Plagiarism: Efforts to combat with it

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Abstract

Today, plagiarism has become one of the most critical and debatable aspects of academic and scientific research. While writing research papers, articles, dissertations and theses researchers use many information sources, print, digital, online information since long. In the process it become quite difficult to remember the ideas taken by reading others' works and use them without citing or without attributing original research. Later they come to know that they have plagiarized in ignorance. Copying text, using other's ideas, paraphrasing one's own ideas, text citing without references etc are treated as a form of plagiarism. In the time of internet and availability of only print resources can make things critically crucial since copy and paste is quite common. It is important that researcher should know permission of copying or referring number of words in a sentence from earlier published resources and to know amount of plagiarism being commonly allowed. Many researchers have been found using his/her similar ideas in different papers by recycling their own words which is known as self-plagiarism. Although, various academic institutions have already started making students and faculty aware about the plagiarism but a constructive approach is still needed to define plagiarism and non-plagiarism issues in detail. Some institutions have already come up with the plagiarism policy for themselves. Many of the institutions are using various tools to deal with plagiarism. The librarian can also play an important role in making students/faculty aware about the various critical issues to combat plagiarism such as, what to cite, when to cite and how to cite information during their research work. The paper throws light on background of plagiarism, its impact, consequences, tools, and some efforts to combat it.

Keywords: Plagiarism; Self-plagiarism; Plagiarism checking tools

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1. Introduction

The emergences of electronic information resources and innovations in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have made copy and paste culture more prevalent among information users. The use of internet has been started from initial stage of schooling almost across the world. The children are enforced to jump in the era of copy and paste to record information from the beginning of their education. Continuity of cut and paste culture later take place a form of paraphrasing in middle or high schools as students take help from Internet and try to re-write available in their own words. By the time they reach to graduate or post-graduate courses they may become habitual and use information without attributing the original work. Irony of this common aspect is that nothing much has been done to restrict plagiarism in the beginning of education whereas call is being taken in graduate or post-graduate institutions. Irrespective of age many researchers do get indulged in plagiarism because of oversight or ignorance in using other's work. The young generation is over the threshold where they need to understand ethical use of information. Zimerman (2012) stated that use of internet and availability of enormous stock of information affecting everyone in school and higher education. It somehow starts from schools where internet provide huge amount of information which leads deterioration in ethical writing.

To students, it is very important to know about unethical issues of plagiarism. Sometimes, student may truly not be unaware if they are new to English language (Erkaya, 2009).

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2. What is Plagiarism?

As defined by the Oxford Dictionary, the plagiarism is "The practice of taking someone's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own". The word plagiarism originated from the 'plagium' word of Latin which means 'kidnapping'. The word plagarius used under various contexts for murdered, plundered, seducer and literary thief as well. The Cambridge Dictionary defines word plagiarize as "to use another person's ideas or work and pretend that it is your own", whereas, Merriam-Webster dictionary define the word plagiarism as "the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person". Wager (2014) bring light of historically evolvement of word plagiarism. The origin of the word was traced back in somewhere during AD80 when a Roman poet Martial claimed that another poet recite his poem to audience as his own. She further highlighted that the term in its sense of literary theft was started using somewhere in the 15th century. Similarly, Gaudy (1908) stated that Roman used plagium in law which meant the stealing of slave from his master and its derivative 'plagiarius' legally defined as manstealer or a kidnaper. Roman also used plagiarous for literary thief which means the person who falsely claimed authorship of someone else's work. It means that literary dishonesty was not a new concept but it was there since beginning. Earlier, there was no mechanism to track or detect plagiarism except being highlighted by the original writer. Schechter (1889) had given an update about the incident in which two letters containing narration of adventurous voyage of two authors were published on a famous brochure in 1886. Later on it was found that most of the part of both these letters was already published in 1863 in German. He further stated that this kind of dishonesty is common especially when author lives in other country. He enforced that this literacy piracy needs to be dealt with strong protest.

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In the 19th century advent of internet has triggered plagiarizing contents and it also helped in making easy detection of copy paste text. Martin (1994) stated that intellectuals considered plagiarism as one of the gravious sin. Academicians, especially teachers have been trying various methods and mechanism to detect and combat it. Armstrong (1993) stated that plagiarism encompasses a spectrum of misappropriated actions in writing. Fray (2016) quoted literature stating if you take stuff from one author/writer/article/book/idea it is plagiarism if you take stuff from many authors/writers/ articles/ books/ideas than it is called research. This is a kind of statements which reflects the status of research happening these days. This also brings a thin line of distinction between copyright infringement and plagiarism. In copyright infringement we use contents without taking permission from the original author and in plagiarism we use other's writings and contents without attribution.

3. **Consequences of Plagiarism**

Now academic dishonesty is considered as reputation destroyer, however, many institutions have already come up with plagiarism policy in which punishment from minor academic loss to suspension of services are also defined. In some countries, clause of imprisonment is also there. Former Vice Chancellor of University of Delhi was arrested and sent to Jail under plagiarism case against him and one of his students (Times of India, 26 November 2014). In 2012, Science advisor to Government of India was criticized for plagiarism. The news taken hype in media and he publically apologized for not noticing a plagiarized text in the paper he published with one of his students. There are many cases of plagiarism against prominent personalities all around the world. As

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highlighted by Dey and Sobhan (2006); Gibson and Chester-Fangman (2010) the plagiarism bring various impact on academics such as

- Injustice to the original author and the people who do not plagiarize

- It degrades academic standard

- It degrades reputation of the institute

- It creates negative impact on the professional standards

- It can ruin academic or research reputation of any student or faculty.

4. Why Plagiarism

Baird and Dooey (2014) stated various factors which encourage academic plagiarism in student community, these are: lack of awareness about plagiarism, poor academic skills, teaching and learning issues, pressures of completing projects or assignments, convenience in verbatim or copy paste, language etc. There are various reasons which enforced students, faculty and writers to plagiarize. These can be divided into two groups Personal reasons and Professional reasons. Personal reasons are those which are related to natural or behavioural instinct of a person and professional reasons are those which offered ways towards plagiarism for professional or career growth.

Personal reasons

- Desire to get recognition soon: People plagiarized to get instant or immediate recognition in the group.

- Convenience: Sometime people found copy/pasting and stealing or paraphrasing convenient than developing own thoughts and writing them.
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- Language problem: incompetency in language (especially English) also supports people to plagiarize. The one who does not have good command on English language can also get encouraged to adopt plagiarism.

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Professional reasons

- Poor understanding of plagiarism: People do not know about plagiarism and in ignorance and in lack of knowledge they plagiarized.

- Lack of citation understanding: People do not know how to cite text or ideas taken from other's work.

- Career growth/Promotion by publishing soon: In higher education institutions, number of publications helps in getting promotion in teaching jobs.

- Completion of course/project works: students plagiarized to accomplish their courses, as they need to submit project reports or course works to attain academic degrees.

- Pressure in academics: Research scholars need to publish articles for accomplishing M.Phil or Ph.D and even faculty also need to publish something as per the institutional guidelines. This enforcement also takes people towards plagiarism.

5. Types of plagiarism

Plagiarism is considered one of the biggest enemies of academics or writings. Sometime people knowingly or unknowingly plagiarize. The best way of combat plagiarism to understand it and know the kinds or types of plagiarism one can get involved. It is also important to understand types of plagiarism so that one can take necessary steps to avoid it. Broadly, plagiarism can be divided in two segments, 'intentional plagiarism' and 'unintentional plagiarism'. The Intentional plagiarism is considered a biggest sin in academics it is also known as deliberate plagiarism in which someone deliberately used others contents as his/her own contents, whereas unintentional plagiarism can take place in ignorance or by lack of knowledge about plagiarism and citation practice. The types of plagiarism practices can be put in these two broad segments. The word for word is the most commonly used plagiarism in which someone copies of few lines without using quotation marks or without acknowledging the source (Martin, 1994).

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Jiang, Emmerton and McKauge (2013) conducted a study on plagiarism. While going through the literature published earlier they found that many of the writers were not cleared about distinction between the concepts of plagiarism and cheating. They concluded that many of the students were not aware about the concept of plagiarism and cheating. They further established that a majority of plagiarism cases are unintentional whereas cheating cannot unintentional, hence all types of plagiarism is a kind of cheating. Chaddah (2012) stated that plagiarism can mainly be characterized in three different groups, 'results plagiarism', 'text plagiarism' and 'idea plagiarism'. Results plagiarism is happened when somebody claimed and used results of other's work. Author stated that it generally observed in happening when earlier works appeared in proceedings and later ones in peer-reviewed journals. Idea plagiarism when someone stole other's idea and represent it as his/her own idea. The text plagiarism accommodates copy/paste, fabrication and paraphrasing of text published in earlier materials.

Rao (2005) through its correspondence to the publisher suggested ways out to diminish the plagiarism spreading across research and academics. He suggested that authority should take off mandatorily submission of project reports or dissertations in Master or Bachelor degrees. Instead of that instructors may be asked to publish their research in peer-reviewed journals. Clough (2003), Barrett and Malcolm (2006), Jayashri (2016), Wager (2014) and various others had identified and described different types of plagiarism. These are:

- Word to word plagiarism: When someone copy text and phrase from the original source and used it without changing any word.

- Paraphrasing: In paraphrasing, someone copy text or phrase and change few words without changing the meaning of the sentence or text.

- Verbatim: Copied the sentence word by word.

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- Plagiarism of secondary sources: When original source is cited or quoted from the other secondary source without referring the original one.

- Plagiarism of ideas: when someone used other's idea and claimed it as his/her own idea.

- Plagiarism of authorship: When someone claimed some other's work as his/her own work.

- Plagiarism of the form of a source: the structure of an argument in a source is copied and re-written.

- Self plagiarism: When someone use his/her own earlier published ideas or contents without citing them.

- Cluster plagiarism: When someone copied ideas or contents of other authors in a form of verbatim, paraphrasing, plagiarism of secondary source etc in one work. These people are known as habitual plagiarists.

- Mashup plagiarism: In this type person copied material from several sources without proper citation.

- Major plagiarism: a "word to word (verbatim) copy of over 100 words of original material without citation". (Wager, 2014)

- Minor Plagiarism: a word to word (verbatim) "copy from description of standard techniques without citing the original source". (Wager, 2014)

6. Best practices adopted

Bird and Dooey (2014) examined the plagiarism combating mechanism in Curtin Business School of Curtin University, Western Australia. They highlighted that university has enrolment over 16000 students and various issues of plagiarism have been observed. The Curtin university has special guidelines of plagiarism in which plagiarism is being classified in three different levels. At level I, minor plagiarism, not much serious or offensive issues, can be discussed and students have been just warned and guided without any penalty. Academic misconduct of Level II and III were of serious concern and subject to penalties. They finally propose to appoint a

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counseling-trained Academic Integrity Officer to guide and inform students about plagiarism and its consequences. Barrett and Malcolm (2006) studied 182 reports submitted by students. They used turnitin software to detect the plagiarism and found that 74 (41%) from these submitted reports were indulged in more than 15% of plagiarism. When these reports were inspected manually it was found that most of them had used proper citations and quotation marks wherever needed. These reports would not be treated plagiarized works. After final inspection only 26% reports were found over 15% of plagiarism. They further found that most of the students indulge in plagiarism were new students and coming from different countries who were having difficulty in understanding or writing English. The using automated plagiarism tools would help in providing practical orientation to students or new researchers. The plagiarized report can be shown to students so that they could understand what need to be done or what don't. Culwin and Lancaster (2001) shared a four stage model to combat the plagiarism. These stages are collection, detection, investigation and confirmation. In collection stage all submission to be done through web interface, detection stage can be handled by software design for detecting similar contents, confirmation stage is to confirm the plagiarism reported by the tool. Sometimes similar resources can be consulted by students, hence conformity to the same can be done through manual process by the tutor. Finally investigation stage takes care of manual investigation why students have done so and what penalty can be imposed so that they could do ethical use of information.

7. Tools of plagiarism

Gadagin and Selvaraj (2016) discussed various methods which are being used by anti-plagiarism tools. They also discussed about types of plagiarism and software to combat it. Though they finally concluded that plagiarism is not an issue of students but it is an issue of teachers, as they need to make students understand about what plagiarism is all about. Wager (2014) stated that

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software such as iThenticate, eTBlast, or use of search engines can be used in easy detection of plagiarized text. She suggested that not everything which reported plagiarized by the software may not necessary be plagiarized. She informed about COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) guidelines. She also explained different factors of identifying types of plagiarism. These factors are extent of copying, originality of copying material, context of copying material, referencing given by the author, intention of author, seniority of author and his/her native language. Tripathy, Tiwari and Nithyanandam (2015) in their study analysed the use of freely available online plagiarism detection tools. They highlighted the way these openly available tools can be used. They finally concluded that every researcher and author should aware about the plagiarism and tools to combat it.

Today, many plagiarism detection tools are available for use. Some of these are paid and some are available in free over the internet. The detail of some important tools is given in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Plagiarism checking tools at a glance

S. No.	Name of the Product	Paid/Free	Description
1	iThenticate	Paid	it helps publishers and authors to track any misconduct or unethical writing in any work by comparing it against its database of over 44 million works from 590 scholarly published which are participating in CrossRef service.
2	eTBlast	Free	It is a free service to find out similarity of text submitted as query. It searches the text placed as query in Medline one of the biggest databases for medical subject. This service is provided by HelioText.
3	Turnitin	Paid	It helps educator evaluate student work and provide feedback with respect to any similar string of words matches with the reported work. It could check

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			against internet resources and huge database of published works (Zimerman, 2012). This is one of the best plagiarism detection tools available this point of time. However, the biggest drawback of Turnitin is that one requires subscription to use it.
4	Google	Free	Use of simple text string in google also helps in assessing plagiarism.
5	URKUND	Paid	It is fully-automated software which tracks plagiarism of submitted document against Internet, published material and students submitted materials available in the database. It is user friendly software to handle which does not require any software installation or login to any online portal.
6	EVE2	Paid	It is a very powerful tool that allows professors and teachers at all levels of the education system to determine if students have plagiarized material from the World Wide Web. EVE2 accepts essays in plain text, Microsoft Word, or Corel Word Perfect format and returns links to web pages from which a student may have plagiarized.
7	Wcopy Find	Free	WCopyfind is an open source windows-based program that compares documents and reports similarities in their words and phrases. It is free and available to anyone.
8	Grammarly	Free and Paid	Offer various options to avoid grammatical errors among feeded text. It checks plagiarism in over 8 billion pages and also helps as proof reader. Basic version is free to download but premium version is paid one.
9	PlagScan	Paid	PlagScan is a browser-based web service which helps in detecting plagiarized contents. It checks within billions of web-pages and over one million research web-pages are being added every year. It also helps in getting string or similar kind of sentences. Trial can be asked for. However its paid one
10	WhiteSmoke	Free application	It is a grammar and language checker which also works as plagiarism detector. It can be integrated with Microsoft Word and Outlook. It can also be added with Chrome as Free application.
11	Article Checker	Free	It can search duplication of contents among webpage or text, no downloading of software or registration required. It is just simply copy the content and paste it on given box.

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12	Duplichecker	Free	One can copy the text and paste in as well as file can also be uploaded, It searches for complete sentence instead of small string of texts or a phrase.
13	Plagiarismcheck	Free	It can check unlimited number of text or pages, It accepts most of the format of files while uploading, The biggest advantage of this is that it is a web-based service and can be accessed from anywhere over the Internet.
14	Smallseotools	Free	It checks for duplication in web-pages, websites and social sites as well. In this one need to copy and paste on the box given, however one can paste only 1000 word at one time.
15	Plagium	Free	It checks the duplication over internet including social media sites such as facebook, twitter etc. Free text search through copy/paste option and search can be made for 5000 words only.
16	Plagiarism checker	Paid	It checks among web-pages, articles, handouts, etc.
17	Paperrater	Free and Paid	Available in three different segments, it helps in grammar and spelling check, proofreading or duplication checking. It accommodates uploading of 5 pages in free available version
18	Viper	Free	It scan over 10 billion resources including books, journals and websites
19	Dustball	Free and Paid	It checks plagiarism among web-pages, It is quite effective it does not scan complete sentence but break the sentence in phrases which offer more precision in identifying duplication. Its free version can check a set of text once in a day from a machine.
20	Copyscape	Free and Paid	It searches matching content of one's website or blog with other websites or blogs, One need to give URL of the website or webpage to bring URLs keeping similar contents, With its help one can notice who plagiarized with your contents or the contents you taken from others.

There are various other tools, which can help writers, students and teachers to check plagiarism before submitting their information pieces for publication. However, these software highlight the plagiarized text which can be re-edited before final submission. It somewhere shows that detection of plagiarism is a different issue and combating it is completely a different issue.

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8. Role of Librarian in deterring plagiarism

Since, librarians have been responsible for acquiring and disseminating information. The profession itself put them into to support the system to deter plagiarism. Snyder Gibson & Chester-Fangman (2010) conducted a survey and tried to find out how librarians are helping students to avoid plagiarism. They compiled a survey of 25 exploratory questions which was responded by 610 librarians of USA. They found that over one-half (337) of the librarians collaborated with other departments to address plagiarism. They further found that a majority of respondents (530) conformed that its part of librarianship to teach others about plagiarism but over one-half (324) respondents never teach/address teachers on the topic of plagiarism. About 201 respondents confirmed their involvement in implementing plagiarism policy in their institutions whereas about 263 respondents denied any involvement. They concluded that librarians are playing an important role in combating plagiarism at different levels, such as by providing instructions about citing correct document, answering plagiarism queries and taking orientation sessions, arranging workshops, preparing plagiarism related reports etc.

Ercegovac and Richardson (2004) in their review of literature consulted various studies on academic dishonesty or plagiarism etc. As per them librarians can be the major instructor or facilitator of copyrights and plagiarism. Zimerman (2012) stated that plagiarism is a special are interest of the librarians. Librarians have tools such as style sheet manuals (citation format manuals) and will to combat plagiarism. He further recommended having proper collaboration between librarians and faculty members, so that collectively students can be informed about ill aspects of plagiarism. Librarian can take following steps.

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Awareness about Plagiarism issues: Librarians can provide orientation and awareness sessions towards plagiarism, its types, its consequences and how one can avoid it. Some experts suggested librarian should provide orientation to the every new student.

Awareness about copyright issues: Students and faculty should be aware about copyright laws so that intellectual rights can be protected. The students and faculty who are aware about property rights are less inclined towards plagiarism. Therefore, librarians should inform users to use print as well as electronic resources whatever is permissible under copyrights. The use of citation or reference is also a part of copyright so that credit should go to the original author.

Citation method can be known to each and everyone who is in writing: Librarian can also make students understand about writing citation in proper manner. Referring an idea need different citation and copying a phrase or text needs different citation, therefore, librarian can teach students how to cite sources while writing project reports or articles, etc.

Coordination with faculty: Librarian needs to coordinate with faculty so that students can be taught about plagiarism at every step. Coordination between librarians and faculty would

9. Conclusion

Librarians are known for acquiring, retrieving, searching and managing the information. By virtue of library profession they need to be acquainted with copyrights and plagiarism. Plagiarism is a slow poison which is getting into academic since beginning. No proper solution has been made yet though now a days use of tools/software is the only slightly authentic method to detect plagiarism. These tools joust offering a solution to the researcher so that one can avoid

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it by making some changes in the text. Many experts and academicians suggested that since plagiarism is related to behaviour of the individual who plagiarize, hence it is better students should be informed about its meaning and how one can avoid it. Librarians can take initiatives to orient and make student aware about plagiarism during information learning sessions.

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