AVOIDING PLAGIARISM: TIPS & STRATEGIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Mississippi State University Libraries
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Definitions of Plagiarism

MSU Policies/Honor Code

Strategies for Ethical Research
THE BEST DISSERTATION...

.....is a Finished Dissertation!
LIBRARY SERVICES

- Research Services (2nd Floor)
  - Research Consultations
  - Specialized Research/Reference Resources
  - Ready Reference/Research Assistance
  - Ask-a-Librarian: http://lib.msstate.edu/help
LIBRARY SERVICES

- Digital Media Center (2nd Floor)
  - Free Workshops
  - Multimedia Workstations and Instructional Material
  - Equipment Checkout, Makerspace
  - Videos, CDs, DVDs
LIBRARY SERVICES

- Access Services (2nd Floor)
  - InterLibrary Loan (Illiad)
  - Circulation
- Office of Thesis and Dissertation Review (1st Floor)
  - Dissertation and Theses Submission Workshops
WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?
DEFINITIONS OF PLAGIARISM

“Plagiarism is not acceptable in ACS journals. ACS journals adhere to the U.S. National Science Foundation definition of plagiarism as ‘the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit.’”

American Chemical Society, 2015.
DEFINITIONS OF PLAGIARISM

“The appropriation of another’s ideas, words, processes, results, or images without giving appropriate credit.”

EXAMPLES FROM THE MSU POLICY

- “Intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own....”
- “Directly quoting any source without clearly identifying the quote....”
- Failing to promptly acknowledge or cite a source when material from the source is paraphrased or summarized....’
“Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part....”

“Failing to properly cite the Internet, data bases and other electronic resources if they are utilized....”
Research-Fraud Investigation Leads to Departures From Northern Kentucky University

By ROBIN WILSON

The Board of Regents of Northern Kentucky University last month accepted the resignation of two finance professors, fired an economics professor, and accepted the retirement of another economics professor, all of whom the university said were involved in a research-fraud scandal that it had investigated for 18 months. Another finance professor, Shailendra Verma, who was at the heart of the fraud charges, resigned last February.

The three finance professors who were involved in the scandal constituted the entire finance department, which the university has since merged with its economics department. Northern Kentucky had accused the five professors of fabricating data in scholarly papers, including using fabricated research in their curriculum and not properly disclosing conflicts of interest.
Retraction Watch

Rowdy Roddy Pilferer: Wrestling journal takes down plagiarized paper

with one comment

A Journal devoted to wrestling science — we're not sure if it's the only one — has given the old reverse frankensteiner to a 2016 article whose authors stole much of their text from a conference presentation one of them had reviewed for the meeting.

The article, "The Role of Goal Setting, Collectivism, and Task Orientation on Iranian Wrestling Teams Performance," appeared in International Journal of Wrestling Science, a Taylor & Francis title. Its two authors were Hossein Abdolmaleki and Seyed Bahador Zakizadeh, of the Islamic Azad University in Karaj, Iran.

Here's the notice:

"Subsequent to publication it has been determined that the article contains significant overlap with a paper by Marco Arraya, that he had submitted to the European Academy of Management for their academic conference, EURAM 2016. His article "The influence of goal-setting, collectivism and task orientation on team performance." This paper was not cited nor otherwise acknowledged. Abdolmaleki had been sent the Arraya paper as a reviewer by the organizers of EURAM 2016.

This represents a breach of ethics and of warranties made by the author with respect to originality and provenance.

The Editors of International Journal of Wrestling Science, and Taylor & Francis, publishers, censure this conduct, and as a result have decided to retract the article from publication.

The Editors of International Journal of Wrestling Science and Taylor & Francis, publishers, note we received, peer-reviewed, accepted, and published the article in good faith based on these warranties.

David Curby, editor of the journal, offered more information about the episode:

"Arraya [who is now head of a company in Angola called G. Medical] was the person that contacted me. There was a 75% match in text. The Arraya paper, viewed as a reviewer by Abdolmaleki, was used as a template for his paper. The difference was that he used data from Iranian wrestlers, rather than the handball players used by Arraya. Abdolmaleki should have just identified this as a replication of Arraya, using wrestlers!

Bottom line: Reviewers who get caught abusing the labors — and trust — of authors shouldn't make it out of the ring."
WHY DO WE CARE?
CATEGORIZING PLAGIARISM

- Deliberate Plagiarism
  - Knowingly using material from a source without appropriate citation or acknowledgement.

- “Accidental” Plagiarism
  - Copying instead of paraphrasing; forgetting to place quotation marks correctly; incorrectly citing material.
STRATEGIES: COLLECTING RESEARCH MATERIALS

- Expect the research process to take time!
- Learn the research tools needed for your project.
- Expect to use Library resources and services!
- Allocate time for both gathering material AND synthesizing research materials.
STRATEGIES: RESEARCH

- Use authoritative sources for your research.
  - Wikipedia?
- Understand the role a citation plays in your research.
  - Providing a research trail for the reader.
  - Building authority in your paper.
- Documenting sources used and cited in the paper.
STRATEGIES: TAKING NOTES

- Document *anything* that you copy directly from a source: do this as you are taking notes.
- Jot down the page number and the author/title of the source each time you make a note (even if you are paraphrasing!)
- Keep a working bibliography.
You must cite direct quotes.

You must cite paraphrased passages.

You must cite anything that is not considered *common knowledge*.

- Mississippi is a state.
- Mississippi is the best state for football.
CITATION STYLES

- Vary by discipline.
- Typically include all the information that a reader would need to locate the cited material.
- Know your citation style and capture all the needed information in your working bibliography.
CITATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- Mendeley
- Zotero
- EndNote

Citation Management Software Guide:
http://guides.library.msstate.edu/citation_management
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<td>See Barnes &amp; Noble’s ThinkEDU.com for latest prices. Free 30 day trial also available.</td>
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AVOIDING PLAGIARISM IN A GRADUATE CLASS

- Clearly understand the class expectations.
  - Are any collaborations allowed? If so, when?
- If you’re not sure, do NOT assume you can work in a group. Ask for clarification.

QUESTIONS?

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Your feedback on this session is greatly appreciated!