



Plagiarism: case studies, roots, detection and prevention

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Organisations concerned with plagiarism



European
Association of
Science
Editors



Definitions of plagiarism

- ❖ **To copy another person's words or work and pretend that they are your own** (*The Oxford advanced learner's dictionary*, 6th edition, 2000)
- ❖ **To use another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source** (*MLA handbook for writers of research papers*, 1995)
- ❖ **A form of piracy that involves the use of text or other items (figures, images, tables) without permission or acknowledgment of the source of these materials** (*CSE*)

- “...in addition to **text** and **data**, plagiarism also includes the misappropriation of a wide range of others’ intellectual property, including **ideas**, **images**, and **methodologies**.”

Food and Chemical Toxicology 50 (2012) 3385–3387

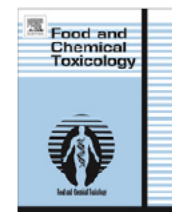


ELSEVIER

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Food and Chemical Toxicology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchemtox



Editorial

Avoiding unethical writing practices

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Prevalence of plagiarism

- There are no exact data due to the lack of universal definition

Prevalence of plagiarism in USA

- 208 cases of misconduct were investigated by ORI in 1992-2011

Table 1 Distribution of variables among 119 published statements regarding retractions or corrections of scientific articles associated with ORI findings of misconduct

Variable	Range	Median	Mean (SD)
Year statement was published	1989–2011	2003	2002.2 (5.7)
Journal impact factor*	1.25–38.86	7.15	10.33 (8.69)
	Category		N† (%)
Type of statement	Retraction		95 (79.8)
	Correction		24 (20.2)
Type of misconduct	Plagiarism only		7 (5.9)
	Fabrication only		5 (4.2)
	Falsification only		53 (44.5)
	Fabrication and falsification		48 (40.3)
	All three types		6 (5.0)
			49 (41.2)
			70 (58.8)
			39 (32.8)
			80 (67.2)

3% in USA

J Med Ethics. 2012 Sep 1. [Epub ahead of print]

Scientific retractions and corrections related to misconduct findings.

Resnik DB, Dinse GE.

NIEHS, National Institutes of Health, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA.

Acta Med Jugosl. 1974;28(1):15-26.

The effect of continuous lumbar epidural analgesia on the fetus, newborn child and the acid-base status of maternal blood.

Kurjak A, Beazley JM.

Comment in

BMJ. 2006 Sep 16;333(7568):594-6.



BMJ. 2006 September 16; 333(7568): 594–596.
doi: [10.1136/bmj.38968.611296.F7](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.38968.611296.F7).

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Professional regulation

Role of systematic reviews in detecting plagiarism: case of Asim Kurjak

Iain Chalmers, *editor*¹

¹ James Lind Library, Oxford OX2 7LG ; Email: ichalmers@jameslindlibrary.org

Accepted June 26, 2006.

[Iran J Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2006 Jun;5\(2\):47-56.](#)

Air pollution induced asthma and alterations in cytokine patterns.

[Ebtekar M.](#)

Department of Immunology, School of Medicine, Tarbiat Modares University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. ebtekarm@modares.ac.ir

Retraction in

[Iran J Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2008 Dec;7\(4\):243.](#)



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Published online 22 October 2008 | *Nature* **455**, 1019 (2008) | doi:10.1038/4551019a

News

Iranian paper sparks sense of deja vu

Allegations of plagiarism prompt journal to retract report.

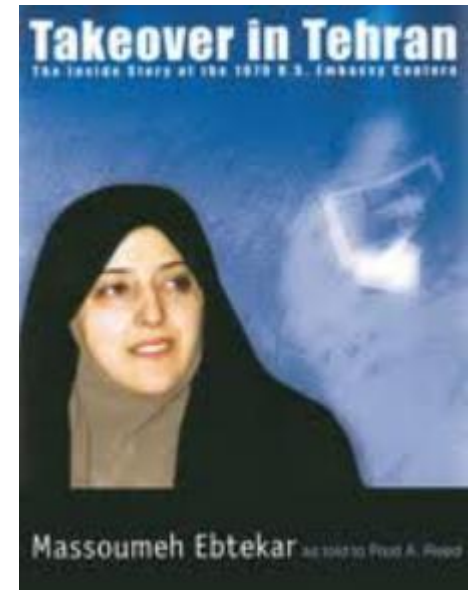
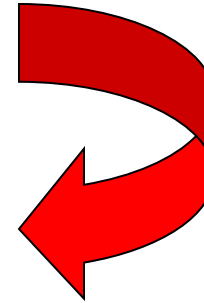
[Declan Butler](#)

A review paper by Massoumeh Ebtekar, the former vice-president of Iran and an immunologist at Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran, is

Stories by subject

- [Lab life](#)
- [Policy](#)
- [Technology](#)

Stories by keywords






of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology ([M. Ebtekar Iran. J. Allergy Asthma Immunol. 5, 47-56; 2006](#)). Deja Vu claims that about 85% of the text comes from five papers by other researchers, with the chunks ranging from 5% to 30% of their content.

“We did a ... search of the plagiarized sentences in 80 papers submitted to [Urology] j... 55% of the manuscripts had at least one plagiarized sentence”

Farrokhi F. Plagiarism: Where Unawareness Makes a Lamé Excuse. Arch Iranian Med 2009; 12 (2): 176 – 178

Politicians accused of plagiarism

	Name	Row over	Resigned?
	Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, German defence minister	PhD University of Bayreuth 2007	Yes, March 2011
	Pal Schmitt, Hungarian president	PhD Semmelweis University 1992	Yes, April 2012
	Ioan Mang, Romanian education minister	Eight academic papers	Yes, May 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/18962349>

Politicians accused of plagiarism

	Name	Row over	Resigned?
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Victor Ponta,
Romanian
prime
minister

PhD
Bucharest
University
2003

No - rejects
accusation,
has backing
of national
ethics council



Vladimir
Medinsky,
Russian
culture
minister

PhD Russian
State Social
University
2011

No - rejects
accusation

Explanations of instances of plagiarism

'My English is very poor, so I thought it was better to use the words of someone senior to me'

Harvey Marcovitch, former chair of COPE

Cross M. Policing plagiarism. BMJ 2007;335:963 doi: 10.1136/bmj.39388.668773.47

'Academic laziness'

Kleinert S. Checking for plagiarism, duplicate publication, and text recycling. Lancet. 2011;377:281-2. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(11)60075-5.

Intentional intellectual theft

- ✓ **Stealing unpublished ideas, methodology or text from manuscripts or grant proposals under review by reviewers**
- ✓ **Stealing images or tables from open-access sources (including those for lectures from the Internet)**
- ✓ **Appropriation of others' research ideas and suggestions expressed at informal discussions in a department without an acknowledgement**

Unintentional misconduct in writing

- ✓ **Inappropriate summarizing (without reading full text of a primary source)**
- ✓ **Inappropriate paraphrasing (changing a few words in an original text)**
- ✓ **Inappropriate or lack of citations and quotations**

Proper citation and quotation

- ✓ When passages from published texts are copied word for word, these should be enclosed in quotations marks and linked to a reference.
- ✓ Refer to the commonly used citations and references guides (e.g. APA citation guide

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.
Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.*

<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/apa-a4.pdf>

Self-plagiarism

- **Recycling one's own published text, research data, figures and tables (even if proper citations are provided)**
- **Duplicate publications as a result of submitting the same manuscript to several journals (*exclusion – publication of an article based on a conference abstract or presentation; notes should indicate such an instance*)**
- **'Salami' or 'augmented' publications**

Limits of self-plagiarism

- ?
- **<10%** of verbatim text recycling (particularly in Methods section) is acceptable by most experts
- Up to **15-20%** - by a few experts
- **>30%** - unacceptable

Kravitz RL, Feldman MD. From the Editors' Desk: Self-Plagiarism and Other Editorial Crimes and Misdemeanors. J Gen Intern Med 2011;26(1):1.

Table 1. A classification of scientific misconduct*

Types of Scientific Misconduct	Description
1. Fabrication	“Making up data or results and recording or reporting them” ⁷
2. Falsification	“Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results” ⁷
3. Plagiarism	
a. Plagiarism of ideas	Using another person’s ideas, processes, or results without giving appropriate credit ⁷
b. Plagiarism of text	Using another person’s words without giving appropriate credit ⁷
i. Without citing the source	
- Verbatim copying	Using the text or any materials of others without acknowledging the source
- Paraphrasiarism	Using the text of others with a few changes or mixing the others’ texts without acknowledging the source(s)
ii. With citing the source	
- Verbatim copying	Using exact words of others with citing the origin but without using quotation marks
- Inappropriate paraphrasing	Using texts of others while citing the origin but only with minor changes in the words or structure
- Copyright infringement	Using a large part of others’ words (in quotation marks) that violates the copyright
4. Self-plagiarism [†]	
a. Duplicate publication	Publication of paper that are identical or the same in hypothesis, results, and conclusions
b. Salami publication	Publication of each part of the results of one study in several papers
c. Practice of text recycling	Using one’s own text in several different papers

*Adapted from the paper by Roig and the definitions of the Office of Research Integrity.^{6,7} The definitions are applicable for any part of a written work (text, table, figure, etc.) and are regardless of the extent (either a sentence, a paragraph, or a large body of the text); †Self-plagiarism is considered either as an independent entity or as a subcategory of plagiarism. Here, it was not possible to include it under the plagiarism classifications just because of the nature of this classification.

Farrokhi F. Plagiarism: Where Unawareness Makes a Lame Excuse. Arch Iran Med 2009; 12 (2): 176 – 178

Reasons for plagiarism



Academic writing: Avoiding plagiarism

- **Deliberate** - when the writer makes the decision to steal someone else's work because of the lack of time or poor writing skills. It is when the writer is
 - copying from a book, a journal, or a website,
 - asking another person to do the work for you,
 - downloading the complete text from the Internet

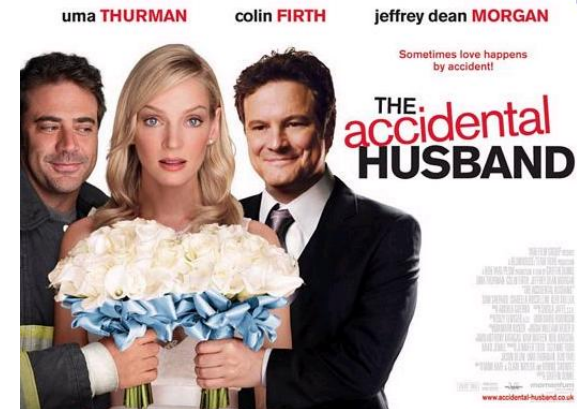


Reasons for plagiarism (2)



Academic writing: Avoiding plagiarism

- **Accidental plagiarism** -
accidentally, through carelessness, or lack of skill copying words without acknowledging it
- It is when the writer
 - does not know that direct copying is incorrect,
 - does not have skills for expressing others' ideas in own words
 - forgets or does not have time to acknowledge another person's words or ideas





Types of plagiarism



Academic writing: Avoiding plagiarism

- ❖ **Outright copying** - using exactly the same words from the original source without putting quotation marks or acknowledging the source
- ❖ **Paraphrase plagiarism** - changing some of the words but leaving most of the original text the same
- ❖ **Patchwork plagiarism** - original author's words are used and connected together in a slightly different way
- ❖ **Stealing an apt term** – using a short phrase from the original source, because it looks good

Plagiarism detection

- ❖ Google search
- ❖ Checking by colleagues/co-authors, “Whistleblowing” by readers

❖ Plagiarism detecting softwares

FREE: Chimsky, CopyTracker, **eTBLAST**, plagiarism-detect.com, Plagiarismchecker, SeeSources

COMMERCIAL: **iThenticate**, Copyscape, Plagium, Turnitin

- ✓ **Time-consuming, useful for small text articles; not suitable for extensive reviews**

- ✓ **Detection subject to the availability of sources tracked by software**

- **A fee-based membership for publishers**
- **CrossRef provides links to primary research, assigns DOIs to articles, books, theses, conf. proceedings, and makes referencing more systematic**
- **Members have access to CrossCheck to detect plagiarism (more than 54000 members; the largest database)**



Rheumatol Int

DOI 10.1007/s00296-011-1944-5

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Lancet 2011; 377: 1331-40

Published Online

April 14, 2011

DOI:10.1016/S0140-

6736(10)62233-7



www.crossref.org/08downloads/2011/2011_PILA_Membership_Agreement.pdf

www.crossref.org/08downloads/2011/2011_Membership_Application.pdf

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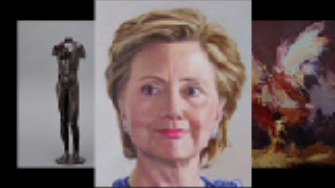
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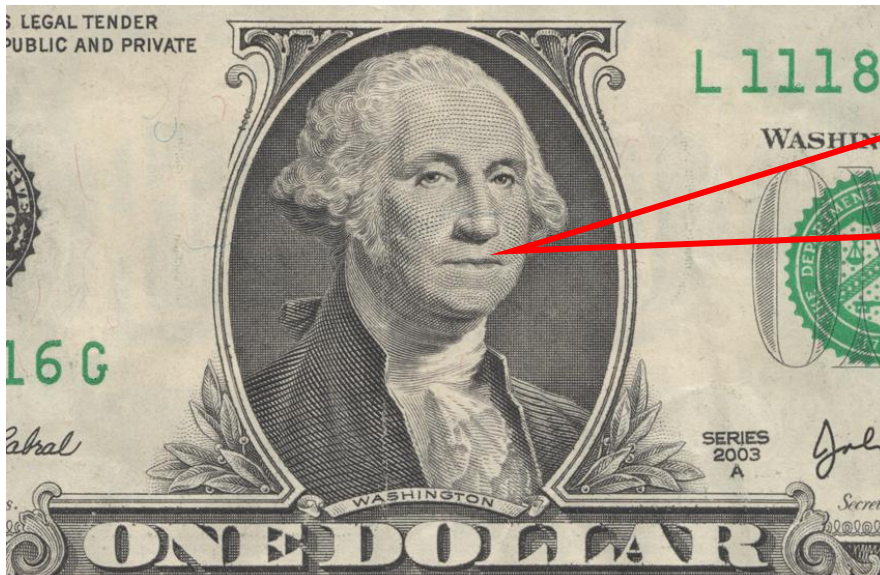
"DEJAVU® is not really for plagiarism; it's to make artists more original."

Lindsay More Howard, Hawaii Pacific University

NEWS

[Plagiarism problem continues](#)

by Meredith Larkin, May 12, 2009



**An ounce of
prevention is
worth a pound of
cure**

Simple rules to avoid plagiarism

“Plagiarism is easy ... to avoid by simply not copying any printed sources and by writing original text in one’s own words, and, if paraphrasing, citing the source”

Annals of Biomedical Engineering (© 2012)
DOI: 10.1007/s10439-012-0662-9



Five Simple Rules to Avoid Plagiarism

HOLLY OBER,¹ SCOTT I. SIMON,¹ and DANIEL ELSON²

¹University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, USA; and ²Imperial College, London, UK

Simple rules to avoid plagiarism

1. **Don't copy verbatim** words from papers or books (even from your own).
2. **Write in your own words** and style, minimize paraphrasing.
3. **When in doubt, cite.** But avoid excessive citations, as it may indicate the use of others' ideas and words.
4. **Don't recycle graphics** without citing.
5. **Ask permission** to use graphics

Ober H, Simon SI, Elson D.

Five Simple Rules to Avoid Plagiarism. Ann Biomed Eng 2012