COS700 RM – Research Methods
2015

Lecture 6
Research Ethics & Plagiarism
What is ethical research?

- UP Code of Ethics for Research (33 page document)
- Some general principles of ethical research:
  - Honesty
  - Objectivity (bias, financial interests?)
  - Respect for intellectual property
  - Evaluating risks and benefits
  - Informed consent
  - Right to not participate, withdraw, anonymity
  - Confidentiality
  - ...
- Do you need ethical clearance for your research project?
- EBIT website for ethical clearance:
Plagiarism Pre-test

Check if you know what plagiarism is:
UP Pre-test
4. **DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct. It involves both appropriating someone else’s work and passing it off as one’s own work afterwards. The relevant sections of the **Disciplinary Code: Students** read as follows:

1. **DISCIPLINARY CODE: STUDENTS**

1.1 **DEFINITION OF MISCONDUCT**

A student shall be guilty of misconduct and may be dealt with in terms of this code, if he or she ...

1.1.4.3 *in University context infringes a person's copyright or any other intellectual property right, including but not limited to plagiarism;*

1.1.4.4 *in University context*

... *d. plagiarises by stating, or implying, original authorship of someone else's written or creative work (words, images, ideas, opinions, discoveries, artwork, music, recordings, computer-generated work), and/or by incorporating such work or material, in whole or in part, into his or her own work without properly acknowledging or citing the source; and such act is prejudicial or potentially prejudicial to the University, its reputation, its staff, guests, contractors or students.*
UP Plagiarism Policy document

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s work, words, images, ideas, opinions, discoveries, artwork, music, recordings or computer-generated work (including circuitry, computer programs or software, websites, the Internet or other electronic resources) whether published or not, as one’s own work, or alternatively appropriating the work, words, images, ideas, opinions, discoveries, artwork, music, recordings or computer-generated work (including circuitry, computer programs or software, websites, the Internet or other electronic resource) of others, without properly acknowledging the source, with or without the source’s permission.

It is not a requirement for plagiarism that a person must have intended to deceive or to plagiarise. At the University it is simply assumed that where certain plagiarised elements are found in a text, the author intended them to be there, and that where paraphrasing is the issue, the author intended this as a disguise for more obvious plagiarism such as unattributed verbatim copying. The absence of intent might be a fact to take into consideration when a suitable penalty for plagiarism has to be decided on in a given situation.
Examples of what should be avoided:

- direct copying without crediting the source
- translating without crediting the source
- paraphrasing someone else’s work without crediting the source
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole
- knowingly allowing another student to copy one’s work
- resubmitting one’s own or other’s previously graded work
- collusion (unauthorised collaboration, presenting work as one’s own independent work, when it has been produced in whole or in part in collusion with other people)
- ghost-writing – you should not make use of ghost writers or professional agencies in the production of your work or submit material which has been written on your behalf
Turnitin

- Electronic plagiarism detection software service.
- Used all over the world.
- Assignments submitted to Turnitin via UP are added to the global Turnitin database.
- Turnitin does not assess plagiarism, but generates an “originality report” with percentage of overlap, which requires a human decision.
# UP Plagiarism Penalty Scale

## PLAGIARISM PENALTY SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; YEAR, 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; INCIDENT</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; YEAR, 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; INCIDENT</th>
<th>OTHER UNDERGRADUATE, 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; INCIDENT</th>
<th>OTHER UNDERGRADUATE, 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; INCIDENT</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; OR FURTHER INCIDENT (1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; years &amp; other undergraduates)</th>
<th>POSTGRADUATE</th>
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<td>SERIOUS (More than 20% of text 'lifted')</td>
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<td>MODERATE (More than 10%, but less than 20% of text 'lifted')</td>
<td>• Warning</td>
<td>• Cancellation of mark</td>
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Disciplinary hearing

• The department is required to refer all cases of postgraduate students (cannot be resolved within the department).
• Form with proof is submitted to Disciplinary Committee.
• If student is found guilty, the committee decides on a penalty, for example:

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<th>ORDER OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (STUDENTS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>The disciplinary charge/s against you, as per the charge sheet dated 31 August 2012 and attached hereto, are herewith freely and voluntary and after careful consideration by both parties settled in full and made an order of the Disciplinary Committee (Students) on this 28th day of September 2012:</td>
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<td>1. You are found guilty of misconduct.</td>
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<td>2. You forfeit all credits obtained in MIT 842 (Computer Science in Perspective).</td>
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<td>3. You are expelled from the University for a period of one year, effective from the beginning of the second semester 2012. In order to resume your studies at the University at the beginning of the second semester 2013, you will have to apply for re-admission to the University as well as the relevant faculty.</td>
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Why do people plagiarise?

• Under pressure to submit something.
• Taking notes verbatim and then forgetting the source.
• Not understanding the original properly, so “safer” to just use the words as they are (particularly in coding!).
• Not knowing how to cite properly.
• You tell me …
Revisiting the Plagiarism Pre-test

How did you do?
Discussion of plagiarism through examples

...from your project proposals
References

• CBB Plagiarism Resource Site:
  http://abacus.bates.edu/cbb/quiz/intro/integrity.html

• University of Pretoria Plagiarism Website:
  http://www.library.up.ac.za/plagiarism/index.htm