
Plagiarism and Intellectual Property Rights

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Submitted: March 1, 2022 -Revised: March 21, 2022 -Accepted: March 21, 2022 -Published: March 31, 2022

ABSTRACT

Plagiarism is an act intentionally or unintentionally in obtaining or trying to obtain credit or value for a scientific work, in an improper manner, which may be carried out by individuals, groups or institutions. Plagiarism is academic dishonesty so it is an unethical act in carrying out scientific activities. The practice of plagiarism can be suppressed by developing information literacy skills for academics and scientists. Ideally, plagiarism prevention is implemented as an integrated program with other more macro and strategic programs and involves all relevant parties.

Keywords: plagiarism; prevention; intellectual property rights

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the definition of plagiarism is: The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. ⁽¹⁾ The word plagiarism comes from the Latin, namely plagiarium = kidnapper, or plagium = a kidnapping, also comes from the Greek language, namely plagiarism. ⁽²⁾ Plagiarism can be interpreted as an act of kidnapping by someone for the work of others and admitting it as his own work.

Plagiarism is an act intentionally or unintentionally in obtaining or trying to obtain credit or value for a scientific work, by quoting part or all of the work and/or scientific work of others, without stating the source correctly and adequately. ⁽³⁾ The act of plagiarism can be done by individuals, groups or institutions. ⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾

Universities, research institutes and other academic institutions generally have policies regarding the prevention and handling of plagiarism. The central issues regarding plagiarism are: 1) the use of the work of another person or other party unethically in the sense of not giving attribution and credit to the person or party who created the work; 2) academic dishonesty.

In addition to covering aspects of ethics, honesty and integrity, plagiarism also describes in more detail the items that have the potential to cause cases of plagiarism. WAME, explains that plagiarism can be done by taking ideas or words from abstracts, research proposals, whether published or not, both printed and electronic. ⁽⁷⁾ Other targets are elements in scientific works, such as text, datasets, tables, figures, research instruments.

TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

In 2013, iThenticate (1) conducted a study on the practice of plagiarism by researchers from 50 countries. The types of plagiarism committed are grouped as follows:

1) Secondary sources.

Researchers use secondary sources (such as literature review). The researcher only cites the primary sources mentioned in the secondary sources he reads and does not provide information (citing) the secondary sources he reads.

2) Invalid sources.

Researchers provide incorrect or inadequate information on the reference sources they use.

3) Duplication.

Researchers use previous scientific work without providing information that it is research that has been done before.

4) Paraphrasing.

The researcher takes the text from a source, then paraphrases it but does not mention the source, as if the text is his own.

5) Repetitive research.

Researchers used the same data and methods for new research without mentioning that the method had been used in previous studies.

6) Replication.

Researchers submit manuscripts to several publication channels (journals, conferences, etc.).

7) Misleading attribution.

Incorrect or inadequate mention of the parties involved and contributing to a research (manuscript). Listing parties who have not contributed to a research is also this type of plagiarism.

8) Unethical collaboration.

This type of plagiarism can occur when people who collaborate violate the collaboration agreement and ethics.

9) Verbatim plagiarism.

Plagiarism is the act of copying words (verbatim) of ideas or works of others without affixing quotes or references.

10) Complete plagiarism.

Total plagiarism.

Plagiarism.org⁽⁵⁾ categorizes plagiarism with unique terms, such as half-hearted, miscue, reflection, mosaic, warp, half-n-half, ghost citation, remix, recycle, mitosis, cherry-pick, copycat, and identity theft. To understand the meaning of these terms, we must answer a series of questions with a yes or no answer. The answers we provide will lead to one type of the term plagiarism. Through these questions, we are invited to reflect, whether we have done something related to plagiarism or not.

PREVENTION OF PLAGIARISM

The development of information literacy skills for the academic community is one step to suppress the practice of plagiarism. Materials in the development of information literacy skills include other skills, such as online research skills, academic writing, critical thinking skills, and others.

Online research skills training can develop the insight and skills of the academic community to identify primary sources of research references that are abundant and can be accessed online. After the ability to search primary sources of research references has developed, then it is necessary to develop the skills to use these research references appropriately and ethically through academic writing skills training. Academic writing skills will develop well if they are supported by, one of them, critical thinking skills. Policy development to promote the importance of academic honesty and research ethics and integrity is also a strategic step to prevent plagiarism.⁽⁸⁾

Regulation of the Minister of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia No. 17 of 2010 concerning the prevention and handling of plagiarism in universities mandates important points that can be used as references in developing plagiarism prevention policies. One of the important points is in the form of publishing scientific papers openly (open access) so that they can be accessed easily through a predetermined infrastructure. Scientific works that are managed and stored in a closed manner will make it easier for those who plagiarize them because it will be difficult to expose them to the public. In addition to requiring open access, this Regulation of the Minister of National Education also outlines several sanctions which are considered as steps to prevent plagiarism.⁽²⁾

Investing and focusing on prevention programs like the above is more strategic than procuring expensive plagiarism detection software. Like a thermometer that can only detect body temperature, but can't cure a fever. This kind of software can only detect one aspect of plagiarism (same words or sentences), but cannot cure plagiarism itself. The software procurement budget can be allocated to programs for developing information literacy skills, online research skills, academic writing, critical thinking skills, and others.

Prevention of plagiarism should ideally be a program that is integrated with other programs that are more macro and strategic and involve various parties in universities, departments, faculties, libraries and others.

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