

# Role of Libraries in Preventing Plagiarism

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# Outline

- What is plagiarism
- Plagiarism and the Social, Professional and Academic Perspective.
- Avoiding plagiarism.
- Libraries as custodian of information
- Anti-plagiarism, Referencing and citation tools
- Conclusion

# Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as *presenting other people's works as your own*. The term *plagiarism* is derived from Latin *plagiarius* that means 'kidnapper'.
- Thus for one to claim originality of other people's works such as reports, publications, ideas, speeches, verses and stories is being dishonest.
  - It is common among students, researchers, writers, journalists and politicians.
  - The original work/source often exists and is retrievable.
- Failure to acknowledge sources of information used is what leads to plagiarism.
- Note those *plagiarizing*, are *potential library users* and fail to acknowledge *resources found in or accessible through the library*.
- Consequences to such actions can be serious and there is risk in their social, academic and professional reputation.

# Plagiarism and Social Reputation

## Hungarian president resigns over doctorate plagiarism scandal

Pal Schmitt steps down after university revokes doctorate, saying Olympics thesis was mostly copied from two authors



## German defence minister resigns in PhD plagiarism row

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg had been stripped of doctorate by University of Bayreuth



# Plagiarism and Profession

## PLO Lumumba accused of plagiarism, intellectual theft

Oct. 07, 2016, By STAR REPORTER, [@thestarkenya](#)



- The article by Lumumba was published in the Law Society of Kenya Journal.
- ... Lumumba wrote a 10,000-word essay titled '*From Jurisprudence to Poliprudence: the Kenyan Presidential Election Petition 2013*', with nearly 5,000 words lifted from an article ...
- He says Lumumba has behaved unethically.
- Maina criticised LSK for failing to sufficiently check before publishing the article.
- Maina wants compensation for intellectual theft.
- He also seeks to have the plagiarised part deleted from Lumumba's article.
- ... wants Lumumba's conduct declared to have undermined values and principles of public service as set in the Constitution, hence bar him from holding public office.

**Kenya's 'most eloquent man' now off the hook in plagiarism row**

Posted on Feb 21, 2017

# Plagiarism and Academic

- In higher education plagiarism happens when students, researchers and other *scholars present research reports, papers, assignments as their own when its not the case.*
- Acknowledgment should be done whenever:
  - Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
  - Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
  - Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
  - Facts, statistics, or illustrative material borrowed from other sources.
- Libraries should conduct information literacy that cover referencing and citations,

# Academic Integrity Issue

- Plagiarism is an academic integrity issue, a great concern and is considered an academic crime. Consequences can lead to:
  - Discontinuation of studies.
  - Withdraw of certificates awarded.
  - Conviction.
  - Surcharging.
  - Demotion or loss of job

# Plagiarism: Academic Consequences

A

## German Education Minister Resignation: Plagiarism or Politics?

Posted by *Jonathan Bailey* on Feb 11, 2013 1:43:00 PM

It's been another rough week for German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Annette Schavan, a member of Merkel's cabinet and the Education Minister for the country, has *resigned after her Ph.D was revoked following an investigation into her doctoral thesis that found evidence of plagiarism.*

B



KLR WEEKLY e-NEWSLETTER

| Issue 12/2011 [Newsletter Archive](#) | Friday 25th March 2011 |  
[Case of the Week](#) | [Kenya Gazette Notices](#) | [Forward this newsletter](#)

### CASE OF THE WEEK

#### COURT ISSUES INJUNCTION AGAINST UNIVERSITY IN PLAGIARISM SUIT

By Esther Nyaiyaki Onchana  
Advocate – Nairobi

Anne Nang'unda Kukali v Mary A Ogola & University of Nairobi [2010] eKLR ([www.kenyalaw.org](http://www.kenyalaw.org))  
High Court of Kenya at Bungoma  
Civil Suit 94 of 2010  
Lady Justice F. Muchemi  
November 9, 2010

In her application to the court, Ms. Kukali sought for a temporary injunction to restrain the University of Nairobi from including Ms. Ogola's name in the list of for the graduation ceremony that was to be held on September 24, 2010 or any other forthcoming graduation. Further she sought to restrain the University of Nairobi from awarding Ms. Ogola with a degree certificate for the degree of masters in Arts in

# Acknowledging

[Home](#) » [Featured](#) » [PM Victor Ponta renounces PhD, years after being involved in plagiarism scandal](#)

## PM Victor Ponta renounces PhD, years after being involved in plagiarism scandal

By [Featured](#) | December 16, 2014 16:43 | [0 comments](#)



Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta announced Tuesday that he will give up his PhD in Law, which he received in 2003 from the University of Bucharest, years after he was involved in a notorious plagiarism scandal.

**“I am writing to you to notify you about my decision to renounce the title of ‘doctor in law’ awarded in 2003 by the University of Bucharest. This is a gesture I should have done a long time ago, since the moment the first public accusations about my doctorate thesis appeared”,** Victor Ponta wrote in his letter to the University of Bucharest.

“I didn’t go through with it because I believed in good faith in my arguments at the time when my work was being contested and I didn’t want to mix up the professional aspect with the political,” Ponta said in his Facebook post announcing the decision.

The PM said that he plans to make a new doctoral attempt, after his political career will be over, and that he will respect all standards and requirements valid at the corresponding time.

The official was involved in a plagiarism scandal started soon after

  
  

### Featured Article



[Colectiv: a tragedy that sums up the two sides of Romania](#)

November 03, 2015  
by Newsroom

Tragedies like the Colectiv fire seem beyond the remit of words. Words are inadequate to describe the pain, loss, horror...[more »](#)



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# Acknowledging Plagiarism

## Malaysia lecturers hauled up over plagiarism

Tue, Sep 15, 2009  
The Star/Asia News  
Network



Print - friendly



Email a friend

By KAREN CHAPMAN

PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA: A stern warning will be given to two Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) lecturers for plagiarising materials from the Internet to produce a guide book.

UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah said this warning would also be included in their service records, which would affect their promotion.

Prof Dr Nik Mustapha said the legal department had made suggestions to the management on the disciplinary action to be taken after personally meeting the authors.

"The junior author, who recently completed her PhD, said that since the source was from the Internet, she thought the information was in the public domain and as such did not cite the article," he said.

Prof Dr Nik Mustapha said the senior author admitted to the legal team that the manuscript looked all right to him, not realising that it was taken from another work.

"Since this is a guide book, we decided that the punishment was reasonable," he said.

Prof Dr Nik Mustapha said that the two authors have apologised for their ignorance, adding that the plagiarism did not affect UPM undergraduates as the work was not a textbook.

# Acknowledging Plagiarism... contd

- In 2016, part of Melania Trump speech appeared to have been lifted from Michelle Obama's 2008 speech.
- Nigerian president, Mr Buhari's, acceptance speech in 2016 had statements plagiarized from former US president Barrack Obama.
- Also, Ghana President acceptance speech plagiarized

# Why Plagiarize

- Laziness.
- Stress for time.
- Lack of skills on referencing and citation.
- Ignorance: because they don't know that plagiarism is wrong.
- Easy access to internet/electronic resources making it easy to copy and paste.
- Commercial bureaus that tempt students to pay for reports.

# Avoiding Plagiarism

- When using direct words, quotes and phrases
  - Reproduce the text exactly.
  - Credit the sources by citing appropriately.
- Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge.
  - Does not apply to those ideas which are generally and freely circulated in the public domain.
- Libraries should make it easy for users to locate information.

# Useful Software

- Anti-Plagiarism / Text Similarity Check Software
  - Turnitin
  - Grammarly
- Reference and Citation Management
  - Mendeley
  - Zotero
- Librarians should learn these kind of software, train users and ensure they are used.

# TURNITIN: Plagiarism Check Software



# Sample Turnitin Report

The screenshot displays a TurnitinUK Originality Report. At the top, it shows the report title, navigation links, and the TurnitinUK logo. Below this, it indicates the report was processed on 22-12-06 at 5:07 PM GMT and has a word count of 2269. The Overall Similarity Index is 77%, with a red bar indicating the percentage. There are links for 'exclude quoted', 'exclude bibliography', and a 'mode' dropdown set to 'show highest matches together'. The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel shows the original text with red highlights and a small red box containing the number '1'. The right panel is a list of matches, each with a number in a red box, a percentage match, a date, and a URL. The matches are: 1. 3% match (internet from 14/11/06) from http://www.cpet.ufl.edu; 2. 15% match (internet from 02/11/06) from http://www.njstemcell.org; 3. 8% match (internet) from http://stemcells.nih.gov; 4. 6% match (internet) from http://www.ishc.net; 5. 4% match (internet from 01/12/06) from http://en.wikipedia.org; 6. 3% match (internet from 28/11/06) from http://www.wchs8.com; 7. 2% match (internet from 10/10/06) from http://en.wikipedia.org; 8. 1% match (student papers from 31/03/06) from Submitted to Queen Mary and Westfield College; 9. 1% match (student papers from 14/12/06).

Match Number	Match Percentage	Source
1	3%	internet from 14/11/06 <a href="http://www.cpet.ufl.edu">http://www.cpet.ufl.edu</a>
2	15%	internet from 02/11/06 <a href="http://www.njstemcell.org">http://www.njstemcell.org</a>
3	8%	internet <a href="http://stemcells.nih.gov">http://stemcells.nih.gov</a>
4	6%	internet <a href="http://www.ishc.net">http://www.ishc.net</a>
5	4%	internet from 01/12/06 <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org">http://en.wikipedia.org</a>
6	3%	internet from 28/11/06 <a href="http://www.wchs8.com">http://www.wchs8.com</a>
7	2%	internet from 10/10/06 <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org">http://en.wikipedia.org</a>
8	1%	student papers from 31/03/06 Submitted to Queen Mary and Westfield College
9	1%	student papers from 14/12/06

Turnitin numbers and colour codes matches between submitted work and similar sources. (Above left panel) paragraph 1 in red text originates from the website listed as number one in red. You can click on the link to take you to the original source (or double check through pasting text into Google).

# Conclusion

- Understand library business is information
  - Organize information well for storage and retrieval.
  - Provide links to wide range of databases.
- Train users how to discover information.
- Induct users on how to do referencing and citation.
  - Through conducting information literacy to all users.
- Ensure there is a policy on plagiarism.
  - Sensitize users on plagiarism.
    - Emphasize on consequences of plagiarism.
  - Train on plagiarism and similarity check software.

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Thank you