

Editorial

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This editorial's topic is plagiarism. With the increasing use of the internet, it has become extremely easy to plagiarize. Earlier it was at least necessary to retype the text even if it was being copied verbatim from some other source. Now the same can be done with just a few clicks of the mouse. And to complicate matters it is also difficult for a student (or author) to draw a line between what is "common knowledge" and need not be acknowledged and what is in fact plagiarism. At this time, it would be appropriate to quote from the University of New South Wales' website that: "To use someone's words or ideas in your writing without letting your readers know where they came from is a form of theft called plagiarism." The site also goes on to emphasize the golden rule to avoid plagiarism:

"The Golden Rule

Make sure your assignments are referenced correctly. A feature of academic writing is that it contains references to the words, information and ideas of others, and referencing is a system that allows you to acknowledge that contribution in your writing. Whenever you use words, ideas or information from other sources in your assignments, you must cite and reference those sources."

Of course, it has also become easier to detect plagiarism, at least from the net: just type in a few words from the article to be checked into the search box of a search engine and more often than not the source of the plagiarism will pop up. Nevertheless more subtle forms of plagiarism may be missed, and the best, though idealistic solution, is that we should all police ourselves to see that we give credit for ideas and words where credit is due.

S S Bhatti
Editor