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Library HITS: Avoiding Plagiarism and Citing Correctly

Greg Sheaf

Assistant Librarian

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OVERVIEW

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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?



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“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

PLAGIARISM: A SUMMARY...

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Source: <http://youtu.be/2q0NIWcTq1Y>, Bainbridge State College

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM



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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!



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Be careful if giving a speech...

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2011/0524/kennye.html>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/06/17/university-of-alberta-medical-school-dean-resigns-after-plagiarizing-speech/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/barackobama/2607505/Joe-Biden-plagiarised-Neil-Kinnock-speech.html>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/07/19/melania-trump-republican-convention-speech-plagiarism/87278088/>

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>

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/10/world/europe/german-education-chief-quits-in-scandal-reflecting-fascination-with-titles.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/23/world/americas/report-accuses-mexicos-president-of-plagiarism-in-law-school-thesis.html?_r=0

SOME HORROR STORIES!



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In Ireland:

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

...although it didn't end well:

<http://www.clare.fm/news/flan-garvey-resigns-chairman-it-tralee>

(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!

ESSAY MILLS?



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Students get academics to write their essays for €50 an hour

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



DCU: one of a number of institutions that are altering their methods of assessment, in tandem with the rollout of 'cut-and-paste' detection software, to combat academic fraud. Photograph: Cyril Byrne/The Irish Times

“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



The legislation will also give institutes of technology the power to award degrees in the same way as universities. Photograph: Getty Images

"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...

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM



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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

CITATIONS - ACKNOWLEDGING SOURCES



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“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



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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

TYPES OF REFERENCE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE



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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

OUR EXAMPLE



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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:

McClimens, A., Kenyon, L., & Cheung, H. (2013). Exploring placement pathways in nurse education. *British Journal of Nursing*, 22(1), 8-15.



In the text:

Blah blah blah (McClimens, Kenyon and Cheung).

Reference list:

McClimens, Alex, Lynn Kenyon, and Heidi Cheung. "Exploring Placement Pathways in Nurse Education." *British Journal of Nursing* 22.1 (2013): 8-15. Print.



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

McClimens, A., Kenyon, L., & Cheung, H. (2013). Exploring placement pathways in nurse education. *British Journal of Nursing*, 22(1), 8-15.

MLA 7th

McClimens, Alex, Lynn Kenyon, and Heidi Cheung. "Exploring Placement Pathways in Nurse Education." *British Journal of Nursing* 22.1 (2013): 8-15. Print.

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:

1. McClimens A, Kenyon L, Cheung H. Exploring placement pathways in nurse education. British Journal of Nursing. 2013;22(1):8-15.

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

FOOTNOTE STYLE – CHICAGO FOOTNOTE 16TH ED.



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In the text:

Blah blah blah¹

As a footnote at the bottom of the page:

¹ Alex McClimens, Lynn Kenyon, and Heidi Cheung, "Exploring Placement Pathways in Nurse Education," *British Journal of Nursing* 22, no. 1 (2013).

(elements are separated by commas)

In the reference list, which is in alphabetical order:

McClimens, Alex, Lynn Kenyon, and Heidi Cheung. "Exploring Placement Pathways in Nurse Education." *British Journal of Nursing* 22, no. 1 (2013): 8-15.

(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

MY REFERENCES – IN APA 6TH ED.



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Humphreys, J., & O'Byrne, M. (2015, April 20). Students get academics to write their essays for €50 an hour. *The Irish Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/students-get-academics-to-write-their-essays-for-50-an-hour-1.2181603>

O'Brien, C. (2017, May 15). New law to crack down on 'essays for sale'. *The Irish Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/new-law-to-crack-down-on-essays-for-sale-1.3082932>

Oxford English Dictionary. (2006). "plagiarism, n.". OED Online. Retrieved from <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/144939>

Newton, I. (1676). Letter to Hooke. In W. F. Bynum & R. Porter (Eds.), *Oxford dictionary of scientific quotations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

BUT I NEED MORE INFO ABOUT...



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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)



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Thank You!

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