

# Plagiarism

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April 10 and 16, 2008

## What is Plagiarism?

- ❖ Direct copy word for word and not acknowledged
- ❖ Use similar words to original
- ❖ Paraphrase words or ideas from original – very close wording
- ❖ No copyright permission

## Examples of Plagiarism

- ❖ Stealing ideas
- ❖ Writing exact words
- ❖ Failing to cite sources, authors
- ❖ Reproducing artwork, music
- ❖ Downloading from web – no citation

## Societal Plagiarism

- ❖ Ghostwriters
- ❖ Speech writers
- ❖ “Honorary authors”
- ❖ Governments – senior versus junior officials
- ❖ Power and position determine authors

B. Martin in J. Inform. Ethics 3:36-47 (1994)

## Federal Research Policy

- ❖ Office of Science and Technology Policy – The White House
- ❖ Federal Register
- ❖ December 6, 2000
- ❖ Volume 65:76260-76264

## Definitions of Research

- ❖ Basic, applied, demonstrative
- ❖ Engineering, mathematics, and science
- ❖ Also, economics, education, linguistics, medicine, psychology, social sciences, statistics
- ❖ Research with humans or animals

## Research Records

- ❖ Research proposals
- ❖ Laboratory notebooks - both paper and electronic
- ❖ Progress and internal reports
- ❖ Abstracts, theses, dissertations
- ❖ Oral and poster presentations
- ❖ Journal articles

## Research Misconduct

- ❖ Fabrication – make up
- ❖ Falsification - change
- ❖ Plagiarism – Latin ‘kidnapper’
- ❖ Omits “honest error or differences of opinions”

Fed. Reg. 65:76260-76264 (2000)

## Research Behavior

- ❖ Misconduct not acceptable for all research fields
- ❖ Intentional or reckless behavior
- ❖ Evidence to prove misconduct
- ❖ Serious consequences

## Responsibilities for Research

- ❖ Research scientists
- ❖ Research institutions
- ❖ Federal agencies who funded research
- ❖ All are partners in research

## Cultural Differences

- ❖ Plagiarism differs with cultures
- ❖ Western culture believes “ideas” belong to individual
- ❖ Cultures with no “individual” property or ownership
- ❖ Difference between individual and community

## Paraphrase

- ❖ Retain ideas from original
- ❖ Change writing style
- ❖ Use your own grammar
- ❖ No two people write the same
- ❖ Check your writing with original
- ❖ Use “ ” when necessary
- ❖ Cite source

## Copyright Laws

- ❖ Legal right for publishing, selling or distributing
- ❖ “Literary, scientific and artistic works”
- ❖ Berne Convention (9/9/1886) and all revisions
- ❖ Title 17 *United States Code*

<http://www.copyright.gov>

## Public Domain

- ❖ Works not published or copyrighted by 1/1/1978 and author died before 1933
- ❖ “Protected for life of author + 70 years”
- ❖ Copyright expired

<http://www.copyright.gov>

## Fair Use

- ❖ Examples: review or criticism, parody, news report, teaching, scholarship
- ❖ To illustrate, comment, teach, clarify - give attribution
- ❖ Evolved from legal decisions
- ❖ Best to get permission

<http://www.copyright.gov>

## Common Knowledge

- ❖ Information - no credit given
- ❖ Most people already know
- ❖ Information in common sources
- ❖ i. e.  $2 \times 2 = 4$
- ❖ Accepted facts in discipline or in general society

## “Self Plagiarize”

- ❖ Using similar or identical words in more than one manuscript
- ❖ Author signs papers - copyright to journal
- ❖ No longer author’s right
- ❖ Need to cite journal

## Use of Citations

- ❖ Author
- ❖ Title
- ❖ Publisher
- ❖ Date
- ❖ Volume
- ❖ Pages

## What to Cite

- ❖ Journal articles, books, theses, and other published works
- ❖ Ideas from oral presentations, ideas of others, paraphrase idea
- ❖ Anything borrowed from others

## Avoid Plagiarism

- ❖ Write with your words
- ❖ Citing facts – are they “common knowledge”?
- ❖ Properly cite all sources
- ❖ Cite internet (web address)
- ❖ Cite if not your original research or ideas