Plagiarism: What is it? How do I avoid it?

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*Adapted from the prior creative commons attribution licensed library presentations given by Heather Collins, Crystal Cameron-Vedros, Julie Hartwell, and Heather Healy (2012-2015)
Objectives

- What is it? Why does it matter?
- Who’s doing it?
- Adopt prevention strategies
- Review plagiarism detection software
- Resources to help
What is plagiarism?
DEFINING PLAGIARISM

Merriam-Webster
www.merriam-webster.com
Examples of Plagiarism

- **Not putting quotation marks around language you’ve borrowed from another source**
  
  Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.
  
  *(Movieclips, 2011)*

- **Trading words with synonyms but keeping the same structure**
  
  Toto, I don’t think we’re in our home state any longer.

- **Providing false information about where a quotation was derived**
  
  "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" (Lincoln, 1861).
  
  *(Donald Pohlmeyer, 2013)*

- **Claiming others’ works or ideas to be yours**
  
  I came up with this great physics formula: E=mc².
Why Does it Matter?
A child, mind, or paper is not a vase to be filled, but a fire to be lit.

- Francois Rabelias
KUMC Policies

Faculty
Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Scientific and Other Scholarly Misconduct

-Handbook for Faculty and Other Unclassified Staff, p. 189

Students
Expectations for Conduct: I will not plagiarize the work of others and will be precise in attribution of authorship and the work of others.

-KUMC Student Handbook
http://www.kumc.edu/studenthandbook/graduate.html

Researchers
Research Misconduct includes:

- Fabrication: making up data or results and recording or reporting them
- Plagiarism: the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit

-Office of the Assoc VC for Compliance, Research Integrity and Research Misconduct
http://www.kumc.edu/compliance/research-integrity-and-research-misconduct.html
Reasons to Cite Your Sources

- Avoids potential negative consequences
- Your responsibility as a KUMC researcher
- Allows your readers to track down your sources
- Adds credibility to your work by showing thoroughness
- Adds credibility to your work by including high level research
- It’s the right thing to do!
Web of Science Citation Map
Who’s Doing It?
Politicians, Artists, Businesses, etc.

**Senator Quits Montana Race After Charge of Plagiarism**

By: Jonathan Martin  |  6/5/14

WASHINGTON — Under pressure from fellow Democrats, Senator John Walsh of Montana, who has served in office for just six months, said Thursday that he was dropping his election bid, clearing the path for his party to nominate a new candidate.

"I am ending my campaign so that I can focus on fulfilling the responsibility entrusted to me as your U.S. senator," Mr. Walsh said in a statement. "You deserve someone who will..."

Woman says Disney stole my 'Frozen' life

A $250 million lawsuit has been filed against Walt Disney (DIS), claiming that its mega-hit "Frozen" stole directly from someone's real life story.

**The Real Reason People Keep Plagiarizing Tom Petty**

By: Adam Ragusea

Tom Petty performs during halftime at Super Bowl XLI.

Photo by: Charlie Neibergall, AP
Even within groups of academic specialties, respondents appeared to have a fairly wide range of criteria for plagiarism” (Lang, 2015).

“Students are confused about what types of information counted as common knowledge, and what types required a citation. And they all expressed the same fear at the prospect of cheating without knowing it” (Lang, 2015).
Students

- Case #2014/2015-100 - A junior was alleged to have copied online materials and presented as original work (plagiarism). The reporting Professor sanctioned the student with a **1 page reflection paper, and a rewrite of the assignment**.

- Case #2014/2015-087 - A freshman was alleged to have copied a speech of another and presented it as his/her own creative work (plagiarism and/or falsification). The reporting instructor sanctioned the student with a **zero on the assignment and EDCEP 502**.

- Case #2014/2015-156 - A senior was alleged to have copied online materials and presented as original work (plagiarism). The reporting instructor sanctioned student with a **zero on the exam**.

K-State Honor Pledge Violations 2014-2015

transform (FFT) analysis of the PERGs before and after SC lesion was implemented. This kind of FFT analysis can manifest all types of frequency components in PERG wave[15].

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Animals and Husbandry**

This study was supported by Huaiyi Normal University. All experiments were conducted according to the ARVO Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research. C57BL/6J mice purchased from Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME, USA) were raised using typical 12h light vs 12h dark cycle and were fed with mice raising diet. For the present study, 7 mice, 4 months old, were used. PERG and OCT were recorded under ketamine/xylazine anesthesia.

**Brain-derived Neurotrophic Factor Administration**

Under ketamine/xylazine anesthesia, Hamilton microsringe was used to inject progressively (total time 5min) 1 μL BDNF only into the left eye of each mouse. On the side surface of mouse eye, there is a natural line under which is posterior chamber of mouse eye resides. The microsringe needle just pierced the posterior chamber along the posterial side of this line. This procedure allowed the BDNF solution to diffuse to the retina. Human recombinant BDNF was used at a concentration of 200 ng/μL (Amgen, Thousand Oaks, CA, USA). After injection, mice were allowed to recover and put back in their cages. One week later, surgery was performed to lesion the SC.

**Surgical Procedure**

Mice were weighed by putting in a cup and anesthetized with intraperitoneal injections (about 0.6 mL/kg).

2016;9(7):972. PMCID: PMC4844040
Retraction: Revisiting hydrocephalus as a model to study brain resilience.

Human Neuroscience Editorial Office.
PMID: 27499739  Free PMC Article

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...these images formed an integral part of the article and did not originate in the authors’ laboratories and were not duly attributed, the article does not meet the scientific criteria of the journal.
RETRACTED

The Scientific World Journal has retracted this article as it was found to contain figures repurposed, without citation, from previously published articles.

The Scientific World Journal
Volume 2014 (2014), Article ID 253713, 7 pages
http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/253713

Research Article

Electroadsorption Desalination with Carbon Nanotube/PAN-Based Carbon Fiber Felt Composites as Electrodes

Yang Liu and Junbo Zhou

Engineering Research Center for Polymer Processing Equipment, Ministry of Education, College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Beijing 100029, China

Received 18 February 2014; Revised 23 April 2014; Accepted 29 April 2014; Published 12 May 2014

Academic Editor: Je S. Lee

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RETRACTED: Graphic and haptic simulation for transvaginal cholecystectomy training in NOTES

Journal of Biomedical Informatics, Volume 60, April 2016, Pages 410-421

The Publisher and Editor have been informed that the article was submitted to the journal without the consent of all the coauthors. The coauthor Suvranu De expressed concerns regarding the validity of some of the techniques and data reported in the paper, particularly in Figure 18 and Table 3. In addition, we identified in the article a significant portion of copied text that came from the following publications:
Plagiarism Resources

Retraction Watch

Case Summaries

Blog & White Papers: Rising Tide of Plagiarism and Misconduct in Medical Research - 2013

Newsletter & Blog: Is Recycling Your Own Work Plagiarism?
Peer Review Watch

Blog on current peer review issues

Link to Comments on PubMed and Journal Websites
Have you cited retracted articles?

“. . . the Journal of Mammary Gland Biology and Neoplasia decided to retract the paper because it referenced other papers that had been retracted as a result of data manipulation.”

Retraction Watch.
http://retractionwatch.com/2016/09/06/cancer-researcher-logs-5th-retraction/
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know **WHEN** to give credit to your sources
Citing Sources
Decision Tree

Should I cite?

- Is it a quote?
  - Yes
    - Cite it and place double quotation marks around the text
  - No
    - Is it a paraphrase?
      - Yes
        - Cite it
      - No
        - Is it another's idea / theory?
          - Yes
            - Cite it
          - No
            - There is no need to cite if it is common knowledge or your own thoughts
Give Credit to Your Sources

- Text of an article, book, ebook, etc.
- Lecture or a presentation
- Chart or Table
- Data set

- Social media
- Image or photo
- Interview
- Conference proceedings
- Website
- Video
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know WHEN to give credit to your sources
- #2 Know **HOW** to cite a source
Citing it Right
Direct Quotes

Short Quote

- “Four score and twenty years ago . . .” (Lincoln, 1863).

Block Quote

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aenean commodo ligula eget dolor. Aenean massa. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus:


Citing it Right
In-text Citation

... in this type of granuloma (Rasband-Lindquist, A., Lindquist, J.D., Larsen, C.G., & Girod, D., 2016).

... in this type of granuloma\footnote{5}

... in this type of granuloma (5).
Citing it Right
Reference List

REFERENCES


(Espert, Elsinghorst, & Munson, 2011)
WHAT IF THE EXPRESSION YOU BORROW ISN’T THE WORDING BUT A TABLE, IMAGE, CHART, ETC.?

• No quotation marks

• Use an in-text citation in the running text

• Use a credit line with the item

• Include in references

• May need to get © permission
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know WHEN to give credit to your sources
- #2 Know HOW to cite a source
- #3 Use a citation manager (EndNote/Zotero)
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know WHEN to give credit to your sources
- #2 Know **HOW** to cite a source
- #3 Use a citation manager (EndNote/Zotero)
- #4 Peer review (ask a mentor, colleague to proofread)
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know WHEN to give credit to your sources
- #2 Know **HOW** to cite a source
- #3 Use a citation manager (EndNote/Zotero)
- #4 Peer review (ask a mentor, colleague to proofread)
- #5 Make an appointment with a librarian (copyright) and/or writing specialist (writing)
DIY with KUMC LibGuides

Author Rights in the Publication Process

A guide for faculty and researchers on author rights and the publishing process. This guide helps you navigate copyright transfer agreements. The Publisher Policies section gives tips on how to identify a predatory or vanity publisher.

Why Should I Pay Attention to a Publisher's Copyright Transfer Agreement

Your article has been accepted for publication. All you need to do is sign over your copyr Understanding the terms within a copyright transfer agreement and knowing how to neg interests will benefit you and the scholarly community.

Has your research been accepted for publication?

- Yes
- No
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know WHEN to give credit to your sources
- #2 Know HOW to cite a source
- #3 Use a citation manager (EndNote/Zotero)
- #4 Peer review (ask a mentor, colleague to proofread)
- #5 Make an appointment with a librarian and/or writing specialist
- #6 Give plagiarism-proof assignments (teachers/mentors)
Plagiarism Prevention Options

- Specific
- Select topics early
- Chunked Down
- Emphasize revision
- Rubrics

(Robison, 2014)
Prevention Strategies

- #1 Know WHEN to give credit to your sources
- #2 Know HOW to cite a source
- #3 Use a citation manager (EndNote/Zotero)
- #4 Peer review (ask a mentor, colleague to proofread)
- #5 Make an appointment with a librarian and/or writing specialist
- #6 Give plagiarism-proof assignments (teachers/mentors)
- #7 Practice what you preach
“Then as teachers, tutors, and librarians, we all need to focus our efforts not only on raising students’ consciousness of the complexities of plagiarism, but on raising our own” (Buranen, 2009).
Practice what you preach!

- Are you citing sources in lectures & presentations?
- Have you defined *common knowledge*?
- Have you provided examples and resources?
- Explained why research and *academic integrity matters*? (Weimer, 2015)
Plagiarism Detection Software

SafeAssign
- via Blackboard
- KUMC and KU Main campus

TurnItIn
- $ proprietary product
- For educational use

iThenticate
- $ proprietary product
- For researchers/publishers
Reviews of Plagiarism Detection Software

Edudemic

Cnet Reviews

False Positives in detection software

(Inside Higher Ed, 2009)

Detection software itself can use unethical methodologies

Questions?
References (1 of 3)

References (2 of 3)

References (3 of 3)