Library HITS: Avoiding Plagiarism and Citing Correctly

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OVERVIEW

What plagiarism is

The consequences

Detection of plagiarism

Avoiding committing it unintentionally

Quoting and paraphrasing

Using software to keep records and more

Citation styles – Inline styles

Citation styles – Numbered styles

Citation styles – Footnote styles
What is Plagiarism?

“The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft” ("Oxford English Dictionary," 2006)

Plagiarism is using another’s work without giving him or her credit

It is the act of plagiarism rather than the intent to deceive that will be punished

In Irish academic institutions such behaviour, without properly acknowledging the original author, will (in nearly all cases) be construed as plagiarism
D-day
Turning Point of the War

The invasion of Normandy, sometimes called D-day probably because of a single system of code names. There was somewhere between 130,000 and 156,000 troops in the invasion. The invasion involved a combined effort of several Allied Forces countries including major involvement from the United States.

Source: http://youtu.be/2q0NIWcTq1Y, Bainbridge State College
Detected plagiarism can carry severe consequences, as stated in the University of Dublin Calendar.

College departments include elements taken from the Calendar in their own handbooks.

Note that it is the act of plagiarism rather than the intent to deceive that will be punished. The only defence would be if you could definitively prove you had not read the other work – a tricky undertaking! However, there are levels of plagiarism; a matrix of levels and consequences of plagiarism is available at Trinity’s [Avoiding Plagiarism website](#).
Some Horror Stories!

Be careful if giving a speech...


Be careful if writing a thesis and you want to be a politician...

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/01/german-defence-minister-resigns-plagiarism

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/02/hungarian-president-resigns-doctorate-plagiarism


SOME HORROR STORIES!

In Ireland:

http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/chair-of-institute-has-plagiarism-ruling-overturned-230322.html#

...although it didn’t end well:


(great synopsis at http://educationalstandards.wordpress.com/2013/10/15/the-chairmans-thesis/)
Lecturers and examiners will be familiar with key sources and will notice when information has been used from them, as well as differences in style, terminology and accuracy in an essay.

In addition, many courses in TCD now use Turnitin to check written submissions for plagiarism. This compares submitted work to a database of websites, articles and previously submitted assignments.
Turnitin calculates how much of the work is original, and what needs to be examined by your tutor to make sure you have used references to correctly cite others’ words and ideas. It combats against “essay mills” in particular.

All Trinity staff have access to the Turnitin service and can choose to make this available to their students – you can only use it if you have been given access to it.

If you have been told to submit your work via Turnitin, create a user profile using your TCD e-mail address. Click the "enroll in a class" tab on the student homepage, then use the class ID and enrolment password given to you by your lecturer.

For help on how to use the system, see the Student Training section on the Turnitin website which has a series of tutorials, resources and manuals.

See what the “OriginalityCheck” means... it is *not* a plagiarism percentage!
Students get academics to write their essays for €50 an hour

Universities increase measures to combat academic fraud as websites offer to do work

“Dr Mark Glynn, head of DCU’s teaching enhancement unit, said plagiarism was an age-old problem but “with the advent of the internet the issue of external people writing essays or papers has become more prevalent””

The Irish Times, 20 April 2015
New law to crack down on ‘essays for sale’

Minister for Education Richard Bruton: move vital to ensure level playing field for students

“Today I am announcing plans to get tough and tackle academic cheating. I am proposing new powers to prosecute someone who provides or advertises essay mills or other services which would facilitate cheating. This is vital to ensuring an equal playing field for all our students.”
Richard Bruton, quoted in the Irish Times, 15 May 2017
“Copy and paste” is *very* easy to detect, but so is “Copy, shake and paste” – mixing up paragraph order, changing words etc. to make lifted sections appear different often leaves the essay in a jumbled mess and is generally obvious to the reader...
You must be careful not to use any quotes, paraphrases etc. without attributing a source

For example, if you have a quote which illustrates your topic but cannot find the exact source of it, including it without properly attributing it will be penalised

You must have a complete reference (use the Library’s print or electronic resources to find it) or leave it out
“If I have seen further it is by standing on ye shoulders of Giants”
(Newton, 1676)

Papers on the same subjects will use similar terminology, and draw on the ideas and research that has gone before. This is an expected and necessary part of research.

However, it is also expected that you credit your sources by citing them.

This allows readers of your work to find the original sources and see if you have adequately represented their ideas, and shows you are not trying to claim those ideas as your own.
You will be given guidance by your department on how exactly to use quotations in your work. Any direct inline quotes (i.e., in a sentence) of another’s words must be put into quotation marks and attributed.

Block quotes (longer quotes as a separate paragraph) should generally be used sparingly, as overuse will demonstrate you have little original material of your own to add!
There is nothing wrong with including short paraphrases of others’ work so long as you attribute the ideas to them.

If you include a long segment of direct paraphrasing - merely inserting synonyms or changing the sentence structure - then you are likely to lose marks on stylistic grounds, just as if you had directly quoted a long fragment of another’s work...
MAINTAINING ACCURATE RECORDS

It is vital to maintain accurate records of your sources, in order to be able to properly attribute the phrasing and ideas you draw from them.

For example, you might keep full handwritten or word processed notes detailing each reference.

Another way would be to save particular searches or records (e.g., by marking those records) in individual databases, such as by using the “My NCBI” feature in PubMed.

Stella will allow you to mark records in a similar way and save or e-mail the results to your PC.
The easiest way to bring together references from all sources is to use bibliographic reference managing software.

These programs allow you to import records from multiple databases, library catalogues and to also manually enter citations, and save them as a database in one location.
Free software includes Zotero, Colwiz, EndNote Basic, and Mendeley

**EndNote** for the desktop is much more powerful

However, unless you have a TCD-owned computer, you have to pay for it! Hence, we only recommend the desktop version for postgrads, as an investment

TCD can get you a substantial discount on the full price

The Library runs training on EndNote Desktop and demos on the free EndNote Online as part of our HITS programme
Many different citation styles are in use in Trinity – we can’t tell you which one you should use!
There are thousands of citation styles, but most are based on one of three broad types:

- Inline
- Numbered
- Footnotes
Guides for each style will tell you how to format the references:

Details on which order to present the bibliographic information

Grammar instructions such as how to use punctuation and capitalisation - what is emboldened, underlined, italicised... where the full stops and commas go...

Different rules will apply to different formats of sources (journal articles, book with one author, books with several authors, edited books, chapters in edited books, webpages, reports, films, etc. etc...)
Inline citations use a brief summary of the reference in the text (such as listing the author and date, or the author and title, or author and page) with the full reference stated at the end of the chapter or work.

This final list is called a reference list or bibliography.

Generally the full list of references will be in alphabetical order by the first author’s surname.
Inline styles are sometimes called the “Harvard” style as they were first used at Harvard in the 1880s.

They are also called “Parenthetical” styles as they enclose the partial information in brackets.
Reference Type: Journal Article

Author: McClimens, Alex; Kenyon, Lynn; and Cheung, Heidi

Year: 2013

Title: Exploring placement pathways in nurse education

Journal: British Journal of Nursing

Volume: 22

Issue: 1

Pages: 8-15
In the text:

Blah blah blah (McClimens, Kenyon, & Cheung, 2013).

Reference list:

In the text:

Blah blah blah (McClimens, Kenyon and Cheung).

Reference list:

In the text:

APA 6th

Blah blah blah (McClimens, Kenyon, & Cheung, 2013).

MLA 7th

Blah blah blah (McClimens, Kenyon and Cheung).
In the reference list:

**APA 6th**


**MLA 7th**

Numbered styles list references in the order they are mentioned, using a digit in the text to refer to the fuller citation at the end.

The most common numbered style is Vancouver - while this style has its own particular rules, numbered styles in general are often referred to as Vancouver styles.
In the text:
Blah blah blah (1).

Reference list:
Like numbered styles, footnote styles give the reference an ascending number in the text and the full references are listed in that order at the bottom of the page in a footnote. A full list at the end of the work or chapter may also be required - although unlike with numbered styles, this may be in alphabetical order by surname, rather than in order of mention.

The Chicago 16th Edition style is the most well-known footnote style. Another in use at TCD is the Irish Historical Journal style.
In the text:

Blah blah blah¹

As a footnote at the bottom of the page:


(elements are separated by commas)

In the reference list, which is in alphabetical order:


(first author’s name inverted, elements are separated by full stops)
In Chicago and other footnote styles there are rules that apply if you use a work again in another footnote. If you mention the citation again as the next footnote, then the term “ibid” (“in the same place”) is used instead of the reference. If it is used again after referring to a different citation, then a short form of the reference is used in the footnotes - the manual for the style will tell you what this should look like.


General plagiarism questions -

• start at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism and complete the tutorial

• ask at the Duty Librarian’s Desk or e-mail your Subject Librarian

General referencing questions – us again

TurnItIn – talk to your lecturer first

Which referencing style to use – ask your lecturer and look in your departmental handbook

EndNote – us again

Academic writing in general – Student Learning and Development or the Centre for Academic Practice and eLearning (CAPSL)
Thank You!

THE LIBRARY OF TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

LEABHARLANN CHOLÁISTE NA TRÍÓNÓIDE, OLLSCOIL ÁTHA CLIATH

Thank You!