PLAGIARISM: AN EFFECTIVE ROLE LIBRARIANS CAN PLAY TO
AVOID PLAGIARISM IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract: In the present era where everyone is running at very fast pace and want to achieve everything he desires without bothering about the moral values and professional ethics. People in desire to attain higher degrees, promotions are not afraid of using even the unfair, illegal or dishonest methods. Academicians are no exemption to all this. The academic scenario at the world is dropping at a very higher rate and similarly offences, crimes; illegal methods are increasing day by day in academic community. Whether it is fake degrees, copyright infringement or plagiarism the world is facing an academic downfall.

Introduction:
Plagiarism means stealing the literary work of someone else and present it as one's own work. In simple words when someone while writing an article, dissertation, book, research publication etc instead of producing something original on its own rather copy the content, language, thoughts, ideas of someone else and present or publish it under his/ her name showing that he has done this work it is called plagiarism. Random house compact unabridged dictionary has defined Plagiarism as “use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work”.1 Similarly Oxford English dictionary has defined Plagiarism as “The actions or practice of taking someone else’s work, ideas etc and passing it off as one's own; literary theft”.2 The problem of Plagiarism is being faced by all the countries. In technological advancement the cases of Plagiarism has increased. Internet, computers, latest gadgets had made it very easy for anyone to retrieve the material on some topic or subject from the resources, copy paste it and then presenting the same work as one’s own work ignoring the original author. Plagiarism is not limited to academic world only in fact all the fields are facing this problem, whether it is science, engineering, music industry, film industry, medicine, education etc.
Moreover Plagiarism is not limited to any particular country also, almost all the countries of the world whether it is developed, developing or underdeveloped all are facing such problems. Plagiarism is not a new concept it is centuries old term as the term was coined in the 17th century. The word Plagiarism originated in the 17th century from the Latin word “Plagiarius” means kidnapper. Gipp, Bela (2014) has mentioned Plagiarism as “(i) Changing words, but copying the sentences, as such, moreover without giving credit to the original writer. (ii)To copying too much from any source is a case of Plagiarism whether you admit it or not in your article. (iii) Never forget to put your sentences borrowed from any source in inverted commas”.

About the bitter reality of Plagiarism Wilson Mizner’s sarcastic quotation is very famous “if you steal from one author, its Plagiarism, if you steal from many, its Research”.4 “ Plagiarism is the context where one misrepresents ideas, words, computer codes or other creative expressions as one’s own and manifests itself in a variety of forms which include verbatim copying near verbatim copying, paraphrasing sentences, without citing the source or not citing the source correctly.”

There are lots of reasons that has given rise to plagiarism cases, that maybe lack of interest in original research, People don't want to spend their time on research, as original research is a time consuming process and lots of energy and effort is required to undertake any genuine research.

Sometimes students teachers has pressure to complete the assignments in stipulated time, in that case people usually tend to rely on Internet as the easiest cut copy paste option. Sometimes people are not afraid of the consequences that one can have to face as a result of Plagiarism, as no strict guidelines or rules have been framed yet, so people often think that they are not committing any offence.

Plagiarism is highly unethical, illegal and against the moral values and principles. Honesty is expected in every sphere of life and academic field is no exception to it. A genuine researcher put his lots of efforts, energy and time in producing some new idea, thought, product or research. In return, he expects that his research may be appreciated and while using his thought or research, due credit may be given to him. When Plagiarist use other person’s Thought, Idea, Expression and work and present as Plagiarist’s own new research or his own new idea and never mention the person who has originally given this idea it is plagiarism.

It is dishonesty, stealing and cheating. Every person when ever write any dissertation, research article or doing any research he has to consult many sources and he has to explore the previous works done on the same related topic/subject. There is no harm in it. In fact while writing dissertation in one part researcher has to explain about the literature survey and has to mention about the books, literature, journals, and articles etc which the researcher has studied before completing this research. Before working on any
new research it is mandatory to know what the previous theories, findings, conclusions or output of previous research are.

More you study or mention the literature consulted gives the evaluator an impression that you have studied the topic well and has done the extensive research on the previously done work. If a researcher has taken any paragraph, sentence, quotation, table, data, figure or images etc from any of the previous studies and endorse that in its current research there is no harm in it, if the researcher clearly give citation of the original author in references and put the material taken in inverted commas. A genuine researcher, if he is producing some new thought or idea than the previous researcher he will never mind or hesitate to give proper reference of the previous work done, as in this way he will be more emphatically clearing that the previous research or output or work was this and whereas my research output is this and is different from the previous one. The problem arises when lazy or incapable and unethical plagiarist does not want to spend his time and effort on producing or doing some genuine research. He just wants to complete the dissertation project or assignment etc in the stipulated time, so he chooses the cut copy paste method. He steals the work of someone else and cleverly changes the word, sentences, jumble the words use synonyms, format changing etc and present it as a new product, whereas the thought process, Idea or content of the product remains the same.

The plagiarist knows that he has stolen the product so doesn’t dare to give any citation or reference etc he knows if he will give citation or reference to it and if someone will check this reference then he may come to know that it is a stolen plagiarized article and the original content belongs to someone else so in this way his plagiarism will be detected. Some plagiarists are cleverer; they do not take the material or content from one research. They use many articles, researches and take small parts or portions from each of these researches then assemble the content and produce it as their own new independent research.

**Copyright and Plagiarism:-**

Copyright, Plagiarism and Intellectual Property right are related terms. Copyright falls under legal preview and it is not limited to books only, it also covers paintings, maps, music, drawings, designs, picture etc. The owner of the product by following the procedure get certified ownership of the product which is called copyright material or intellectual property right of the said product. When a product is marked with copyright no one else can copy the product without the consent of the owner. If one do so it will be an offense and he will have to face the legal proceedings. If the copyright infringement is proved then the
Plagiarism: an effective role librarians can play to avoid plagiarism in academic institutions

person who violates the copyright may get punished by law. The punishment includes three years imprisonment or fine upto rupees five lakhs.

So copyright violation is more related with law and is considered illegal, whereas plagiarism is an ethical principle and related with academic honesty and integrity. In copyright the owner of the copyright has to inform about the copyright infringement so that the necessary legal proceedings may be executed against the violators. Whereas in Plagiarism whether it comes to the knowledge of the original author or not that his product has been stolen even then if the plagiarism is detected then the plagiarist can be punished by his organization/ institution found of breaching the academic honesty and integrity. As during examinations, while attempting the answers in exam centre copying from books and taking the help of other unethical mediums is considered as cheating and falls under unfair means case. The institutions expects that the students should write answers on their own from what they have learnt in the classes so that they can be evaluated on the basis of this. If student use slips, books or other copying and cheating methods then the purpose of examination is defeated. The purpose of examinations is not just getting passed in fact the real purpose is that whatever has been taught that has been learned by the student well so now he can be promoted further for next level of learning. If student uses unfair means then it is against the academic honesty and integrity and the institution can expel, fail or punish such students. Similarly it is related in research also. It is expected that one should genuinely do the research. The output or findings of the original research should be produced in the form of dissertation, article or research report etc. If any researcher rather than doing original research copy the material or research of someone else and publish it under his name it is as similar as copying, cheating and using unfair means. The original purpose of doing research is defeated. The purpose of research is to produce some new idea thought, challenging the previous established theories etc., if nothing new is produced then it means no research. In plagiarism the intensity of punishment may be less than the copyright violations. In copyright, if you use some part of the content, it is not considered as copyright infringement. Whereas on the other side in plagiarism if one use even small portion of someone else’s research output without giving citation and putting the content taken in inverted commas, it will be treated as plagiarism.

Plagiarism has spread in almost all the fields. People usually prefer readymade material and want to take the credit without doing any work. As in technological advancement of society everything is available with click of mouse in your hands. The society has become fast paced emails have replaced letters, banking apps have replaced long queues in the banks, food outlets have replaced the homemade food, e resources have replaced frequent visits to the library searching racks and catalogues,
So the human mindset has changed accordingly, they even want the academic outlets where they can buy the research articles, degrees, dissertation etc without doing any effort. Essay Mills, Ghostwriters, Article spinner (automatic and Manual), dissertation writers etc these all are available online and offline both. So doing original research, studying the literature, understanding the previously established theories, hypothesis creation, surveying, finding differences, solutions and making conclusions this all involves extensive study of literature, frequent visits to library, labs, field study etc so lazy researcher choose the cheating, copying option. He doesn’t realize the consequences he may have to face because of this. The plagiarist assumes that he has copied or cheated in such a smartest way that their plagiarism could not be detected.

Types of Plagiarism:-

There are many types of Plagiarism found some of them are as follows.

**Digital Plagiarism:** Digital Plagiarism is when one imitates or steals the content that is available in digital form like using images, videos, softwares, source codes, web designs etc .Data taken from online videos, lectures, statistical paper etc also comes under digital plagiarism.

“Making a video and using the footage from other videos or using copyright music or composing a piece of music recording of a video or audio, recreating, a visual work in a different medium etc”

**Self Plagiarism:** “Self Plagiarism is when one copies his or her same content at multiple places. The reuse of significant, identical or nearby identical portions of one's own work without acknowledging that one is doing so or citing the original work is something described as self Plagiarism the term recycling fraud has been used”.

As per the definition given by American psychological Association Self Plagiarism is “where as Plagiarism refers to the practice of claiming credit for the words, ideas and concepts of others. Self Plagiarism refers to the practice of presenting one's own previously published work as though it were new”. I Thenticate white paper on self plagiarism “ In plagiarism, plagiarist copy the material of other person and name it as his own content, whereas in self Plagiarism person himself represent his old and used products as a new product”.

“If the writer brings out new contents, new interpretations and properly cited ones from his previous work the new one should not be considered as a case of self plagiarism.”
Self plagiarism is also known as “reuse”, recycling fraud or duplicate publication and consists of a person repurposing their own written material without providing proper attributions by citing the original content.

“ As Roig (2006) suggests” self plagiarism occurs when authors reuse their own previously written work or data in a new written product without letting the reader know that this material has appeared elsewhere”\(^\text{11}\).

**Academic Plagiarism:** Academic plagiarism is when one steals and reuses the already done or published academic work of someone else and present it as one’s own output. Like using thesis, dissertations, assignments or Academic research articles etc of someone else (Original author) and republishing or resubmitting it under own name is Academic plagiarism.

**Plagiarism and related terms:-**

There are many similar terms related with plagiarism. Some major terms are briefed as below.

**Spinning:** A new art of doing Plagiarism is spinning of articles. In this, plagiarist creates a completely unique and new version of the same article produced by someone else. The plagiarist spins the article in order to fail the plagiarism detection software. The plagiarist do so by replacing the tenses used, replace words by using synonyms and thesaurus, change the writing style, converting past tenses into present or vice versa etc. Spinning can be done both manually and automatic (with the use of softwares).

**Rogeting:** It is almost like spinning. An academician at the University of Middlesex has identified a new form of cheating Rogeting. It is the process of changing one word at a time in an essay dissertation by the use of a Thesaurus to disguise plagiarism.

Wikipedia says rogeting is a neologism created to describe the act of plagiarizing a published source by substituting synonyms for sufficient words to fool common Plagiarism detection software.\(^\text{12}\)

**Assemblage:** Assemblage refers to a text "built primarily and explicitly from existing texts to solve a writing or communication problem in a new context".\(^\text{13}\) The concept was first proposed by Johndan Johnson-Eilola (author of Datacloud) and Stuart Selber in the journal Computers & Composition in 2007. The notion of assemblages builds on remix and remix practices, which blur distinctions between invented and borrowed work. The idea of assemblages is closely tied to the practice of remix.

**Patch writing:** Johnson-Eilola and Selber also refer to a 1993 article by Rebecca Moore Howard on "patchwriting," which describes a technique used by new authors. Patchwriting "involves copying from a source text then deleting some words, altering grammatical structures, or plugging in one-to-one synonym-substitutes."\(^\text{14}\)
**Essay Mills and Ghost writers:** “An essay mill also term paper mill, is a business that allows customers to commission an original piece of writing on a particular topic so that they may commit academic fraud. Customers provide the company with specific information about the essay, including: a page length, a general topic and a time frame with which to work. Fee is taken from the so called scholar.” 15

“Ghostwriters are anonymous writers do not come in picture but write for politicians, novelists, musicians, play writers, doctors and journalists. Ghostwriters also write for the Ph D students and researchers. Some ghostwriters do write lectures and biographies for rich people who sometimes have neither capability nor time. Speeches of top politicians by ghostwriters are commonly known worldwide. They are not doing this work free of cost, they charge heavily. Former president Ronald Reagan also released a ghostwritten biography”. 16

**An Effective Role of librarians in avoiding plagiarism in academic institutions:**

A librarian plays an important role in academic Institutions. Librarian helps in facilitating research by providing resources that helps in completing research. During research a researcher has to consult and study large number of library resources to know about the past studies, established facts, previous research findings etc. It is desired that a researcher should know from major to minute aspects related with that subject. Only then he can have vast knowledge about the topic. Libraries facilitate researchers by providing them research related documents either in the form of print books, journals, reports or in the form of online resources. Collection of material, retrieval of Information and dissemination of information are the major functions of libraries. Librarians are not only the custodians of resources rather it became the responsibility of librarians to make and sure that the resources of the library are being used effectively and efficiently in an ethical manner. As the librarians use preventive measures to stop the physical stealing of the resources similarly the efforts should be made to stop the intellectual stealing of resources also.

As a bank manager is not only responsible for maintaining the accounts of the bank account holder, he also make sure that the money deposited in each account is also safe and secure and no other person should steal the money from his account and label it as his own. Similarly the resources (books, journals, dissertations etc) are the intellectual property or assets of the author/ writer and belongs to the person who has produced it, so for safeguarding their intellectual property librarians should try to prevent the plagiarism. Libraries are somehow different from the bank manager as money is deposited in one bank only whereas the hundreds or thousands of copies of books are available in the different libraries of the world. This rule can be applied to dissertations and manuscripts as these are exclusively available in the particular library only. Librarians can play an important role in avoiding Plagiarism in academic Institutions. The following are
some of the suggestions by adopting which librarians can inform, guide and help the researchers to stay away from the offence called plagiarism.

1. **Workshop on Plagiarism awareness:**

   Librarian can arrange Plagiarism awareness workshops for researchers. The experts can advise the researchers about the rising cases of Plagiarism. The experts can train researchers on what Plagiarism is and how to avoid it. It is seen that sometimes Plagiarism is unintentional. The researchers usually due to lack of awareness fall prey in Plagiarism cases, so awareness about Plagiarism and copyright is essential and must be provided.

2. **Provision of Plagiarism detection softwares:**

   Librarians should procure licensed Plagiarism detection software’s and should make it freely available for researcher. INFLIBNET provided URKUND software to universities in 2014. Nowadays large number of Plagiarism detection software are available such as I-Thenticate, TURNITIN, Plagiarisma, Anti Plag, write check, plag spotter, plag tracker an plag scanner etc. With the help of these softwares is researches themselves can check plagiarism. They can check that which material they have copied and have they properly cited it or not. The software in its report clearly describes which source is copied along with the name of resource and from where it has been copied and also provide the detail about percentage of content copied. Plagiarism detection software are very useful for evaluators also, they can evaluate the originality of the research work.

3. **Training on Reference Management and Paraphrasing:**

   Most of the times it has been seen that all Plagiarism are not intentional. Sometimes researchers due to lack of knowledge about citation management and referencing styles became culprit of plagiarism. Librarians can arrange such training programs about referencing styles and citations managements. Now days large number of open source softwares for the reference Management are also available as Mendeley,Endnote, Zotero etc. By using these softwares researchers can be trained about giving proper citations and references in their work to avoid plagiarism. Paraphrasing students should be guided properly about the paraphrasing. According to Cambridge online dictionary “paraphrasing is to repeat something written or spoken using different words, often in a humons form that makes the original meaning clear.”}\(^{15}\).
4. Research integrity handbook:

For providing guidance to research scholars large number of foreign universities have prepared their research integrity handbooks for examples (MIT University, Stanford University, Oxford University and many more).

The universities can draft their own policy about plagiarism. They can provide information to students about the policy, standards, rules and regulations of research and punishments for the plagiarized work.

Librarians in collaboration with the research department of the university can also prepare the research integrity handbook. This handbook can provide information about the value of original Research and mandatory ethics and morals one should follow while writing research papers. In this Researchers can also be warned about the consequences one may have to face if their research is found plagiarized.

5. Research Guidance:

It has been seen that sometimes researcher could not get proper guidance about the research activity or how to do research. Most of the research being done now a day is just to achieve degree or for promotion purposes. Such persons become victims of Plagiarism because they choose the easiest path of acquiring degrees and completing the formality of writing articles. So without making any own effort they copy material from others. Efforts can be made by librarian to make students/faculty aware about how to do original research, how to write research articles and guidance about research methodology etc.

6. Availability of multiple resources:

Librarians should make efforts to provide large number of resources to its users, so that with the help of these resources they could understand the research topic well and instead of copying they should be able to write on their own.

The librarian should provide guidance and awareness to the users about the available library resources, in addition to it the researchers maybe made aware about the large number of open access journals, articles, ebooks, resources etc that are available on the net, so that researches can get the deep study and knowledge about the topic he has chosen.

Librarian should advise the researcher about using the authentic information only. Large number of fake plagiarized and mock websites are available on net. researcher should be guided to use and take information only from those web sites that are authentic for example institutional, organizational and official websites with .edu,.in,.net etc may be preferred and websites with .com should be used carefully. Moreover while using the information available on net, copyright issues must also be taken care of.
7. Guidance from post secondary level:

In India education system is like that where text books are recommended, teachers dictate notes to the students or students take notes from the senior students. The students cram the same notes or material from text books and attempt it in exams. More the answers matching with the books or notes higher the marks are. So basically in this type of education system student could not understand the concept of originality. They believe more efficiently one imitate or copy, higher the results are. This tendency should be changed right from the post secondary level. Students should be guided to use more books apart from the recommended text books only and they should be advised to attempt the answers according to their own understanding about the topic. Here the undergraduate college librarian can make the difference by advising students and by providing additional resources to the students apart from the recommended textbooks only. For the better understanding of the concept the librarians can arrange lectures about the topics of the syllabus from the experts or author of the books that can answer their queries and can explain the topics to the students and teachers as well.

8. Counseling:

The counseling can be provided to students on various issues.

(i) Confidence Building: Sometime students due to lack of confidence feel that they won't be able to undertake original research, Librarians can help such students in their confidence building. Lectures and group discussions etc can be arranged for such students. Help of researchers, Ph d degree holders, alumni’s can also be sought where they can advise students and can share their experiences.

(ii) Reading Habits: The students can also be advised for developing reading habits. Reading more and more books, articles would help them in getting better understanding about their research topic. Such posters, banners, talks etc can be arranged for developing reading habits among students. A comfortable and esthetic atmosphere can be created in the library where students should feel comfortable in studying like comfortable furniture, air conditioning, proper lighting, sound proof study rooms, self study cubicles, and extended library timings etc.

(iii) Time Management: Time management is very important to keep a track and eye on the time in which the researcher has to submit the assignment project or article. When a researcher fails to submit the project or assignment in stipulated time then they resort to copy paste option, so proper time management tips should be provided to the researchers. They should be advised to keep a time table and should try to finish the work a fortnight or in a month in advance than the due date.

9. Research Preparation Guidance:
The librarians can arrange guidance for researchers in preparation of research reports, assignments and articles etc in number of ways. Librarians can advice students about writing the source while taking notes and while consulting resources. Generally the researchers, students forget noting down the references and complete bibliographic details of the books, ebooks, e databases, online journals, articles and websites. Whenever writing they should take care that the reference details have been noted. In case of loss of information a lot of time is wasted and they may not be successful to locate the site from where few words have been taken. The students should be advised that if they have read or taken the material from any sources then they should prepare the slips of different points and should give proper citation and bibliographic details. While using the Internet sources the students should also note down the source and date on which they have accessed the website. The researcher should be advised to always use the latest edition of books and encyclopedia. The researchers may be advised that while using Internet sources or taking information from websites they should thoroughly study and explore the website and its contents. Moreover slides, presentations, references notes for further readings etc can also be consulted. In online resources many hyperlinks are also provided, mostly these hyperlinks can be very useful so researches should explore them also. Although the library subscribes large number of databases e-resources even then students consult Internet for laziness and quickness. The fact is that most of the faculty and students are not aware about the library’s subscribed resources. Moreover they don't try to consult these. In this kind of situations it became the responsibility of Librarian and Library staff to make faculty, researchers and students aware about their subscribed content and in addition to it they should also be advised about the proper utilization of these resources. Librarian and his team can advise the students that first preference should be given to subscribed proprietary content then second preference to open access and then lastly to freely available information on the net. Instead of keeping its researches relied on Google, Librarians should arrange good search engines that provide specialized search mechanism for the library’s subscribed collection. Whenever student requires any document and article etc, the libraries should provide the same on priority if the documents are not available at library the same should be arranged on inter library loan or should be procured online for the speedy delivery of information. Publication support: Librarians can help the researchers in getting their research published. Librarians can advise the researchers, students about the authentic publishers and journals. The UGC has already made the work of researchers quite easy by providing the subject wise list of journals. Librarians can arrange training programs from reputed publishers like Elsevier, Springer, Taylor and Francis etc for the benefit of the researchers. The publishers can guide students about how to get published. Librarians can also provide typing support to researchers at nominal prices.
Moreover nowadays many apps are also available that can convert speech into text such as speech notes, voice notes, colour notes etc. Students can be made aware about that also. Some researchers may face language problems in that case librarians can also provide language support for such students. English language classes can be arranged. Information about the various online sources and apps can be provided to students. Such sources and apps provide supports like spelling checking, grammar checking, online dictionaries, translation tools etc. Moreover editors who can check the articles for spelling and grammar etc can also be provided.

**Conclusion:**

Although doing original research and avoiding plagiarism is the responsibility of researchers itself, but in an academic institution every member should make an effort to guide, advise the researchers properly to avoid such unethical and illegal offences. The government, academic institutions, universities, research organizations and higher education agencies like, UGC, AICTE etc should also take strong preventive measures and should frame strict policies and regulations to curb this menace.

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