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Plagiarism Introduction

Introduction

When writing your book, it's important to ensure everything you write is completely original and not lifted or copied from elsewhere. **We run every chapter from every book through anti-plagiarism tools designed to detect duplicated material.** These tools search both the Internet and previously-published books to help us produce the most valuable titles possible.

We take a zero-tolerance approach to plagiarism, and so if you are discovered to be passing off other people's content as your own, your contract will be cancelled and any advances already paid to you will be recouped.

There may be times, however, that you wish to legitimately use content from elsewhere in your book, such as quotes or images. In such instances, we decide what is acceptable on a case-by-case basis.



Quotes

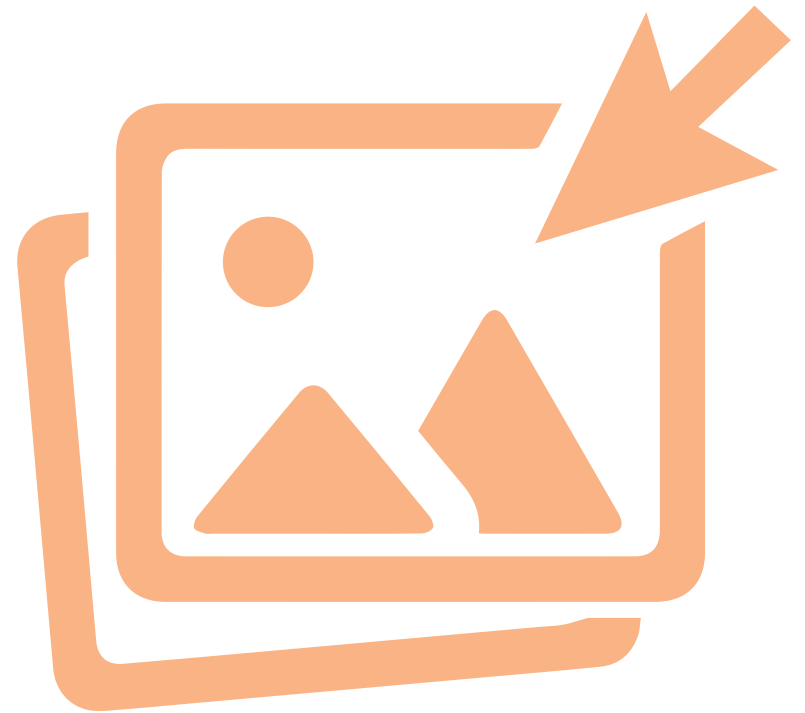
Quotes can be included in our books, but we have to be careful about where we source them from and how lengthy they are. While it is natural to want to include someone else's words with attribution, this might not be as clear-cut as you might think. After all, if they said it and we cite our sources, what's the problem?

Unfortunately, if the text you want to cite is from copyrighted material — like a book from a different publisher — then we might not be legally permitted to reproduce it, even with adequate attribution. If ever there's anything you want to quote, your best bet is to speak to your editor and ask for their advice. They'll be able to look into the specifics and see how much we're able to include in your book. Additionally, one sure-fire way to guarantee we're making the right decisions is to simply get in touch with the original author and copyright holder and request their permission to include a quote of theirs. Your editor will be able to walk you through this process.



Images

Images always help our books to stand out and look more emotive. Oftentimes, you might find an image online that you want to include in your work. Unfortunately, a lot of images available online are copyrighted, just as text is, and so they cannot simply be copy/pasted and included in your manuscript. If you do find an image that you'd like to reproduce, please consult the Image Guidelines that accompany this document in your author bundle, which will help you decide how to proceed. As always, if there's anything you're unsure about, you can consult your editor.



Self-plagiarism

It's not uncommon to want to include work you've already written in your book. Perhaps this is a blog post or tutorial you wrote, or maybe it was something you've previously had published. There are certain considerations you may have to make when reusing previously written material. Firstly, if there is anything that you've had published elsewhere, the chances are that you don't own the copyright for it, and it instead belongs to the publisher. In cases like this, there's no option available to reproduce your content with us, as we wouldn't be legally permitted to do so.

Where non-copyrighted work is concerned, however, there are still reasons why we shouldn't recycle content. We want to make sure that all the books we publish provide a value for your readers that can't be found elsewhere, especially for free. Many people who buy your book might have already read blog posts you have previously written, and some might have even enjoyed your past work so much that they decided to go out and buy your book! If they then discover that they have paid money for something they have already read for free, this could result in your work being negatively reviewed online, which will harm sales. Consequently, we can't permit self-plagiarism, even when it's legally acceptable.



In summary

- We take a zero-tolerance approach to plagiarism
- We use advanced plagiarism tools, such as iThenticate, to detect copied material
- Your contract with us will be cancelled if you are found to be plagiarising, and any advances will have to be repaid
- Copyright law applies to images, just as it does to text
- We cannot easily justify fair-use, as we are a commercial entity
- When in doubt, ask your editor!



Want to get in touch with Packt?

Want to get in touch and let us know your thoughts, feedback or anything else which springs to mind? We'd love to hear from you – drop as a line at authorsupport@packt.com

Useful Contact Details

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