

Plagiarism

What's wrong with Plagiarism? It:

- breaks the University's code of values
- if it involves copying, prevents you from developing your skills and knowledge
- can lead to expulsion in serious cases
- can lead, if undetected, to unfairness in assessment
- can lead to inappropriate feedback to you and to everyone else
- can involve illegal behaviour where it infringes copyright.

Plagiarism by directly copying the work of others or by deliberately failing to acknowledge the work of others is a disciplinary offence. It also hurts others and hurts you.

If you are not engaging in assessment activities as expected then you are not giving yourself the chance to make ideas your own.

As a result, you will not get the right kind of feedback.

- If plagiarism is widespread it hurts the University community and hence the value of your qualification.
- If plagiarism becomes widespread, it could lead to a return to greater use of the formal unseen examination.
- If you allow someone else to copy your work, you are also failing to uphold the values to which the University subscribes.
- If you give in to peer pressure on this, you are failing to be a good citizen of the University.
- If you take work from the Internet without selecting, acknowledging and making it your own, you are failing to be a good citizen.

Deliberate plagiarism is cheating. By the end of this document, you should know what plagiarism is. If, given this knowledge, you do plagiarise, then sanctions can be used against you.

Unintentional plagiarism can be avoided by acknowledging, in a proper academic way, the contribution that others have made to the development of your ideas and to the quality of your answers.

Avoid plagiarism by:

- observing School rules governing individual and joint work
- observing School guidance governing practical work
- observing the referencing conventions within your discipline
- using your own words as far as possible when writing an assessment
- providing sources for any direct quotations
- making use of careful own-word summarisation, where appropriate, making sure that the source is given in the text and bibliography
- by keeping your work up to date or by negotiating new deadlines if you get behind
- by checking through your work to see whether you have observed the rules
- by asking for guidance

- by taking careful notes with full references and page numbers as you gather information for a topic, distinguishing between direct quotes and own word summaries.

Bibliographies/List of References

A bibliography is a list of relevant sources in the academic literature. A list of references shows only those sources that are referred to in your text.

The difference between the two is not always clear, and many supervisors at the University of Birmingham expect to find a reference in the text to every item in a bibliography. Check this with your supervisor.

There are two main methods of organising bibliographies in science and engineering: find out which is the one most often used in your subject area (often this will be the style of the leading journal in the subject):

a) **Alphabetically**, by the surname of the author. For the same author, publications written by the author alone are usually shown before publications by the same author as a member of a team.

b) **Numerically**: each entry in the bibliography being numbered, the numbering corresponding to numbered references in the text. The order of items (and of numbering) in the bibliography corresponds to the order of the first mention of the source in the text.

Text References

The method of referring from the text to the relevant item in the bibliography depends on the way the bibliography is organised:

a) Where the bibliography is arranged **alphabetically**, the reference will be given in brackets, and will consist of the name(s) of the author(s), followed by the year of publication. It is usually placed at the end of the sentence to which it refers.

1. Where there are more than two authors, the expression *et al.* may be used after the name of the principal author.
2. Where the author is named in the text, the year of publication alone after his/her name is sufficient.
3. Where there is more than one publication by a particular author in one year, a letter is used after the date to show which publication is meant.

Text References (Alphabetically)

Examples

1. The increased incidence of asthma may be due to the presence in the air of particles from diesel exhausts (Unwin, 1995).
2. Unwin (1995) has suggested that the increased incidence of asthma may be due to the presence in the air of particles from diesel exhausts.

3. These symptoms may be relieved by a daily dose of 50mg of aspirin (Flint *et al.* 1999).

4. There is evidence that the sea level was considerably lower in the Cretaceous period (Hudson, 1994b)

b) Where the bibliography is arranged **numerically**, the reference is made by inserting the number in the text. This gives more freedom to place the reference within the sentence.

Examples (Numerically)

1. This approach is similar to that used by Barksdale [10] and Romain [11]. The suitability of such a method for inclusion in a finite element program has been proposed by Croney and Thompson [12].

(Technical Report)

2. This failure is a consequence of two kinds of repression exerted by $\alpha 1$ - $\alpha 2$. First, $\alpha 1$ - $\alpha 2$ represses synthesis of STE 12 (ref. 100) and STES (J. Thorner, personal communication), both of which are necessary for maximal transcription of the α -specific genes 57, 58. Second, at least some of the upstream regions of α -specific genes contain sites for $\alpha 1$ - $\alpha 2$ (ref. 101).

(Article in *Nature*)

Text References to Secondary Sources (Alphabetically)

Examples

The mother was instructed to remain in two adjoining rooms with the child, to ignore the observer, and to avoid having visitors, telephone calls, or the television on during the observation. The observer, equipped with a cassette tape-recorder, earphone and coding sheets, stationed himself so that he could observe the mother-child interaction in either of the two adjoining rooms. (Forehand and Peed 1979, cited in P. J. Harris 1986: 173-4)

Building up the sides of the nest is resumed but is periodically interrupted so that more lichen can be added to the outside. Eventually, the bird builds the walls up and over itself to form a dome, but leaves a neat entrance hole at the side. Finally, the nest is lined with a large number of feathers (Tinbergen, 1953, cited in Thorpe, 1956). But the relative decline of industry since 1870 in terms of its dynamism compared with international rivals, has prompted an opposite interpretation (see, for example, Hobsbawm, 1968 and Nairn, 1981, Ch. 1). On this view industry found itself subordinated to older sections of the upper class both economically and culturally. As Nairn put it, the late nineteenth century “witnessed first the containment, then the defeat, of industrialism by an older, more powerful and more political bourgeoisie” (cited in Coates, 1984, p. 117).

Psychologists themselves present method as their discipline's defining feature: "If psychology is a science of mental life - of the mind, of conscious experience - then it must develop and defend a special methodology" (Skinner quoted in Alladin 1988: 111-12).

The scientist taking a more generalist view should concentrate upon the structure and magnitude at all levels of magnitude, fit detail into the general framework and, by endeavouring to identify relationships, believe that some knowledge of connected complexity is preferable to an even more detailed specialized knowledge. One expression of this is by Medawar (quoted in Coffey, 1981, p. 30) that "in all sciences we are progressively relieved of the burden of singular instances, the tyranny of the particular. We need no longer record the fall of every apple."

Egalitarian feminist psychologists sometimes argue against the assimilation of feminists into existing psychological professions, and for their separate organization. Walsh emphasizes how this has advanced women's position in US psychology, and suggests that it still provides a needed "anchor of outrageousness" (Albin quoted in Walsh 1985: 24).

Text References to Secondary Sources (Numerically)

"Positive control" mutants in *crp* that affect transcription activation without altering the ability of the regulatory protein to recognize its target site have been isolated by different groups [5-8, and R. Ebright, quoted in 8].

(Article in *Nucleic Acids Research*)

Bibliographical Entries

BOOKS

a) The name of the author comes first, followed by his/her initials. Then other authors preceded by initials. It is safest **not to** use *et al.* in a bibliographical entry.

b) The name is followed by the year of publication in brackets or between commas or full-stops. If more than one reference for an author is given for a particular year, the year reference is lettered, e.g. 1996a, 1996b etc. Where the items in the bibliography are numbered, the year may, alternatively, be given at the end of the bibliographical entry.

c) The title of the book is given in full, and is usually given in italics (or underlined depending on the referencing system being used).

d) The title is followed (usually) by the place of publication and (always) by the publisher. This information is sometimes enclosed in brackets.

Example

Winkler, A. and J .R. McCuen (1979) *Writing the Research Paper*, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Jovanivich

e) It is not always necessary to quote page numbers for a book, but if you wish to refer only to a certain section, the listing should include 'pp. 23-25' or whatever pages are appropriate.

f) When the book does not have an author but is published by an institution, then it begins with the name of the institution. It will probably also include the edition number.

Example

American Institute of Physics (1982), *Handbook*, 3rd ed., New York: McGraw Hill.

g) Where the book is a collection of papers, we list:

1. the author of the paper
2. the date
3. the title of the paper (NOT in italics).
4. the name(s) of the editor(s) of the collection
5. the title of the collection (in italics)
6. the publisher

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

Here we list

1. the author(s) of the article
2. the date
3. the title of the paper
4. the name of the journal
5. the volume and edition number
6. page number(s)

Examples: here are the references to one article written in 5 different styles. What are the differences between each style?

Style: American Psychological Association

George, D. G., & Winfield, I. J. (2000). Factors influencing the spatial distribution of zooplankton and fish in Loch Ness, UK. *Freshwater Biology*, 43, 557-570.

Style: Journal of Hydraulic Engineering

George, D. G., and Winfield, I. J. (2000). "Factors influencing the spatial distribution of zooplankton and fish in Loch Ness, UK." *Freshwater Biology*, 43, 557-570.

Style: Journal of Experimental Biology

George, D. G. and Winfield, I. J. (2000). Factors influencing the spatial distribution of zooplankton and fish in Loch Ness, UK. *Freshwater Biology* 43, 557-570.

Style: Marine Biology

George DG, Winfield IJ (2000) Factors influencing the spatial distribution of zooplankton and fish in Loch Ness, UK. *Freshwater Biology* 43: 557-570

Style: Modern Language Association

George, D. G., and I. J. Winfield. " Factors Influencing the Spatial Distribution of Zooplankton and Fish in Loch Ness, UK." Freshwater Biology 43 (2000): 557-70.

THESES

Example

Yang, H-Z. (1992) 'The Planning and Implementation of a One-way Traffic Scheme for Central Beijing', Unpublished MSc thesis: University of Birmingham.

Internet sources

1. the author(s) of the source (if known)
2. the date written (if known), or the date you downloaded it
3. the title of the source
4. the url (address)

If you cannot find these then the source is unlikely to be of sufficient quality or validity or authority to be included in your thesis.