



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

College of Humanities and Legal Studies

Faculty of Arts

Information Literacy Skills Unit

ILT 101

FORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

SESSION 5 : ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION USAGE

SESSION OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, the student will be able to:

- Know and understand the ethical and legal issues surrounding information usage
- Discuss what constitutes plagiarism, strategies for avoiding it and its consequences
- Discuss copyright issues as pertains in the Ghanaian jurisdiction

INTRODUCTION

This session deals with a discussion on ethical and legal issues involved in academic writing and the consequences accompanying their non compliance. The issues to be discussed are:

- ❖ Plagiarism
- ❖ Copyright

PLAGIARISM

It is the act of using someone's words and images, sentences, and so forth as if they were your own, without proper citation.

Plagiarism occurs by direct copying or by repetition without stating the source of information.

Plagiarism means claiming or implying original authorship or ownership of someone else's written work or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgement.

Plagiarism is therefore an academic fraud or literary theft and puts one's academic integrity into disrepute.

EXAMPLES OF PLAGIARISM

Copying a text from the Internet, book or an article without stating the source.

Paraphrasing a text from a book without stating the source.

Paying for an essay and presenting it as your own.

Handing in another student's work under your name.

Copying statistics, maps, tables or charts without stating your source.

STRATEGIES IN AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

- Keep accurate notes when doing research.
- Master the procedure for citing sources.
- Interpret information instead of paraphrasing
- Educate yourself on plagiarism policy.
- Learn to paraphrase without borrowing the language or structure used in an original source.
- Educational intervention
 - Attending workshops

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

Disciplinary sanctions

- Probation
- Suspension
- Dismissal
- Withdrawal of certificate
- Work is assigned a mark of zero

COPYRIGHT

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) defines copyright as a legal term that describes the rights given to creators for their literary and artistic works.

Legal rights given to an originator of a work for a fixed number of years

Legal rights created by the law of a country which grants the creator of an original work exclusive rights for its use and distribution

It is also a legal term or concept that gives the creator of original work "exclusive rights" to control the use of his/her work for a limited time.

COPYRIGHT CONT.

The exclusive rights granted under the copyright law are:

The right to make copies

The right to be credited for the work

The right to determine who may adapt the work into other derivative forms, such as translations and performances.

LEGAL EXCEPTIONS TO THE COPYRIGHT LAW

Authors and creators may transfer their monopolistic rights to publishers for marketing purposes.

Users or the public have rights in the form of fair use (academic purposes and knowledge improvement)

COPYRIGHT ACTS OF GHANA

Copyright Act 85 of 1961

PNDC Law 110

Copyright Act 690 of 2005

ITEMS COVERED UNDER THE COPYRIGHT LA

Art

Sound recordings

Literature

Musical works

Choreography

Audio-visual works

Computer programs

CRITERIA FOR COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

There is a specific criterion a work must satisfy in order to be protected under the copyright law of Ghana. They are:

The work must be original

The work must be fixed in a definite medium of expression(the work should be in a form that can be touched, seen or heard. Ideas and concepts as such cannot be copyrighted.

The creator must be a citizen of Ghana OR the work must have been published in Ghana first before anywhere else.

DURATION OF COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

Section 2 of the Copyright Law states that:

The rights of the author are protected during the life of the author and seventy (70) years after the death of the author.

Where a work is co-authored, the rights of the authors referred to are protected during the life of the last surviving author and seventy years after the death of that author.

READING LIST

- Entsua-Mensah, C. (ed.).(2015). *Information literacy skills: A course book*. Cape Coast: The Library Publications Committee.
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) (2019).Retrieved from <http://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/copyright> on 20th July, 2019.
- Magalla, A.B. (2015). The true meaning of copyright. *Researchgate*, 3(5), 1-21.