



Department of
Scientific
Publications

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
~~Cancer Center~~

Making Cancer History®

Webinar:

Avoiding Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism

Presenters:

Joe Munch and Stephanie
Deming

What we will cover

- What plagiarism is, why it is not allowed, and what the consequences can be
- How plagiarism is detected
- How to avoid plagiarizing
- What self-plagiarism is
- How to “recycle” your own previously published text appropriately

What is plagiarism?

“[P]lagiarism has been traditionally defined as the taking of words, images, processes, structure and design elements, ideas, etc. of others and presenting them as one’s own.”

From: Plagiarism. In Roig M. Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing. <https://ori.hhs.gov/plagiarism-3>. Accessed March 13, 2017.

What is plagiarism?

- Copying word for word without enclosing the copied material in quotation marks and crediting the original author
- Copying some words and phrases and interspersing them with the author's own ideas without distinguishing between the two or crediting the original author
- Self-plagiarism

Why is plagiarism not allowed?

- Dishonest to present someone else's ideas as one's own ideas
- May violate copyright law



What are the consequences of plagiarism?

- Damage to credibility and integrity
- Legal problems (and possible fines) because of violations of copyright law
- Publishing difficulties
- Academic penalties



What are the consequences of plagiarism?

Cancer Research, other AACR journals:

“Identified occurrences of author misconduct such as plagiarism, self-plagiarism, or data/image reuse, manipulation, or falsification will be investigated and could result in **rejection of the manuscript or retraction of the published article**. In instances of rejection or retraction due to misconduct, **the corresponding author’s institute and funding agency may be notified.**”

What are the consequences of plagiarism?

Journal of Surgical Oncology:

“If a submitted or published manuscript is discovered or suspected to be inappropriate, the authors will be asked for a written explanation. If the rationale provided by the authors remains unsatisfactory in the judgment of the editors, **the manuscript will be rejected or retracted . . . The provost (or equivalent) of the authors' academic institutions will be informed** of inappropriate submissions or publications, and **the authors will not be allowed to subsequently submit their research to JSO.**”

How is plagiarism detected?

- Reading
- Search engines
- Plagiarism-detection programs



Plagiarism-detection programs

- Most journals use them
- Manuscript is compared with a vast database
- Percentage of overlap is stated
- Overlapping text is marked, with links to original sources

Plagiarism-detection programs

- Journal staff review the report, especially if overlap is >25%
- Some of the text marked will be common phrases that aren't a problem
- Distinctive phrasing or overlap of a full sentence or longer will merit a closer look
- Journal will look at extent of overlap, original source, copyright status, citation

iThenticate example



iThenticate Statistics example.docx

Quotes Included
Bibliography Excluded **77%**
SIMILAR

Match Overview

1	Internet 18 words crawled on 18-Mar-2015 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	26%
2	Publications 18 words Madan, Sumit Dispenzieri, Angela Lacy, M. "Clinical features and treatment response of light chain (AL) amyloidosis c ...	26%
3	Internet 10 words crawled on 14-Nov-2016 www.mdpi.com	14%
4	Internet 8 words crawled on 30-May-2016 onlinelibrary.wiley.com	11%

Overall survival (OS) was defined as the time between diagnosis and either death or the last follow-up in the Gastrointestinal Center. Logistic regression analysis was used to calculate odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs); we adjusted for age, sex, and mouthwash use. A p-value of ≤ 0.05 was regarded as significant. We used SPSS for Windows (version 18.0; SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL) for data analysis.

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Text-Only Report

iThenticate example

2

Overall survival (OS) was defined as the time between diagnosis¹ and either death or the last follow-up in the Gastrointestinal Center. Logistic regression analysis was used to calculate odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs); we adjusted for age, sex, and³ mouthwash use. A p -value of ≤ 0.05 was regarded as significant. We used SPSS for Windows (version 18.0; SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL) for data analysis.

iThenticate example



ORI plagiarism excerpt.docx

Plagiarism has been traditionally defined as the taking of words, images, processes, structure and design elements, ideas, etc. of others and presenting them as one's own. It is often associated with phrases such as kidnapping of words, kidnapping of ideas, fraud, and literary theft. Plagiarism can manifest itself in a variety of ways and is not just confined to student papers or published articles or books. For example, consider a scientist who makes a presentation at a conference and discusses at length an idea or concept that had already been proposed by someone else yet not considered common knowledge. During his presentation, he fails to fully acknowledge the specific source of the idea and, consequently, misleads the audience into believing that he was the originator of that idea. This, too, may constitute an instance of plagiarism.

Plagiarism has been historically defined as taking text, figures, processes, ideas, structure and design elements, and so on, of others and passing them off as one's own. It can be associated with phrases such as "kidnapping of words" or "literary theft." It can manifest itself in a multitude of ways, not just in school papers or published articles or book chapters. For example, if a scientist makes a presentation and discusses an idea or concept but fails to acknowledge the source of the idea and thus the audience thinks that he originated that idea, this may constitute an episode of plagiarism.

The definition of plagiarism is using someone else's text, images, structure and design elements, or ideas without giving credit to the originator [1]. Plagiarism can extend beyond written articles or book chapters; describing someone else's ideas in a presentation without giving credit to the original source could be considered plagiarism [1].

iThenticate example

Internet Full Source View x

ori.hhs.gov

her, without acknowledgment and with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver. American Association of University Professors (September/October, 1989) As the above quotation shows, **plagiarism has been traditionally defined as the taking of words, images, processes, structure and design elements, ideas, etc. of others and presenting them as one's own. It is often associated with phrases such as kidnapping of words, kidnapping of ideas, fraud, and literary theft. Plagiarism can manifest itself in a variety of ways and is not just**

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Why does plagiarism happen?

- Poor planning
- Careless note taking
- Lack of awareness about
 - copyright law
 - local norms and practices
- Lack of writing skill



Avoiding plagiarism

- Cite original sources [1]
- Quote passages directly “ ”
- Summarize or paraphrase original passages



Summarizing and Paraphrasing

- **Summarizing:** Presents **the main idea** but not all the original details
- **Paraphrasing:** Presents **most of the original details**

How to summarize

- Read the passage until you fully understand it
- Think about the **main idea(s)** from the passage you want to include in your manuscript
- Without looking at the original passage, write the **main idea(s)** in your own words
- Compare your summary to the original passage

Original paragraph

Although there is strong evidence that **aspirin prevents venous thromboembolism after noncardiac surgery**, **physicians more commonly use anticoagulant therapy** for the prevention of venous thromboembolism. Nevertheless, one-third of patients undergoing noncardiac surgery who are at risk for major vascular complications receive perioperative aspirin. Among patients undergoing noncardiac surgery, there is **variability in the use of perioperative aspirin** both among patients who are not already taking aspirin and among those who are on long-term aspirin regimens. **Uncertainty regarding the risks and benefits of aspirin** underscores the **need for a large perioperative trial**.

Possible summary

Aspirin can be used perioperatively to prevent venous thromboembolism in some patients undergoing noncardiac surgery, but whether its benefits outweigh its risks in this setting is unclear (Devereaux et al. 2014).

Original paragraph

Although there is strong evidence that **aspirin prevents venous thromboembolism after noncardiac surgery**, physicians more commonly use anticoagulant therapy for the prevention of venous thromboembolism. Nevertheless, one third of patients undergoing noncardiac surgery who are at risk for major vascular complications receive perioperative aspirin. Among patients undergoing noncardiac surgery, there is variability in the use of perioperative aspirin both among patients who are not already taking aspirin and among those who are on long-term aspirin regimens. **Uncertainty regarding the risks and benefits of aspirin** underscores the need for a large perioperative trial.

How to paraphrase



How to paraphrase

- Read the original passage until you fully understand it
- Put the original passage aside as you paraphrase it
- Compare your paraphrase with the original passage

Paraphrasing tips

- Keep key words
- Switch up the grammar
- Reorder ideas (if logically feasible)
- Use synonyms appropriately

Original paragraph

Although there is strong evidence that aspirin prevents venous thromboembolism after noncardiac surgery, physicians more commonly use anticoagulant therapy for the prevention of venous thromboembolism. Nevertheless, one-third of patients undergoing noncardiac surgery who are at risk for major vascular complications receive perioperative aspirin. Among patients undergoing noncardiac surgery, there is variability in the use of perioperative aspirin both among patients who are not already taking aspirin and among those who are on long-term aspirin regimens. Uncertainty regarding the risks and benefits of aspirin underscores the need for a large perioperative trial.

Possible paraphrase

Venous thromboembolism (VT) is a serious potential complication of noncardiac surgery. A common strategy for prevention is anticoagulant therapy, but strong evidence points to aspirin also being a preventer of VT. As a result, aspirin is given to one-third of surgical patients who are at high post-surgical risk for major vascular complications. The risks and benefits of aspirin in this setting must be further elucidated to establish an optimal therapeutic strategy, as there is currently much variability in its use as a thromboprophylactic, both in patients who are and in patients who are not receiving long-term aspirin therapy (Devereaux et al. 2014).

Questions?



Self-plagiarism

- “Self-plagiarism” vs “text recycling”
- We will use “text recycling”



Text recycling vs duplicate publication

- Text recycling: reuse of portions of your own previously published text
- Duplicate publication: publication of very similar full manuscripts

Contract between reader and writer

“Ethical writing...entails an implicit contract between reader and writer whereby the reader assumes, **unless otherwise noted**, that the material was written by the individual/s listed as authors, and that it is **new** and is accurate to the best of the author’s abilities.”

From: Self-plagiarism. In Roig M. Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing. <https://ori.hhs.gov/plagiarism-13>. Accessed December 22, 2016.

Disclosure is key

If an author includes text that he or she previously published elsewhere, that fact should be made clear to readers.



Recycling your text ethically

- Make clear that the text is being recycled
- Indicate where the reused text originally appeared
- Obtain any necessary permission to reuse the text

Grant proposals

- Recycling your own text is okay because grant proposals are **not published**

Scientific articles

- Recycling material that previously appeared only in abstract or poster form:
 - Some journals ask for notification on the title page of the manuscript or in the cover letter
 - No other disclosure required

Introduction and Discussion sections

- Introduction and Discussion sections: text recycling is generally not permitted
 - Present ideas using new words
 - Cite references as needed
- If text must be reused, place the text in quotation marks and provide a reference

Methods section

- Methods section: **some** text recycling may be okay
- By convention, recycled Methods text does not need to be placed in quotation marks
- When reused Methods text is substantial, cite the original paper (e.g., *The mouse behavioral experiments were performed using our specially designed apparatus [ref]. Mice were placed in a box....*)

Results section

- Results section: republication of results constitutes duplicate publication unless
 - there is a compelling rationale (e.g., the article is an update of an earlier report) and
 - the author makes clear that some results are repeated (e.g., “This analysis includes 21 patients originally described in our 2000 report [reference] and 24 new patients treated at our institution during 2000-2016.”)

Results section

- Results section: use of same basic sentence structure in more than 1 paper is okay, e.g.,
 - “Patient characteristics are summarized in Table x.”
 - “Major postoperative complications were observed in x patients, and minor postoperative complications were observed in y patients.”

Book chapters and review articles

- Text recycling can be a problem because of
 - the implied contract between readers and writers
 - copyright rules

Book chapters and review articles

- How to avoid problems:
 - Decline to write essentially the same article twice; or negotiate to change the topic or scope of the second article
 - Have a colleague co-author the chapter and start from scratch
 - Request permission from the new publisher and the original publisher to “adapt” the original chapter or article

Sources

- American Medical Association. *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 10th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2007.
- Committee on Publication Ethics. *Text Recycling Guidelines*. http://publicationethics.org/files/Web_A29298_COPE_Text_Recycling.pdf. Accessed March 1, 2017.
- Roig M. *Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-Plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing*. <https://ori.hhs.gov/plagiarism-13>. Accessed December 22, 2016.

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