

# Plagiarism in Face of Turnitin Service: the Kenyatta University Experience

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# Outline

- Introduction to plagiarism.
- Overview to Turnitin software.
- Interpreting originality reports from Turnitin.
- Strategy for Turnitin service implementation at Kenyatta University.
- Students experiences / feedback
- Challenges
- Suggestions
- Demonstration on Turnitin services.

# Plagiarism

- Plagiarism, in an academic perspective, is defined as an *act of presenting other people's ideas, statements or works as their own.*
  - It happens among: *students, researchers and other scholars*
  - When they *present research* reports, papers, assignments *as their own when its not* the case.

# Temptations to Plagiarism

- There is great temptation to copy and paste other people's works, due to
  - Improved technology (Scanners, copiers, digital cameras, etc)
  - Availability of easy-to-use word processing software e.g. Microsoft Word.
  - Access to internet and
  - Availability to electronic information – ejournals, ebooks, google resources.
  - Access to professional / commercial research service bureaus and assistants.
  - Lack of time to do enough research.
- Failure to acknowledge sources of information appropriately often leads to plagiarism.

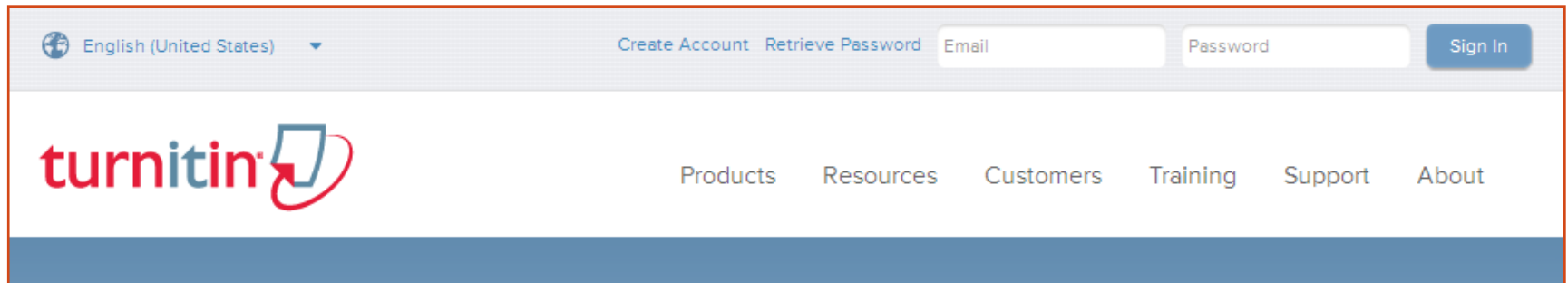
# Turnitin

- It is *online* service for educational institutions used to determine the *originality* of a written *report*.
- Turnitin *compares submitted papers* to its extensive *online database* of public Web content and to *previous submissions*.
  - Searches for *text* taken from these sources.
  - Provides a *report of sources* of text found and *percentage index* indicator.

# Turnitin ... contd

Turnitin operates in a three hierachial order for users

- Administrator
- Instructor
- Student
- Each level has specific roles and responsibilities.
- Users must login using unique credentials.

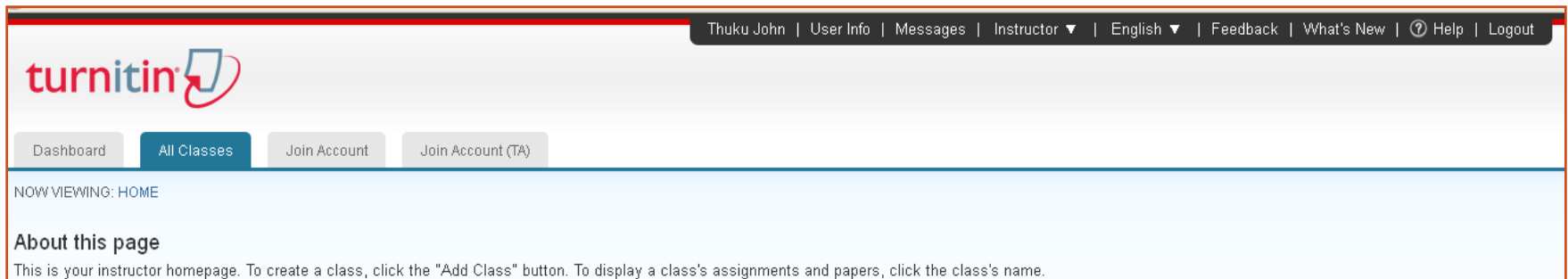


# Administrator

- Roles of Administrator
  - Setup the system/service
  - Customize the system
  - Introduce the Instructors
  - Responsible for the service and liaise with the providers.
- At Kenyatta University, it is the Chief University Librarian who undertakes the role of administrator.
  - All the lecturers and librarians are introduced as instructors

# Instructor

- Defines the class.
- Introduces all the students
  - Using email, first name and surname.
- Accesses to documents submitted to a class and their respective originality reports.
- Can make comments/discuss with the student.
- Makes the interpretation / judgment.



The screenshot shows the Turnitin instructor interface. At the top right, a navigation bar includes links for 'Thuku John | User Info | Messages | Instructor ▼ | English ▼ | Feedback | What's New | ? Help | Logout'. The Turnitin logo is on the left. Below it are navigation buttons: 'Dashboard', 'All Classes' (highlighted in blue), 'Join Account', and 'Join Account (TA)'. A light blue banner below the buttons reads 'NOW VIEWING: HOME'. Underneath is a section titled 'About this page' with the text: 'This is your instructor homepage. To create a class, click the "Add Class" button. To display a class's assignments and papers, click the class's name.'






# Student

- Logins in to the system and enters a class (Previous set by the instructor)
- Submits a paper
  - Browse the paper (file), upload, confirm then submit.
  - Confirmation for successful submission is given.
- View / Study originality report
  - Report generation may take a few minutes or a day, depending with the size of document.
- Resubmission is possible.
  - To replaces earlier submissions will depend on setting by the instructor. Feedback often given after 24 hours.

# File Formats

- Turnitin allows a variety of file formats, mainly common word processors, these include:
  - Microsoft Word™ (doc, docx)
  - Corel WordPerfect®(wp, wpd, wri, doc)
  - HTML (htm, html)
  - Adobe PostScript®
  - Text file (txt)
  - Rich Text Format (rtf)
  - Portable Document Format (pdf)
- Maximum size allowed for submission is 20MB.

# Originality Reports

Color	Color Code	Indicator
Blue		0% - no matching text
Green		1-24% of matching text
Yellow		25-49% of matching text
Orange		50-74% of matching text
Red		75-100% of matching text

- These percentages show the similarity of text and ***NOT*** a measure to plagiarism



# List of Submitted Reports

Thesis upto 2013 June

INBOX | NOW VIEWING: NEW PAPERS ▾

Submit Paper

GradeMark Report | Edit assignment settings

<input type="checkbox"/>	AUTHOR	TITLE	SIMILARITY	GRADE	RESPONSE	FILE	PAPER ID	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Kimani	ICT Fundamentals	4% 		•		321654241	17-Apr-2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Thuku	Towards National Database	9% 		•		321657371	17-Apr-2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thuku John	Final Teacher	19% 		•		321969259	23-Apr-2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maina Mwangi	Road safety	68% 		•		323553960	23-Apr-2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Kimani	PERI Databases 2012	70% 		•		321653723	17-Apr-2013
<input type="checkbox"/>	Onyango James	Test Title	100% 		•		323554727	23-Apr-2013

- Inbox for: Title of assignment / research project
- Columns: author, title, similarity report (% & color code), file name, date submitted

# Sample report

TurnitinUK Originality Report

Processed on 22-12-06 5:07 PM GMT Word Count: 2269

Overall Similarity Index: 77%

mode: show highest matches together

5

In most gene therapy studies, a "normal" gene is inserted into the genome to replace an "abnormal," disease-causing gene. A carrier molecule called a vector must be used to deliver the therapeutic gene to the patient's target cells. Currently, the most common vector is a virus that has been genetically altered to carry normal human DNA. Viruses have evolved a way of encapsulating and delivering their genes to human cells in a pathogenic manner. Scientists have tried to take advantage of this capability and manipulate the virus genome to remove disease-causing genes and insert therapeutic genes. 5

Target cells such as the patient's liver or lung cells are infected with the viral vector. The vector then unloads its genetic material containing the therapeutic human gene into the target cell. The generation of a functional protein product from the therapeutic gene restores the target cell to a normal state.

Besides virus-mediated gene-delivery systems, there are several nonviral options for gene delivery. The simplest method is the direct introduction of therapeutic DNA into target cells. This approach is limited in its application because it can be used only with certain tissues and requires large amounts of DNA. 4

1 3% match (internet from 14/11/06)  
<http://www.cpet.ufl.edu>

2 15% match (internet from 02/11/06)  
<http://www.njstemcell.org>

3 8% match (internet)  
<http://stemcells.nih.gov>

4 6% match (internet)  
<http://www.ishc.net>

5 4% match (internet from 01/12/06)  
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

6 3% match (internet from 28/11/06)  
<http://www.wchs8.com>

7 2% match (internet from 10/10/06)  
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

8 1% match (student papers from 31/03/06)  
[Submitted to Queen Mary and Westfield College](#)

9 1% match (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).

# Interpreting Originality Reports

- The report is displayed two main sections
  - Left panel shows submitted work
  - Right panel shows matches found from other sources.
- There is extended use of color codes to indicate common sources.
- Matches from websites and Turnitin resources gives the hyperlinks.
- Matches from books and journals, will show those sources.

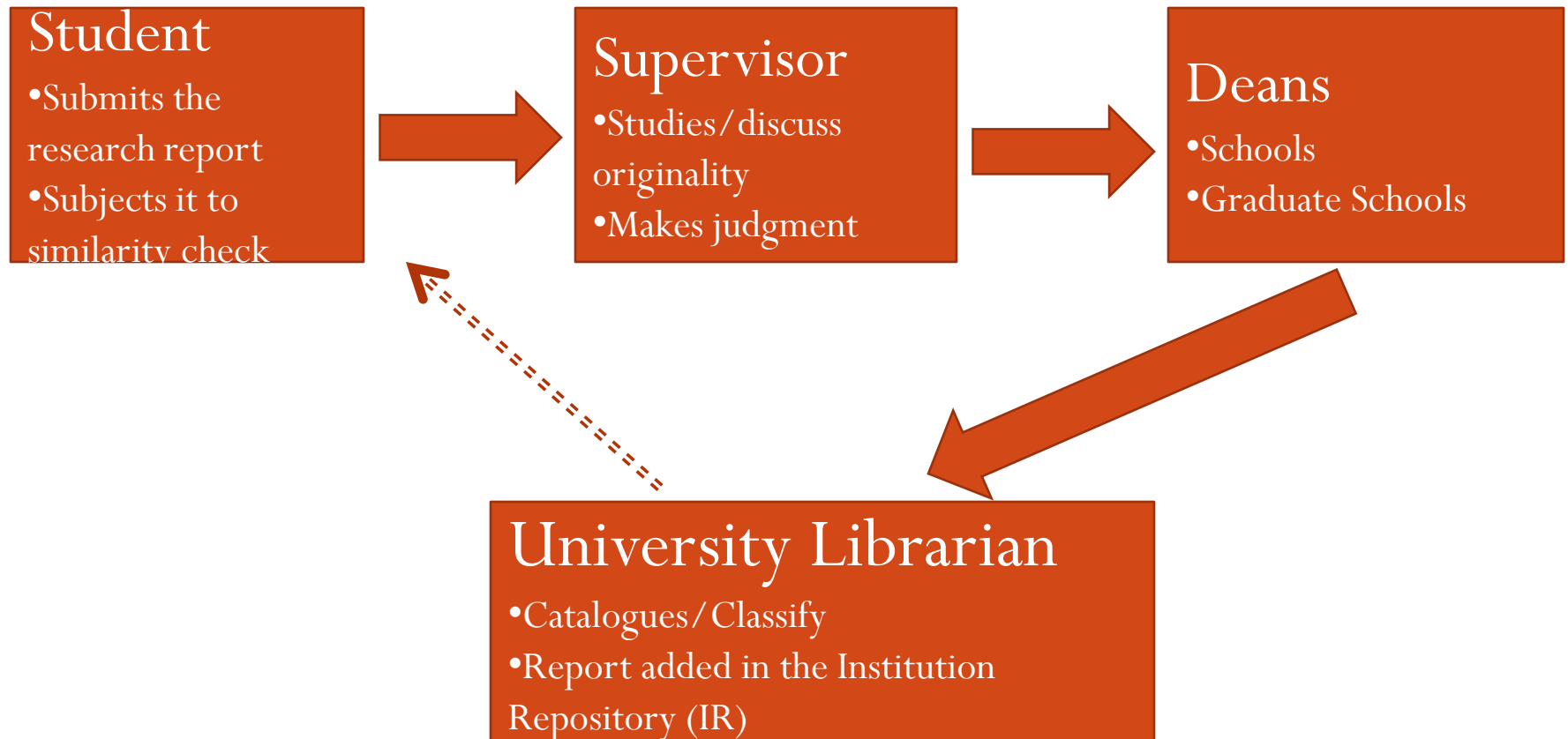
# Interpreting Originality Reports... contd.

- Clicking the numbers on the right side of the report takes you to students report.
- Clicking on the coloured text on the right links you to the external source.
- Judgment whether plagiarism exists or does not exist must be done carefully.
- 0% does not indicate there is no plagiarism.
- Higher % may not necessary mean there is plagiarism. Thus quotations must be acknowledged, bibliographies may be similar, etc.

# Strategy to Implement Turnitin

- Needed to ensure that documents in the institution repository had been check against obvious plagiarism.
- Lobbied for Turnitin service to be adopted for use in checking against similarity of text.
- Licenses were bought.
- Training to staff
  - Librarians
  - Teaching staff (Deans and heads of departments)
  - Students – Continuous through user instruction.

# Kenyatta University Model



# Role of the Library

- Manage the Institutional Repository.
- Catalogue and classify theses and dissertations forward.
- Liaise with other libraries: locally, regionally and internationally.
- Ensure/Confirm that documents on the (IR) have passed the originality checks.
- Conduct training on use of Turnitin service

# Feedback from Users

- Help in user identify areas that need citation
- Avoid over-reliance on a single document
- Appropriate paraphrasing
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Lecturer – Student engagement

# Challenges

- Research publications from most universities not available online, therefore the comparison is not comprehensive.
  - There have been cases of plagiarism that are identified by the teaching staff through their exposure to the field.
- Some students fear that the system may indicate they have plagiarized yet it is not so. This affects its adoption.
- Many users are always anxious to know the safe similarity % index. It is usually not possible to give a definite answer.
- Some documents may not be available for comparison, a request should be made to the hosting institution.

# Suggestions / Recommendations

- Universities and research institutions should establish their institutional repositories to help in comparison of documents.
- Librarian should ensure that research documents are comprehensively indexed.
- Turnitin is not a replacement to other methods used to identify plagiarism.
- Turnitin is helpful in creating awareness to plagiarism leads.

# References

- Rolfe, Vivien. Understanding Turnitin originality reports. De Montfort University, 2008.

Thank you