AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ROLE THAT REFERENCE PLAYS IN REDUCING INSTANCES OF PLAGIARISM IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH

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Abstract:

As an official method of giving credit where it's due, "referencing" involves crediting one's sources in academic writing. Researchers, instructors, and students must be held accountable for properly citing their sources when creating scholarly works like research papers or articles. A fundamental grasp of principles such as honesty, respect, trust, and fairness; the broad ideas of acknowledging sources and plagiarism; and the requirement of academic integrity regarding plagiarism are all necessary for students to comprehend. References in publications before they are released ensure both the material quality and access to original sources, allowing additional study. This is why it is crucial. When references are correctly cited, the article gains academic credibility and respectability. Acknowledging and citing your sources accurately is a necessary part of this process. An in-text citation (also known as a reference list or bibliography) should appear in both the body of the piece and the bibliography or index of references. The citation format may be found in both of these locations. Plagiarism, academic theft, intellectual property theft, misrepresentation, and other academic code of conduct infractions are unacceptable. It's a sign of deference to previous research that they're following this practice. Avoiding plagiarism when writing research papers may be handled in various ways. Incorporating citations and common knowledge are just a few techniques you might use. This article will be used to help academic researchers and scholars better comprehend the reference procedure. It emphasized the need to utilize citation management software to minimize plagiarism in academic research by highlighting its responsibilities. Several tips for avoiding plagiarism have also been included in this study.

Keywords: fairness; bibliography; misrepresentation; software; code of conduct

Introduction:

In academic research, the need for proper citation and plagiarism prevention has grown in significance. Proper attribution is essential when writing papers, articles, assignments, or any other sort of publication. Researchers must understand academic writing's primary objectives and conventional standards for citing sources. To be clear to the reader, accurate citations must show where the ideas in the text came from(Agus Gunawan, Septa Ariandi, 2019). Each stage in the academic research procedure necessitates consulting multiple previously published sources and other relevant information sources. Citations must be used to credit other sources that provide context, background, and support for a researcher's thesis(Fazilatfar et al., 2018). When borrowing someone else's work, it is vital to provide credit where credit is due to prevent charges of plagiarism. In addition, the researcher must save all of the essential data and artifacts. Researchers require various degrees, multiple sources, and research support materials depending on the research degree. As a result, citation management systems are vital for preserving reference sources and are easy to trace(Trirattanaphan, 2021). According to most sources, academic integrity (or honesty) is the foundation of academic life. An academic researcher is responsible for his or her work if it is done in an educational environment(Yao et al., 2020). The academic research community's fundamental values include trust, honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility. Intellectual honesty necessitates consideration of the contributions of others. In academic writing, plagiarism is not tolerated, and academic integrity, student cheating, and plagiarism are highly prized(Kilicoglu, 2017). A writing approach, known as referring, involves mentioning or referencing other academics' work. In academic writing, citations have been a necessity since the beginning. Citing your

sources gives your work more legitimacy, displays the breadth of your investigation, and empowers readers to learn more independently(Serenko et al., 2021).

Methodology:

This paper was prepared using the available articles and private sources in the library database on the Internet. It is qualitative research. We designed the analysis based on my own point of view about this particular topic. We also presented evidence on the topic using various references, including newspaper articles and books.

Objectives of the study:

1. To present ideas that explain how authors should avoid plagiarism while referencing.
2. To ensure that teachers and students avoid plagiarism.
3. To find out whether by simply following these simple steps will we are able to avoid plagiarism in academic papers.
4. To emphasize on how important is the study and that these sources can be used as guide to help our understanding in the process of essay writing.
5. To emphasize some suggestions, avoid plagiarism.

Reference Management System:

It helps researchers organize, save, and retrieve citations using a Reference Management System (RMS). Using RMS, academics may create bibliographies, link to whole texts and online pages/documents, cite sources and interact with the help of features like PDF highlights and social networking. Online databases, library catalogues, and the web may be used to locate citations(Soltany et al., 2018).

(i)RMS Tools:

Data from databases and the internet may be retrieved and prepared by RMS programmes. RMS programmes may also be used to produce citations, some of which are free and others that must be purchased. Researchers may keep track of their citations with bibliographic software and create bibliographies on the fly in several citation formats(Du, 2020).

Features	EndNote	EndNote Web	Mendeley	Zotero
Capture info from web pages.	✓ (install tool from EndNote Web)	✓	✓	✓
Import information from databases.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Search a database or catalog from the program.	✓	✓	✓	✗
Manage a collection of PDFs.	✓	✗	✓	✓
Work with my collection without needing the Internet.	✓	✗	✓	✗
Work from multiple computers.	✓ (sync with EndNote Web)	✓	✓	✓
Work on a tablet, app, or mobile site.	✓ (app now free)	✓ (app now free)	✓ (free app)	✓ (free app)
Share my collection with others and have them add to it.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Not spend any money on this tool.	✗ (Reduced cost $78.38)	✓ (cost for more storage)	✓ (cost for more storage & group functionality)	✓ (cost for more storage)
Online Learning Videos & Tutorials	EndNote Training Channel	EndNote Training Channel	Mendeley Video Tutorials	Zotero Tutorials
Web-based version	Yes when synched with EndNote Web	✓	✓	✓
Desktop version	✓	✗	✓	✓

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Various citation forms are supported by web-based reference management systems, including single citations and whole bibliographies. In addition, they may create in-text citations, annotate sources(Kaul, 2020), and collaborate

with other researchers through the online sharing of references and citations. The most often used citation formats are MLA Citation, Turabian Citation, and the Chicago (Turabian) Manual for the Arts and Humanities(Fatima et al., 2020).

Features	EndNote	EndNote Web	Mendeley	Zotero
Import information from web pages	✔	✔	✔	✔
Create records from PDFs (files or folders)	✔	✖	✔	✔
Online storage limits	N/A	2 GB or 5GB (free or purchased version)	2 GB free (cost for more storage)	300 MB $ for more
Create records from PDFs (files or folders)	✔	✖	✔	✔
Attach files (PDFs, Docs) to record	✔	✔	✔	✔
Automatically find & attach PDFs	✔	✖ but UC-eLinks is available	✖	✔
Annotate & highlight PDFs	✔	✖	✔	✔
Search thru attached PDFs (full-text)	✔	✖	✔	✖
Organize records into Groups or Folders	✔	✔	✔	✓
Other organization tools	Smart groups, subgroups	Shared folders are in a separate space	Watch folder (PDFs), tags, favorites	Tags, Smart search, iTunes-like look
Share library with collaborators	Compressed Library or Traveling Library,	Yes, with read & write privileges	Yes, set up group, public or private, members	Yes, set up group, public or private, members

Table 1: Comparison charts for some of the most popular tools for managing references (Source: (UCSan Diego, 2018))

(ii)Sources of Referencing:

Various published and unpublished sources might be consulted while compiling a list of references for a research paper or article. Books, journals, newspapers, magazines, electronic databases, radio or television programmes, films, plays, interviews, speeches, letters, e-mail, government sources(Prashanth et al., 2018), and so on are primary sources of information for researchers. Any quotes or summaries that use material from another source must mention the author's name and publication date.

(iii) Elements of Referencing:

A proper academic reference requires understanding all aspects of the mentioned sources. Organizing component-based authority into many categories using paper sources, "electronic source references, and audio or multimedia sources is possible" ("Towards Consistency and Transparency in Academic Integrity," 2019). Table 2 shows the most critical parts of the reference:

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Paper Citation	Electronic Citation (Web Pages)	Audio and Multimedia Works
• Author and editor or other creative individual or entity full names • Title of article, books or chapters • Name of books, Journal and periodical • Version or edition • Name of publisher or distributor • Year of Publication • Place of Publication (Book only) • Volume and issue numbers (for journals only) • Page Numbers	• Name of the author or editor (or organization) • Title of the page • Title of the site (i.e. Homepage) • Date the site was created • Date the page was last modified or updated (or copyright date) • Date you accessed the material • The full URL address	• Author/organization/direct or (if available) • Title of audio or multimedia • Format (e.g. Video recording, film etc.) • City of recording • Date of recording

Table 2: Elements of Referencing

(iv) Referencing Methods:

A list of "works cited," a "references list," or a bibliography is required to properly handle references.

(a) Citations inside the text: Citations should be in the body of each paragraph of a research paper you're working on. For instance, "Research excellence may take many diverse forms and structures."

(b) Numerical reference: There are two ways to cite a numerical reference in-text: using superscript numerals or numbers in brackets. These numbers are linked to more detailed sources in the reference list after a research paper. For example, the advent of digital technology in higher education has caused a paradigm shift(Pàmies et al., 2020).

(c) Footnotes reference the following: The numerical and in-text citations that make up a footnote citation come after a thorough reference list. If you scroll down, you'll discover a quote containing the author's name, work title, year, and the corresponding page number. According to the writers, 7 L. College and C. James, for example (2015). Journal merit may be best understood using a "basket of metrics."Scientific Research in Europe, 41 (3)

Plagiarism and academic research:

It's possible that written or internet-based (even if publicly accessible) information or ideas from any medium might be included in this category. Plagiarism is a kind of academic dishonesty that occurs when someone uses another person's words, images, or ideas without giving credit where credit is due. There are many instances of unintentional plagiarism in which a person does not realize they are copying someone else(Selemani et al., 2018). Compiling a bibliography and using the proper citation formats might assist you in preventing this.

What is there to worry about plagiarism?

(a) Presents the work of another person as your own research. Take inspiration from someone else's work and use it to guide your research. According to the author's research, movies have significantly impacted special effects and technological development, as well as how much they enjoyed working on this project.

(b) Taking credit for someone else's ideas or words without their permission.

(c) It's plagiarism to steal someone else's work and claim it as your own. Consequently, you declare full ownership of the original author's work, although you did not produce it. You may be dismissed from college if discovered plagiarizing, which will cause you to worry about "being caught."

(d)Insufficient use of quote marks when quoting directly. However, when repeating a term or phrase someone else has used, quotation marks should only be used to highlight the word or phrase. Most of the time, this implies that the author has a problem with how the term is used in the sentence. Because your readers won't know who initially expressed the items you've placed in direct quotes unless you tell them, employ a pair of quotation marks(Awasthi, 2019).

(e) Misrepresenting the source of a quotation. Before making a statement, you must know the details of what you are saying. An important lesson must be taught here. Even if it's coming from a colleague, you should always double-check the information and ensure you know

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where it came from. Compare the reports to other facts or situations that have been reported on that are similar. Investigate the reports. Check your definitions before drawing any comparisons(Dusza, 2020).

(f) Summarizing is useful when you want to provide your reader a broad overview of a subject, philosophy, practice, literary work, or film. When paraphrasing, it is better to use your own words rather than a direct quotation since it demonstrates that you are knowledgeable about the subject. Your reader will benefit from your ability to use experts' perspectives, research, or other evidence to explain your topic or case to them(Deubel, 2018).

Why be concerned about plagiarism?

(a) Plagiarism occurs when someone steals another person's original work. Most people learn about plagiarism for the first time because of the seriousness of academic dishonesty and plagiarism. A more significant number of ethical and moral boundaries are being pushed due to the fraudulent use of information that can now be accessed from across the world through the internet(Abbas et al., 2021).

(b)Plagiarism and theft are both forms of academic dishonesty. As with academic careers, plagiarism may harm professional ones as well. Plagiarism may have a devastating effect on both academic and professional careers. Because it's immoral, destructive, and maybe even illegal, plagiarism in the workplace is a significant issue. It's also detrimental. Plagiarism may have serious consequences, one of which negatively impacts the plagiarist's reputation in the long run.

(c) Plagiarism and theft are both considered forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism may hurt both a student's academic and professional future. Since it gives students an unfair edge over their colleagues, plagiarism is frowned upon in higher education. This kind of behaviour is seen as cheating since it violates academic integrity standards at an institution(Sorea et al., 2021).

(d)This article's readers will be duped by plagiarism. It misleads readers, unaware that the information they're reading was plagiarised.

(e) It is illegal to claim someone else's work as your own and not provide credit where credit is due in the case of plagiarism. Researchers may be accused of plagiarism if they falsify or manufacture data, fail to mention the seeds utilized, or neglect to recognize the source of their data. Forgery and plagiarism are two instances. Academic integrity regulations were violated, regardless of whether it was done on purpose.

Why do we plagiarize?

(a)Not being able to manage one's time well. Three rough drafts are a lot more difficult to resist than turning in an essay that has been finished on time.

(b) They don't know how important it is to utilize their sources. A good foundation for a beautiful paper with a language as engaging as the subject matter may be built by citing sources appropriately. To avoid intellectual laziness, sloppy writing, and generalizations, we must cite specific sources for the varied information we provide. This removes the marks of intellectual sloth and cloudy thinking(Cheng et al., 2021).

(c)Failing to provide an extra reference already mentioned. Common citation errors include failing to correctly credit sources, failing to give page numbers for electronic works, and failing to properly utilize parentheses for references to parenthetical content.

(d) The difficulties that come with evaluating internet sources. Because determining the credibility of a source and being aware of any biases that might impact how something is understood are both essential parts of assessing anything. It's common for individuals to forget to provide page numbers and incorrectly utilize parentheses in parenthetical references while evaluating online sources(Stephanie, 2018).

(e) Students aren't aware of copyright issues since they aren't familiar with suitable online citations. A long paragraph or essay might be challenging to read when you include too much material. It's possible to prevent this by simply reducing the information you provide.

(f)It's hard for them to tell what common knowledge is and what has to be cited since they can't see how a topic interacts with the main argument in an essay. Proof may be challenging in student papers, leading to a lack of evidence supporting a study's central thesis.

(g) The material is challenging for students to grasp. Therefore, they are unable to carry out research or complete duties. A paragraph will not make sense and be confusing or unclear if it does not have a strong opening and/or conclusion. Children might copy and paste whole articles or paragraphs from sites protected by intellectual property regulations, which is a problem for educators(Badran, 2020).

(h) A lack of knowledge of what constitutes plagiarism. Some students do not know how to use paraphrases and direct quotations about articles and paragraphs they have copied. The repercussions of violating copyright laws will be
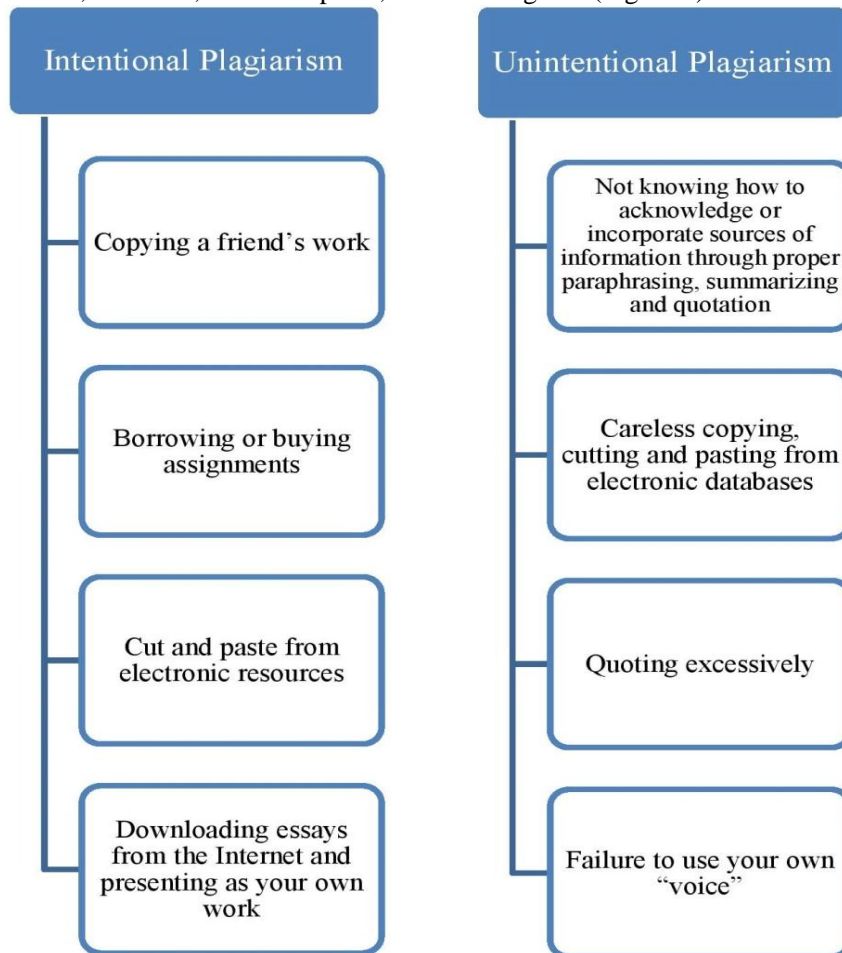
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made clear to students. Internet plagiarism, which refers to using someone else's work and claiming it as one's own, has become a

Types of plagiarism:

 Generally, the 10 most common types of plagiarism are a clone, CTRL-C, Find – Replace,

significant problem in recent years. These days, students often make a citation to a journal article in their work(Abdi et al., 2021).

Remix, Recycle, Mashup, 404 Error, Aggregator, and Re-tweet. The standard types of plagiarism are given (Figure 1) below:

Figure 1: Types of Plagiarism

How to include sources in research papers in a suitable manner:

The next step is to decide how to present the sources you've found in your paper or research report. There are three primary methods for incorporating quotations into your project.

Summary:

This is followed by a brief recapitulation of the key points in your own words. You can summarize a paragraph on your resume, but most companies want to see more detailed information (e.g., chapters, internet documents, books, etc.). When summarizing, use these guidelines to avoid plagiarism: The summary must be written in your own words. The beginning and end of the overview should be clearly marked. Describes the main points of the case(Agus Gunawan, Septa Ariandi, 2019).

Paraphrase:

This is an example of paraphrase, which is a replication or representation of another person's views in your own words and sentences. For instance, it refers to a specific piece of knowledge or concept. Skills in language that allow for effective paraphrasing: The structure of a phrase may be altered by using synonyms that change the word forms. Incorporating the passive voice and developing and defining many themes.

Direct Quotation:

Whenever someone uses a quotation, they're really paraphrasing an actual passage from a book or other source. It's up to this aspect to make it clear to the reader that you've plagiarized someone else's words. A reference should be included if the original sources are distinct and can't be summarized or paraphrased. It offers credibility to your document and enhances its

authenticity. In his English language research, Robert Claiborne contrasts language used as "a tool of self-expression" and language used to miscommunicate (Ugwunwa Esse, Sola Owolabi, 2018).

How can we prevent plagiarizing our work?

(i)If you have a query about plagiarism, consult your instructor or mentor. If you have issues with plagiarism, you should ask your professor or advisor. They will likely give direction in answer to your questions.

(ii) Planning to employ other sources If you choose to integrate different sources in your research paper, you will need to create a strategy for how to include them.

(iii)Make sure you take practical notes. While working on your research project, collect notes from your sources and ensure that all of your references have been cited using the relevant citation styles.

(iv) You must be able to express another person's concepts in your own words and with your own sentence patterns without duplicating.

(v)Before employing exact phrases or words from another source in your remark, surround them with quotation marks.

(vi)Analyze and evaluate the sources. Determine if the source is authoritative, whether it is objective, and whether the material is pertinent; then eliminate any unreliable notes and references.

(vii) Pay Attention to Your Citations Ensure that you conform to the criteria for the citation styles (such as APA, MLA, and Chicago) used by an educational institution or related research disciplines (such as APA, MLA, and Chicago).

(viii) Plagiarism Checkers Use any commercial or open-source application that detects plagiarism, such as IThenitcate, Turnitin, URKUND, or Viper, among others, to check your research paper for instances of plagiarism.

A Consensus Viewpoint:

Some ideas are accepted as common knowledge by academics and professionals in various professions. A remark or theory scholars may confidently presume the general public already understands it does not need a reference. Original sources are the best places to go for accurate information. It's easy to get information from various sources, even if you don't have any supporting evidence.

Some suggestions:

(i) There are several more complicated considerations to consider. Workplace plagiarism will be seen as a severe violation and may result in dismissal. After a hard day at work, nobody wants to do anything. Stealing is

stealing, no matter how innocent your intentions may have been.

(ii)Without providing credit where credit is due, stealing another person's work is a recipe for catastrophe. An article rewriter may easily be found on the internet and can be of some aid. Nevertheless, there are other ways to avoid the issue. You can avoid legal issues if you grasp the necessity of preventing plagiarism. We've rounded up some of the best advice here to help you prevent plagiarism.

(iii) To prevent plagiarism, you should always double-check your work before submitting it. Nothing beats examining your work, even if you search far and wide for the best article rewriter. It won't take long to review everything and ensure you've given credit where credit is due. To get the required results, this process is easy to follow.

(iv)The act of citing your sources is one thing, but until you do it correctly, no one will take the time to do so. Be sure that you understand the requirements of the document you are working on and that you are implementing them effectively. No matter how hard you try, mistakes might still happen.

(v)Writing a paper takes time, and this simple step may help you avoid plagiarism by allowing yourself enough time. It's easy to overlook a vital detail while rushing about. Research and attention to detail will put you well ahead of the competition. Because of the stress of the circumstances, we are more prone to making mistakes that aren't necessary.

(vii)To give credit where credit is due, it is customary to use quotation marks when quoting someone directly. It's quick and easy, and you'll want to get started as soon as you write it down. You can't be accused of plagiarising someone else's work if you cite the source of your knowledge.

(vii) There is a workaround to not providing credit to the original author of the material you cite in your citations. To correctly paraphrase a sentence, you must modify it to communicate the same meaning. This means you can't simply take out one phrase and replace it with another; instead, you must write it yourself.

(viii)Keep in mind that you don't have to use all the information you find in your sources. Don't be afraid to express your unique perspective and attempt to add something worthwhile to the conversation. As a consequence, your grades will rise. It shows that you are well-versed in the subject at hand. You'll need to devote yourself to a thorough investigation to get to this stage.

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(ix) There are several reputable plagiarism detectors on the internet. If I need to, I can quickly discover the best article rewriter on the web by searching for it online. Avoiding instances of plagiarism requires the same approach. Although it may seem like an extra step, submitting your work to a checker is time-efficient.

(x) To avoid being accused of plagiarism, you should provide a reference page at the end of your work. As you learn new information and become more conscious of what you want, just add new things to your list. To avoid missing anything important, wait until you have finished drafting your paper before attempting this step.

(xii) Make an appointment with your professor to review the paper's requirements and ensure you understand them. In some instances, asking questions might save us a lot of time. Inquire about the need for a reference page and/or in-text citations. As a result, you are better equipped to tackle the task.

(xiii) Even if you find something online rather than a book, it doesn't mean you may use it without attribution. Because someone else initially created it, caution should be used while using it. Refer to or credit any Internet sources you use to avoid being accused of plagiarism. Finding anything on someone else's blog does not automatically grant you permission to use it.

Conclusion:

Respecting the original ideas of prior research and preventing plagiarism necessitates accurate reference. Researchers must provide a list of their sources in their articles. Readers may verify the authenticity of research papers by citing them and verify the quality of research papers by referencing them. These days, researchers may quickly locate and save references to their work using citation management software. We may avoid plagiarism by utilizing our own ideas, explaining them in words, and carrying them out using our own techniques. There should be no quotes around the language used to describe other people's notions in indirect quotations or references. If a scientific article references a source, that source may be retrieved, allowing for improved study comprehension.

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