written by another student, person or a ghost writer unless more than one student submits the paper
- Can confuse references
 - One lecturer found that 64% plagiarism was reduced to 2 % after checking all references properly cited
- Compromises the instructor's own grading criteria as quite often mindset changes after applying turnitin to an

There are programs that interfere with the efficiency of Turnitin

Eg. Using macros function in Microsoft Word including an 'a~' in a write up and submitting it with the macros enabled automatically makes the "a~" a proper a and Turnitin will accept the paper as original

Office of Research Integrity (ORI) case processing: (Andrea Pozzi and Paul A David; Stanford University)



Source: Compiled from ORI Reports