Final year project:
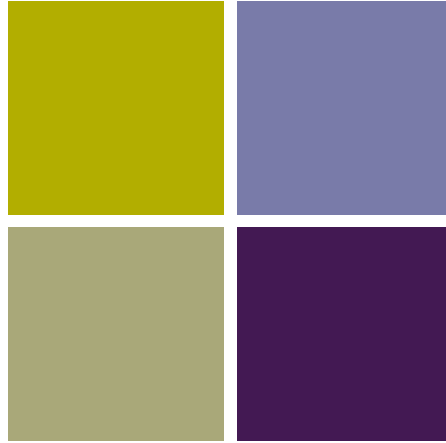
Referencing and Plagiarism

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Elaine Chew

Undergraduate Projects Coordinator

Session 4

+ ITL Final Year Project Room

- There is a dedicated room in ITL ground floor (room at back) with 18 computers for final year project students. These machines are equipped with Matlab.

- In addition, final year students have access to all ITL floors when there are no scheduled labs (check lab timetable via landing page). Even when there are labs, you may be able to access the unused machines.

- **You must always be considerate of running labs in ITL or this privilege will be revoked.**

+ Budget for Projects

- **Hardware:** £100 per student maximum.
  - £15 and under, Ho can authorise
  - £50 and under, supervisor can authorise
  - £50-£100 requires coordinator authorisation
    - supervisor approval required
    - parts must not already exist in labs
    - (prefer) parts can be re-used

- **Software:** There is very little need for specialist software. No software that is already included in the labs, unless you are a distance learning student. In case of real need, £100 per student, as for hardware projects.

+ Outline

- Referencing

- Plagiarism

- Collaboration and team working

- Plagiarism at QMUL

- Summary

+

Referencing: what and why?

- **What?**
  - Acknowledging the contribution of other people's work (ideas, theories, models, practical work, …) in your own work
  - Also called **citation**

image from orphancaremovement.org

+ Referencing: what and why?

- **What?**
  - Acknowledging the contribution of other people's work (ideas, theories, models, practical work, …) in your own work
  - Also called **citation**

- **Why?**
  - It's the right thing to do! But also…
  - … it shows that you understand the subject area well enough to identify and use relevant sources, and
  - it provides evidence for your theories and justification for your arguments

+
Referencing: what to reference

- **A direct quotation**

+

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid"
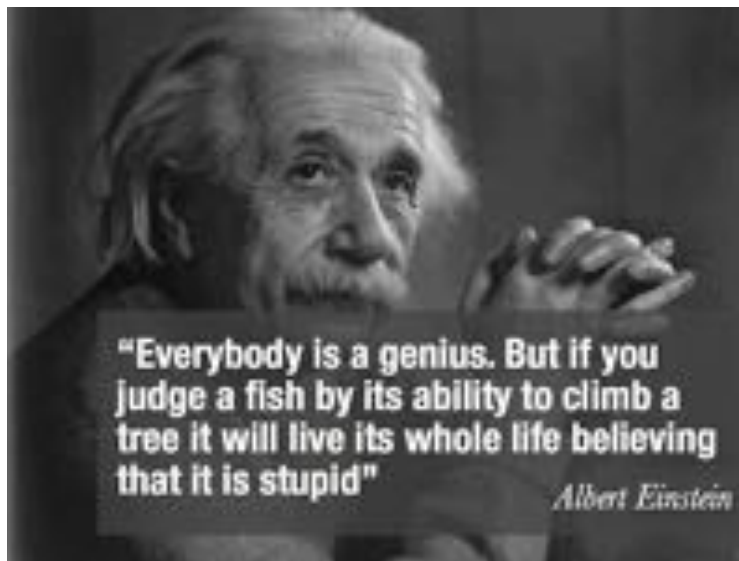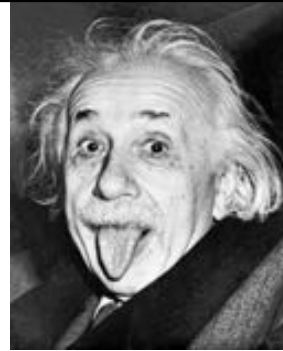*Albert Einstein*

image from motivationgrid.com

+ Check references

- Goodreads.com:
  - Attributed to Einstein, no source.

- Skepticaesoterica.com:
  - *The Rhythm of Life: Living Every Day with Passion and Purpose* (2004) by Matthew Kelly, p.80
  - Likely based on *The Animal School* by George Reavis, where a fish goes to school is required to work on its running and climbing

+ Paganini: Caprice No. 24

image from historicalportraits.com

+ Referencing: what to reference

- **A direct quotation**

- **A summary of someone's ideas or writing**

- **A paraphrase**

- **Different types of information**
  - Textual
  - Graphical (tables, figures, diagrams)
  - Numerical (formulae)
  - Programming code

+

image from lol8.blogspot.com

+ Referencing: what NOT to reference

- **Common knowledge**

image from wealthresult.com

Referencing: what NOT to reference

- **Common knowledge**

- **General facts**
  - e.g. The World Wide Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.

image from secretsofthefed.com

+ Referencing: what NOT to reference

- **Common knowledge**

- **General facts**
  - e.g. The World Wide Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.

- **Basic technologies**
  - e.g. Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) lets users make telephone calls using a computer over the Internet.

- **Terminology**
  - e.g. "Blog", short for "web log", is a personal diary or reflection, usually updated on a regular basis.

+

image from minimediaguy.org

+ Referencing: preparing to reference

- When reading other people's work
  - Take your own notes
  - Record clearly what is direct quotation and what is summarised or paraphrased (put into your own words)
  - Record the bibliographic details of the source carefully

+

image from growthmax.com

+ Referencing: how?

- Entry in reference list at the back of your work

- In-text references at **every** point in the text where you make use of another person's work

- **You need BOTH of these**

- 2 internationally recognised systems
  - Harvard (name and date)
  - Vancouver (numerical)

- We generally use the Harvard system

+

image from pdcahome.com

+ Referencing: the reference list entry

- Who
  - Wrote it
  - Edited it
  - Published it

- When
  - It was published
  - You accessed it (for WWW sources)

- What
  - The title (of the book, article, journal, thesis, conference proc.)
  - The part of the publication (chapter number, page numbers, edition number, volume number)

- Where
  - It was published (geographical place or URL)

+ Referencing: an example [1/2]

Google talks up IM service by John Leyden

Google made a late entry into the instant messaging market on Tuesday with the launch of Google Talk, an IM service that allows users to place free phone calls over a net connection to other people signed into the service. Google Talk, released as a beta, requires a Gmail username and password. It works with Jabber-compatible Instant Messaging client (such as Apple's iChat, Trillian or GAIM). Although that represents a stand towards interoperability in practical terms it doesn't mean that much since none of the big three IM clients (MSN, Yahoo! and AOL) support the feature.

Early reaction to the service has been lukewarm. Search Engine Watch says it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps with Gmail and Google Maps respectively. "Google Talk is missing any sort of search, doesn't save conversation histories, and requires a GMail account... it doesn't even have smileys," an underwhelmed reviewer at Techdirt notes.

+ Referencing: an example [2/2]

- **Reference list entry**

  Leyden, J. (2005) Google Talks Up IM Service. The Register [on-line]. Available from *http://theregister.co.uk/2005/08/24/google_talk/* [Accessed 7 November 2014].

- **In-text references**

  In his recent article, **Leyden (2005)** claimed that…

  Google's new IM service has had a less-than-enthusiastic reception **(Leyden 2005)**

  "Early reaction to the service has been lukewarm." **(Leyden 2005)**

+ Referencing: more reference list entries

- **Web**

  Department of Health (2006). Fluoridation of drinking water [online]. Available at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/60/15/04136015.pdf [accessed 13/9/2006].

- **Book**

  Naisbitt, J. (1984). *Megatrends*. New York: Warner Books.

- **Periodical (journal)**

  Raikkonen, K., Pesonen, A.K., Jarvenpaa, A.L. & Strandberg, T. E. (2004). Sweet babies: chocolate consumption during pregnancy and infant temperament at six months. Early Human Development, 76 (2), 139-145.

- **Conference proceedings**

  Beymer, D., Russell, D. and Orton, P. (2005) Wide vs. Narrow Paragraphs: An Eye Tracking Analysis. **In:** Costabile, M.F. and Paternò, F. eds. *Human-Computer Interaction – INTERACT* 2005. *Proceedings of the Tenth IFIP TC13 International Conference, LNCS. Vol. 3585*. pp. 758 - 792. Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.

+ Referencing: more in-text references

- 2 authors

  Reid and Dunlop (2003) stated that…

- 3 or more authors

  Beymer et al (2005) stated that…

- Non-textual information
  - The same format of in-text reference but above/underneath the figure/table/diagram
  - Include page reference

  Fig. 1. Audio classification framework **(Divakaran 2004, p.29)**

+ Referencing: programming code

- Programmers often make use of publicly available code
  - Libraries
  - Open source code
  - Code from other programmers

- Such code must be commented
  - Comments act as a reference
  - Should include a clear indication of the **scope** of the public code
  - Should also include (where appropriate)
    - **Author**
    - **The source of the code (e.g. URL, textbook)**
    - **Date of publication (if printed) or download (if from WWW)**

image from savannahstate.libguides.com

+

Plagiarism

- **How would you define plagiarism?**

"Plagiarism is passing off someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, as your own for your own benefit."

[Carroll, J. (2002) *A Handbook for Deterring Plagiarism in Higher Education.* Oxford: Oxford Centre for Staff and Learning Development. P.9]

+ Referencing: exercise [1/8]

- For each of the following passages, say which of them is "correct" in terms of referencing and which not (i.e. which constitute plagiarism) - and why.

- To do this, match each passage with one of the possible responses on the handout.

+ **Google talks up IM service** by John Leyden

Google made a late entry into the instant messaging market on Tuesday with the launch of Google Talk, an IM service that allows users to place free phone calls over a net connection to other people signed into the service. Google Talk, released as a beta, requires a Gmail username and password. It works with Jabber-compatible Instant Messaging client (such as Apple's iChat, Trillian or GAIM). Although that represents a stand towards interoperability in practical terms it doesn't mean that much since none of the big three IM clients (MSN, Yahoo! and AOL) support the feature.

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+ Referencing: exercise [2/8]

A. Early reaction to Google Talk has been lukewarm. Search Engine Watch says it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps with Gmail and Google Maps respectively.

4. This version used the exact words from the text without quotation marks and there is no citation. This is a very obvious form of plagiarism.

+ Referencing: exercise [3/8]

B. Early reaction to Google Talk has been lukewarm. Search Engine Watch says it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps with Gmail and Google Maps respectively (Leyden, 2005).

5. In this version, the student has added a citation but this is not enough as he/she still uses the exact words of the text. Both the quotation marks and citation are necessary.

+ Referencing: exercise [4/8]

C. Search Engine Watch's reaction to the service has been lukewarm. It says it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps (Leyden, 2005).

1. Although there is a citation and some of the wording has been changed, this version plagiarises the original. There are whole phrases that are written in the original form, not in the student's own words.

+ Referencing: exercise [5/8]

D. 'Search Engine Watch's reaction to the service has been lukewarm. It says it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps' (Leyden, 2005).

7. This one is not plagiarism but is incorrect. Quotation marks must not be used unless all the words within the quotation marks are exactly the same as the original. In this version, some of the wording is different and therefore should not be enclosed in quotes.

+ Referencing: exercise [6/8]

E. 'Early reaction to the service has been lukewarm. Search Engine Watch says it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps with Gmail and Google Maps respectively' (Leyden, 2005).

2. This version is formally correct. The quotation marks are used to show that the original material was quoted exactly, and the citation indicates the source of the original material. Notice that the word "wow" is in double quotation marks to show that it was quoted in the original. Although this version is formally correct, however, the words and phrases in this quotation are not so striking that the whole passage is worth quoting exactly.

+ Referencing: exercise [7/8]

F. Reviews of Google Talk have so far been unenthusiastic. According to Search Engine Watch, it does not have the attraction of Gmail and Google Maps (Leyden, 2005).

6. This version is correct as the student has used his/ her own words to paraphrase and has also cited the source.

+ Referencing: exercise [8/8]

G. Reviews of Google Talk have so far been unenthusiastic. According to Search Engine Watch, 'it lacks the "wow" factor that came when Google entered other mature markets such as webmail and maps with Gmail and Google Maps respectively' (Leyden, 2005).

3. This version is correct. Here the student combined her own paraphrasing with a quotation of the most striking part of the original text. She made certain her words and those taken directly from the source fit together; she quoted accurately and cited her source.

+ Possible Errors [1/2]

1. Although there is a citation and some of the wording has been changed, this version plagiarises the original. There are whole phrases that are written in the original form, not in the student's own words.

2. This version is formally correct. The quotation marks are used to show that the original material was quoted exactly, and the citation indicates the source of the original material. Notice that the word "wow" is in double quotation marks to show that it was quoted in the original. Although this version is formally correct, however, the words and phrases in this quotation are not so striking that the whole passage is worth quoting exactly.

3. This version is correct. Here the student combined her own paraphrasing with a quotation of the most striking part of the original text. She made certain her words and those taken directly from the source fit together; she quoted accurately and cited her source.

+
Possible Errors [2/2]

4. This version used the exact words from the text without quotation marks and there is no citation. This is a very obvious form of plagiarism.

5. In this version, the student has added a citation but this is not enough as he/she still uses the exact words of the text. Both the quotation marks and citation are necessary here.

6. This version is correct as the student has used his/her own words to paraphrase and has also cited the source.

7. This one is not plagiarism but is incorrect. Quotation marks must not be used unless all the words within the quotation marks are exactly the same as the original. In this version, some of the wording is different and therefore should not be enclosed in quotation marks.

+

image from brunel.ac.uk

image from islandbasementsystems.com

+ Plagiarism is damaging…

… to ALL students, including those who don't plagiarise!

- It degrades academic integrity and standards
  - ALL degrees will be worth less if employers believe that many students are plagiarising

- It has a negative impact on your career
  - If you don't do the work yourself, you won't develop the reflective, analytical and critical skills that employers value, which means…
  - … you probably won't get that great job that you really want…
  - … and even if you do, you won't be able to do it properly!

image from brunel.ac.uk

+ Plagiarism at QMUL: background

- College is getting better at detecting plagiarism:
  - Growing experience in the area
  - The "culture of silence" is changing
  - Use of electronic plagiarism detection services, e.g.
    - JPlag for programming code (https://www.ipd.uni-karlsruhe.de/jplag/)
    - TurnItIn (www.submit.ac.uk) for reports, etc

- College regards plagiarism as the equivalent of THEFT
  - Stealing words, thoughts and ideas
  - A serious offence, with serious penalties

image from staplefoodgroup.co.uk

+ Plagiarism at QMUL: regulations & penalties

- Regulations on assessment offences (including plagiarism) form part of the College's general Academic Regulations

- Range of penalties
  - From a formal reprimand…
  - … to a recommendation to the Principal that the student be excluded from College

- Common penalties
  - For a first offence: **zero mark in the module**, often with the maximum mark on any resit / retake restricted to a bare pass
  - For a second offence: as above, plus zero marks for the entire diet of assessment for the year
  - **An "X" on your College transcript, indicating an assessment offence**

+

image from abettermagazine.com

+ Three golden rules

1. **Make sure you know how to reference properly** and what is acceptable collaboration BEFORE you make a mistake.

2. If you are not sure about any aspect then **ASK** someone!

3. **If you are tempted to plagiarise because of problems you are having then DON'T DO IT!** Speak to someone about the problems instead. We can help… but only if we know there is a problem.

+ Collaboration and team working

- Collaboration and team working are highly valued skills!

- Team working is encouraged by most departments
  - Teaches skills that are highly important in the workplace
  - Assignments sometimes include guidance about division of work into roles or tasks
  - Usually includes method of reporting the contribution of individual team members: this often determines marks too!

- Collaboration is often informal
  - Peer support, study groups, etc are very valuable and encouraged by departments
  - BUT where is the line between acceptable collaboration and plagiarism?

+ Task 1: collaboration exercise [1]

■ **Scenario:**

You are writing a short report on the advantages and limitations of the current technology in the field of instant messaging. For this, you have to read several articles, e.g. from the Web and from books.

■ So which of the following behaviours are:
  ■ **Acceptable?**
  ■ **Dangerous** (because they might lead to unconscious plagiarism)?
  ■ **Unacceptable** (because they are plagiarism)?

+ Task 1: collaboration exercise [2]

• Give your classmate the URL for a really useful website you have found

• Read over a Web article together and discuss it

• Discuss ways of structuring the report

• Show your classmate the notes you have made as the basis of your report

• Give your classmate a draft version of your report so he can see how you have presented it

• Have a quick glance over your classmate's report, which is lying on the printer

Decisions are not always straightforward!

+ Collaboration: dos and don'ts

DO

Discuss high level ideas, concepts, strategies, …

Ask someone if you're not sure whether what you're doing is acceptable or not

Keep a log of any detailed discussions with other people, and hand this in with your work

DON'T

Share your writing with anyone else, even if they are a friend

Leave your work lying around, where others can look at it without your knowledge

---

+ Some information sources

- **Jez Clark's Library webpages**
  http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/subject/eecs
  - Look here for information on referencing and plagiarism:
  http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/subject/eecs/study

- **English Language and Study Skills** webpages
  http://www.languageandlearning.qmul.ac.uk/current/index.html

- **Plagiarism Advisory Service** http://www.plagiarismadvice.org/

- **College Academic Regulations** on assessment offences
  http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy_zone/index.html

- Any member of academic staff

+

Questions?

+ Acknowledgements

- These slides are based on Tassos Tombros' slides from last year.