

Case Study Report

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A pair of computer scientists from University of Kansas plagiarised several works, taking for their own statements up to and including an entire opening statement. Visvanathan and Lushington were discovered to have plagiarised statements and research in three of their papers. Sadly, their plagiarism was not detected by automated detection software at time of submission, but much later on by the scientists whom they had plagiarised. These scientists had noticed that another work of theirs had been officially cited, and they went out to read the paper that cited their work. When they discovered the plagiarism, they complained to the journal.

While Visvanathan was technically the first author and the submitter of the plagiarised pieces, Lushington - Visvanathan's supervisor - was held similarly responsible. This is because a student had brought the plagiarism to his attention before it was officially reported, and Lushington chose not to report the misconduct.

While it is unclear why either committed the misconduct, Visvanathan claimed to be taking the fall for an unnamed international student. Lushington chose not to comment on the misconduct, but it is likely he did not report it due to his standing of being a listed author on each of the three papers.

In the instance of the third paper, Visvanathan and Lushington were on their way to a conference in Sweden when their misconduct was discovered. The poster they were about to present on said paper was copied word-for-word from someone else's paper.

In this case, the research which was plagiarised was already published in research journals. These researcher who had their work plagiarised lost citations. IEEE formally retracted the papers from Visvanathan and Lushington, and researchers who referred to the pieces written by Visvanathan and Lushington in their published or unpublished papers had to remove references to the retracted papers.