Turnitin: Building an Academic Integrity against Plagiarism

Marwan Muwalla & Adnan Badran

Conference
Arab Academy of Sciences
on
Higher Education in the Arab World: Building a Culture of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Beirut
16-17/11/2018
What is Turnitin:

- Internet-based plagiarism detection.
- Licensed software website launched 1997
- It checks originality of research and review and theses papers that ignore citations.
- It is a quick technological peer review.
- It is based on scanning data of other websites copyright books, articles and journals.
- Turnitin uses data on servers of others.
Criticism on the Use of Turnitin:

- Intruding privacy without permission.
- Intellectuals consider submission to Turnitin as an accusation of guilt.
- Turnitin is a commercial entity uses servers of others without permission.
- Universities as Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Stanford and some Canadian universities decided not to use Turnitin.
- It touches on the ethics of the academic integrity and dignity for policing the principles of learning and research.
- Intellectuals worry that, Turnitin may become part of our educational structure.
What is Plagiarism:

- Form of cheating by copying another’s work.
- Problem is embedded in some academic cultures.
- Foreign students tend to borrow phrases from original English authors, not their own, to express themselves, ignoring citation.
- Publishing in local language invites plagiarism.


**How to Overcome Plagiarism:**

- Building culture of inquiry rather than culture of copying among graduate students in pursuing higher degrees.
- Differentiate between inappropriate copying and dishonesty.
- Acknowledgment must be cited of other peoples’ work.
- Train students how to make use of intellectual property.
Is Plagiarism considered as Conduct of Theft:

- Some advocates of levels of plagiarism not intentional due to ignorance of proper citation.
- Knowledge is an accumulation of output of research, and new information is built on previous work by others.
Is Traditional Publication has Less Plagiarism than On-line Publication:

- Analysis of Turnitin using Mann-Whitney U-test proved to be there is no difference.

- References by both rely on the internet.

- Users of the internet believe that whatever information on the net is a public knowledge and no need for permission.

- Cut & Paste is becoming a common behavior of the users of internet.
How we evaluate Turnitin at the International Level:

- Turnitin has been acknowledged as the best software detection among other systems and rated the highest.
- Once the sample of research paper uploaded to Turnitin, overlap with previous work is detected.
- It is acceptable for researchers to reuse data or texts presented by them in conferences as long as refer to it.
- Turnitin claims that is deterring plagiarism for five million people worldwide.
How we evaluate Turnitin at the International Level: (Continue)

- It searches for “multiple strings” of match database or memory banks.
- It is a quick-fix, less time consuming, to police the rule of citation, for originality of the work produced.
- Building knowledge economy requires originality of self-proclaimed knowledge for licensing and intellectual property.
Evaluation of Turnitin at the Local Level with a reference to Jordan:

- It has deepened the value of academic integrity, proper attribution and authentic writing in universities at Jordan.
- Save peer-review time of professors for examining theses submitted by graduate students and assessing research papers submitted by academia for promotion.
- It has protected faculty members of humiliation to examine their papers before submitting it to recognized journals.
- Safeguarded the reputation of the academic institution by scanning papers before submitting for publication or patents.
Thank you,