Library HITS: Helpful Information for Trinity Students/Staff

Citation and Plagiarism

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# Citation and Plagiarism

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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
- In Irish academic institutions such behaviour, without properly acknowledging the original author, will (in nearly all cases) be construed as plagiarism
CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

• Detected plagiarism can carry severe consequences, as stated in the College Calendar at section H17

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

• It is the act of plagiarism rather than the intent to deceive that will be punished
Many courses in TCD now use “Turnitin.com” to check written submissions for copying

See what the “OriginalityCheck” means… it is *not* a plagiarism percentage!

Lecturers and examiners will be familiar with the key sources and will notice when information has been used from them, as well as differences in style, terminology and accuracy in an essay
SOME HORROR STORIES!

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

But then compare:

...although it got him in the end:

“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

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, true “unintentional” plagiarism will likely carry far less consequences than blatant copying…
How To Avoid Plagiarism

• 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.
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

- 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 it for postgrads, as an investment
- TCD can get you a **substantial discount** on the full price
- The Library runs training on EndNote all through the year – there are demos on the free EndNote Basic as part of our HITS programme too
• 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…
PLAGIARISM: IN SUMMARY...

Source: [http://youtu.be/2qONlWcTq1Y](http://youtu.be/2qONlWcTq1Y), Bainbridge State College
There are thousands of citation styles, but most are based on one of two broad types:

• Inline

• Numbered
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

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

APA 6th

MLA
• Numbered styles give the reference an ascending number in the text and the full references are listed in that order

• The details of the reference can be either at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or a full list at the end of the work or chapter (endnotes), or both
• 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 there are also rules that apply if you are mentioning the same work again later, when you use a short form of the reference in the footnotes, or if you mention it straightaway using “ibid” (“in the same place”)…

• General plagiarism questions – ask at the Duty Librarian’s Desk or e-mail your Subject Librarian
• General referencing questions – us again
• TurnItIn – talk to your tutor first
• Which referencing style to use – ask your tutor 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) – see CAPSL’s online tutorial