Plagiarism/Ethics/Cheating

Christian Poehlmann: Bibliographer for Business & Economics
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  – http://library.albany.edu/

• Library guide
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Library Assistance: Start here

University Library, First Floor

Ask research questions here
Learning Outcomes Today

1. Understand what plagiarism is.
2. Why you should avoid it.
3. Recognize common causes of plagiarism.
4. Name 5 types of plagiarism.
5. Other forms of academic dishonesty.
6. Be aware of SUNY Albany’s policies on academic dishonesty.
7. Strategies to avoid academic dishonesty.
Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty

• Cheating on Examinations:
  – Giving or receiving unauthorized help before, during, or after an examination.

• Multiple Submission:
  – Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit more than once without permission.

• Falsification:
  – Misrepresenting material or fabricating information in an academic exercise or assignment.

• More details at:
  – [http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_degree.htm](http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_degree.htm)
Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

1. Lowering a paper or project grade by one full grade or more;
2. A failing grade on a paper containing plagiarized material;
3. A failing grade on any examination in which cheating occurred;
4. Lowering a course grade by one full grade or more; or
5. Giving a failing grade in a course or other academic exercise;
6. Referal to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Civic Responsibility.
   a. Revoking a scholarship, fellowship, or assistantship;
   b. Disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.
7. Violations of academic integrity may cause difficulties in employment in certain professions.
Plagiarism Defined

• 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

• To use another person's idea or a part of their work and pretend that it is your own.
  – Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary
Why do Students Plagiarize?

- Ignorance
- Lack of perceived punishment
- Careless note-taking
- Time saving device (lack of time management skills)
- Lack of confidence in writing skills
Some Recent Allegations of Plagiarism/Dishonesty

- Fareed Zakaria (journalist)
  - Suspended from Time Magazine for one month (re-instated after one week).
  - Suspended from CNN (returning 8/26/2012)
  - Resigns From Yale’s Board
- Jonah Lehrer (journalist)
  - Forced to resign from the New Yorker
  - Bestselling book pulled from sale
  - Future as a contributor at Wired uncertain
Examples of Plagiarism by Noted Writers

**Jill Lepore (Original)**
- As Adam Winkler, a constitutional-law scholar at U.C.L.A., demonstrates in a remarkably nuanced new book... firearms have been regulated in the United States from the start.

- Laws banning the carrying of concealed weapons were passed in Kentucky and Louisiana in 1813, and other states soon followed: Indiana (1820), Tennessee and Virginia (1838), Alabama (1839), and Ohio (1859).

- Similar laws were passed in Texas, Florida, and Oklahoma. As the governor of Texas explained in 1893, the "mission of the concealed deadly weapon is murder. To check it is the duty of every self-respecting, law-abiding man."

**Fareed Zakaria**
- Adam Winkler, a professor of constitutional law at UCLA, documents the actual history in... Guns were regulated in the United States from the earliest years of the Republic.

- Laws that banned the carrying of concealed weapons were passed in Kentucky and Louisiana in 1813. Other states soon followed: Indiana in 1820, Tennessee and Virginia in 1838, Alabama in 1839 and Ohio in 1859.

- Similar laws were passed in Texas, Florida and Oklahoma. As the governor of Texas (Texas!) explained in 1893, the "mission of the concealed deadly weapon is murder. To check it is the duty of every self-respecting, law-abiding man."
Examples of Plagiarism by Noted Writers

Jonah Leher – New Yorker

- Last year, the psychologist Richard Wiseman bought a wide variety of bottles at the local supermarket, from a five-dollar Bordeaux to a fifty-dollar champagne, and asked people to say which wine was more expensive.

- (All of the taste tests were conducted double-blind, with neither the experimenter nor subject aware of the actual price.) According to Wiseman’s data, the five hundred and seventy-eight participants could only pick the more expensive wine fifty-three per cent of the time, which is basically random chance.

- They actually performed below chance when it came to picking red wines. Bordeaux fared the worst, with a significant majority—sixty-one per cent—picking the cheap plonk as the more expensive selection.

Jonah Leher - Wired

- A few months ago, the psychologist Richard Wiseman conducted a simple study about wine. He bought a wide variety of bottles at the local supermarket, from a $5 Bordeaux to a $50 champagne, and asked people to say which wine was more expensive.

- (All of the taste tests were conducted double-blind, with neither the experimenter nor subject aware of the actual price.) The results should upset wine snobs everywhere: The 600 plus participants could only pick the more expensive wine 53 percent of the time, which is basically random chance.

- (They actually performed below chance when it came to picking red wines. Bordeaux fared the worst, with a significant majority – 61 percent – picking the cheap plonk as the more expensive selection.)
5 Types of Plagiarism & How to Avoid Them

   - Any time you copy a sentence or significant phrase intact from a source, you must use quotations marks and reference the source.

2. Word Switch.
   - Taking a sentence from a source and changing around a few words is still plagiarism. If you want to quote a sentence, then you need to put it in quotation marks and cite the author and article.

3. Style.
   - Following a source sentence-by-sentence or paragraph-by-paragraph is plagiarism, even though none of your sentences are exactly like those in the source article or even in the same order. What you are copying in this case is the author's reasoning style.

   - If you cannot come up with your own metaphor to illustrate an important idea, then use the metaphor in the Source Article, but give the author credit for it.

5. Idea
   - If the author of the source article expresses a creative idea or suggests a solution to a problem, the idea or solution must be clearly attributed to the author.

Copy & Paste Plagiarism

Source Article

- Especially since the launch of HST and the unprecedented clarity of the images satellites have given us, you've all seen on the news or in books, beautiful color pictures of various sights in the cosmos. But is this the way you would see these objects if you went there?

PLAGIARISM

- Everyone is interested in astronomical images, especially since the launch of HST and the unprecedented clarity of the images satellites have given us. But is this the way you would see these objects if you went there?
Avoiding Copy & Paste Plagiarism

Source article by Smith

- Especially since the launch of HST and the unprecedented clarity of the images satellites have given us, you’ve all seen on the news or in books, beautiful color pictures of various sights in the cosmos. But is this the way you would see these objects if you went there?

Proper use

- We are all thrilled by the beauty of pictures of the universe taken with space telescopes and other satellites. The pictures display spectacular color and detail, but, as posed in "Source Article" by Smith, "is this the way you would see these objects if you went there?"
Word Switch Plagiarism

Source Article by Smith

- Brown dwarfs rank among the most elusive objects in the universe.

- With masses from about 15 to 80 times that of Jupiter, they are bigger than planets but too small to ignite the nuclear fusion reactions that cause stars to shine.

Word Switch Plagiarism

- Brown dwarfs are difficult to locate and rank among the most elusive objects in the universe.

- Brown dwarfs have masses from about 15 to 80 times that of Jupiter. Scientists have determined that brown dwarfs are bigger than planets; however, they are too small to ignite nuclear fusion reactions which cause stars to shine.
Avoiding Word Switch Plagiarism

**Source Article**
- Brown dwarfs *rank among the most elusive objects in the universe*. With masses from about 15 to 80 times that of Jupiter, they are *bigger than planets but too small to ignite the nuclear fusion reactions that cause stars to shine.*

**Proper use**
- Brown dwarfs are more massive than typical planets but yet are too small to be stars. Stars, by definition, maintain nuclear fusion reactions, which require a large mass.
Style Plagiarism

Source Article

- As the new week dawned, many people felt confident that the crisis had passed. Brokers had brought many of their books and records up to date for a fresh start. Wall Street was full of rumors that large investors would be scooping up bargains.
- But others, reflecting on last week’s disaster, questioned that logic. This wasn’t a little market anymore. How many more accounts would have to be sold because customers couldn’t meet margin calls? Could the large investor be in any better shape than the small fry? And who would want to buy? After spending the weekend brooding over losses, wouldn’t more stock owners want to join the mob getting out?

Style Plagiarism

- People were more optimistic on Monday, October 29, 1929. Wall Street was open for business, ready to buy stocks cheaply.
- Many people were still skeptical, however. How many investors would not be able to pay what they owed? How would the average, small investor do? Who would even want to invest in the market after last week’s scare?
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Avoiding Style Plagiarism

Source Article
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Correct usage
• Investing in the stock market can be a risky endeavor. Despite all of the financial experts giving their opinions and making recommendations, nothing is for sure until the trading begins and ends on the floor of the stock exchange. Even after the stock market crash on Thursday, October 24, 1929, some financiers still clung to the hope they could buy stock cheaply when the market opened the following Monday. On the other hand, many people recognized the scale of the 1929 market crash, and their worries later proved to be correct.
Metaphor Plagiarism

**Source Article**
- The black holes seem to inhabit every galaxy that has a central bulge--the vast, elliptical swarm of very old stars which constitutes many galaxies' most prominent part.

**Metaphor Plagiarism**
- The bulge is a large swarm of extremely old stars.
Avoiding Metaphor Plagiarism

**Source Article by Smith**
- The black holes seem to inhabit every galaxy that has a central bulge--the vast, elliptical *swarm of very old stars* which constitutes many galaxies' most prominent part.

**Metaphor Plagiarism**
- The bulge of a galaxy is elliptical and contains old stars that *fly around the center like bees in a hive*. 
Idea PLAGIARISM

Source article

- Until now, **infrared carbon stars** have been classified as such due either to the presence of carbon-rich dust or to these stars' presence in region VII of the Habing diagram. Our visible spectra show conclusively that these stars are true carbon stars and do not have any O-rich molecules in their atmospheres. Their **weak Ba lines might indicate an under-abundance of s-process elements**. This important result, if true, would **certainly separate infrared carbon stars from the optical population**.

Idea PLAGIARISM

- Infrared carbon stars show weak Ba lines and this might mean that they do not have the normal amount of s-process elements in their atmospheres, making them **decidedly a different type of star**.
Avoiding Idea PLAGIARISM

Source article by Smith

- Until now, infrared carbon stars have been classified as such due either to the presence of carbon-rich dust or to these stars' presence in region VII of the Habing diagram. Our visible spectra show conclusively that these stars are true carbon stars and do not have any O-rich molecules in their atmospheres. Their weak Ba lines might indicate an under-abundance of s-process elements. This important result, if true, would certainly separate infrared carbon stars from the optical population.

Proper usage

- The difference between optical and infrared carbon stars might soon be resolved since Smith (Source Article) announced that the weakness of Ba lines might indicate that the infrared group originates from a different population than optical carbon stars.
Citing Sources

- Why?
  - Citations reflect the careful and thorough work you have put into locating and exploring your sources.
  - Citations help readers understand the context of your argument and are a courtesy to the reader, who may share your interest in a particular area of study.
  - Citations allow you to acknowledge those authors who contributed to your learning and your work.
  - Citations, by illustrating your own learning process, also draw attention to the originality and legitimacy of your own ideas.
  - By citing sources you demonstrate your integrity and skill as a responsible student and participant in your field of study.
Citing Sources

• When
  – **Direct quotes of more than one word.** If the author’s words are powerful or you need to be specific for your argument, the authors’ words can be used as a direct quote.
  – **Paraphrasing or summarizing.** If you want to use someone else’s idea to help you make your point or to support your own ideas, in this case you would “translate” the ideas into your own words.
  – **Information which may be common knowledge but still unfamiliar to your reader.** This would also include statistical information which may be familiar information but still requires confirmation.
  – **Not just books or articles should be cited.** Any source that you use for information can and should be cited including interviews, websites, TV programs, etc.
  – **Whenever you are not sure if something should be cited, err on the side of caution and cite sources.**
Common Knowledge

- The University at Albany located in Albany, New York and is part of the State University of New York.

Probably not common knowledge

- The State University of New York was officially established in February of 1948 and currently consists of 64 institutions.¹

Citation Fox

- http://library.albany.edu/cfox
Tips

• **Start your research early and keep careful notes on all the resources you use.**
  – Include library call numbers and note which electronic database you obtained a work from.
  – Make clear notation about whether you are copying quotations or paraphrasing materials.

• **Start your writing early.**
  – Start to write *before* you finish your research. This allows you time to identify additional information you might need.

• **Get help when you need it.**
  – Instructor, teaching assistants, or librarians. Learning when and where to go to get help or feedback is part of the research process.
Questions?