

# Avoiding Plagiarism in Research through Free Online Plagiarism Tools

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**Abstract**—Plagiarism is a serious problem identified amongst research community. Plagiarism has been around for centuries, but with the use of Internet and easy access to material in electronic format has made it easier to plagiarize materials of others. On the other hand plagiarism detection is now as easy as plagiarizing a document. There are a number of anti-plagiarism software available either freely or commercially, which can be used for plagiarism detection. But the commercial softwares are too expensive. So it is not affordable for an individual to purchase those softwares. This paper highlights the plagiarism detection softwares which are freely available online, that can be downloaded free of cost. It is suggested that faculty members and research scholars can use these anti plagiarism softwares in checking their thesis or research papers before submitting to universities or conferences.

Identifying the plagiarized content has become one of the major concerns of journals publishers, research center and conferences organisers. The software that are mentioned and referred to in this paper are all valuable resources to discover plagiarized materials. By employing these softwares one can ascertain that none of the articles, documents or research work in any form and capacity, is not plagiarized and thereby the copyright of the publisher and the authors are not violated. Plagiarism can destroy any one's career and this paper creates awareness of plagiarism softwares among research scholars, faculty members and helps them to have successful academic careers in future by avoiding plagiarism.

**Keywords**— *Plagiarism, anti-plagiarism software, online plagiarism detection tools, plagiarism checker, copyright, academic dishonesty, Plagiarism Tracker.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism is a very serious and common problem in Research. Stealing of someone else work is not only common among research scholars but also very common among faculty members. There have been many plagiarism cases detected in India and abroad. For example, The first case: A research scholars awarded Ph.D. in the year 1976 for his thesis in English entitled, "A Critical Study of the Suta Samhita". As per his allegation, almost 80% of his thesis has been plagiarized by "another scholar" [1] in Hindi verbatim including footnotes, charts and tables. This scholar submitted his thesis entitled, "Suta Samhita ka Alocanatmak Adhyayan" to another University and got Ph.D. in the year 1981. In the second case: A "vice-chancellor" [2] resigned in 2003 after he

and a student were found guilty of plagiarism of a paper (which formed part of the student's thesis). In the third case: A "professor" [3] is accused of plagiarizing more than 70 research papers published between 2004 and 2007. University Executive Council has banned him from undertaking examination work and research guidance. He has been debarred from securing further promotions and appointments to administrative positions. In the fourth case: A "Chancellor and the Education Minister" [4] for the country, has resigned after her Ph.D. was revoked following an investigation into her doctoral thesis that found evidence of plagiarism. Above motioned cases not only describe the seriousness of the problem but also show that plagiarism can destroy any one's career.

In the age of advanced Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) plagiarism has become more actual and turned into a serious problem. Many tools have been developed for detecting similarities in files [5]. These tools automate the detection process and allow the academic to carry out the investigation process manually [6].

Plagiarism detection software benefits academicians, research scholars and anyone else interested in safeguard their writing. By using plagiarism detection software one can ensure that the text is unique. Through plagiarism detection tools research community can benefit by having their research paper/theses and dissertation checked for any plagiarism done unintentionally.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Asim, Ali, Hussam and Vaclav [7] find that till now there is no software that can 100% detect or prove that the document has been plagiarize, because each software and tools has advantages and limitation. Arbib & Eti Yaari [8] find that students perceive plagiarism offences from online sources as significantly less dishonest than similar offences using printed sources. Smith, Ghazali, & Minhad [9] suggested that factors contributing to plagiarism include lack of awareness, lack of understanding, lack of competence, and personal attitudes. No evidence was found to support the suggestion that either pressure or the availability of internet facilities had increased the incidence of plagiarism. Kwong, Ng, Mark & Wong [10] find that faculty members and students do not share a consensus on the definition of the seriousness

of plagiarism and collusion. Students, in general, commit misconduct due to academic work, pressure for grades, and teachers' unclear instructions of academic integrity. Faculty members rarely report cases of misconduct to the university and handle the cases according to their own standard. Zimerman [11] find that there is a definite problem involved in the interaction of international student in the higher education setting and plagiarism. Kaner & Fiedler [12] say that an appearance of successful plagiarism prevention may in fact reflect better training of students to avoid plagiarism detection. Gorman [13] says "Plagiarism has been common among generations of students in secondary and tertiary education and the situation has not improved. Many tertiary institutions almost never make a forceful response to cases of plagiarism for fear of litigation. "Litigation-creep" has spread, with universities regularly adopting avoidance measures rather than tackling the issue head-on". According to Alzahrani, Salim and Abraham [14] "Among the ways of plagiarism prevention is the use of plagiarism detectors; Turnitin is a very popular one. Academic institutions, publishers, and conference management systems have started to use detectors. Examples include, but not limited to, WCopyFind that is used by the University of Virginia, CrossCheck that is invested by Elsevier, Springer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology press, and other renowned publishers, Docoloc that is integrated with EDAS conference management system. Nowadays, many anti plagiarism tools have been built and can be found on the Internet".

### III. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this paper are as follows:

- To identify the plagiarism detection tools which are freely available online; and
- To suggest how to avoid plagiarism in research.

### IV. SCOPE & LIMITATION

There are many commercial plagiarism software available viz. Copy Catch Gold, EVE2:Essay Verification Engine, J Plag, Moss, Turnitin, EduTie.com, PlagiServe, Wordcheck etc. but this paper covers anti- plagiarism tools which are freely available online .

### V. PLAGIARISM

The word 'plagiarism' comes from the Latin word 'plagiare' which means "to kidnap". Plagiarism is a type of cheating where students present the work of others as their own for the purpose of academic credit. [15]. Plagiarism is defined in many different ways,

"Unacknowledged copying of documents or programs" [16]

"The presentation of another person's ideas or materials as if it were ones own" [17]

" The submission of the part or all of another person's work as if it were ones own, without the knowledge of the author ,and with intention to deceive"[18]

As a general working definition, Office of Research Integrity (ORI) [19] considers plagiarism to include both the

theft or misappropriation of intellectual property and the substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work.

### VI. CIRCUMSTANCES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occur under two circumstances one is intentional another is unintentional. "plagiarism, a form of intellectual dishonesty, involves unintentionally using someone else's work without properly acknowledging where the idea(s) came from (the most common form of plagiarism) or intentionally copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own (the most serious form of plagiarism)"[20].

#### A. *Intentional plagiarism*

Intentional plagiarism occur if person intentionally copying other material and not citing the source deliberately. It includes, copying other's work, copy and pasting form online source, purchasing papers from paper mills etc.

#### B. *Unintentional plagiarism*

Unintentional plagiarism occurs when even if a person does not have any intention to plagiarized but he/she has not given the references in proper manner then they indulged in plagiarism. "Unintentional plagiarism includes careless paraphrasing, paraphrasing a source without citing, forget footnote etc." [21].

### VII. PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOLS/SOFTWARE

"Plagiarism detection is the process of featuring the document, analyzing its content, unveiling portions that might be plagiarized, and bringing similar source documents, if they are available." [22] "Using plagiarism detection tools would benefit the scholarly publication process by helping authors examine their own work and by allowing reviewers and editors to detect and deter plagiarism prior to publication." [23]

Plagiarism tools, while invaluable for discovering potential problems, can also expose cases where judgments depend on complex circumstances.[24].

Plagiarism detection tools/Anti -plagiarism software can be divided into two groups.

#### A. *Proprietary/Commercial anti-plagiarism tools/software*

#### B. *Free online plagiarism tools/software*

##### A. *Proprietary or Commercial anti-plagiarism software/tools*

"The term proprietary is derived from the Latin word proprietas meaning property. Proprietary software is software that is owned by an individual or a company (usually the one that developed it)"[25]. There is a lot of proprietary/commercial anti-plagiarism software viz. Turnitin, CopyCatch Gold, EVE2:Essay Verification Engine, J Plag, Moss ,EduTie.com, PlagiServe, Wordcheck etc. For using the commercial software user has to purchase the software.

##### B. *Free online software/tools*

"Free software, which is generally the same as open source software, is available at no cost to everyone, and it can be

used by anyone for any purpose and with only very minimal restrictions” [26].

#### VIII. FREE ONLINE PLAGIARISM TOOLS

Free plagiarism detection tools along with the website address are mentioned in below tables. Softwares which are freely available online are mentioned in table I and user can use it by simply open the link. Softwares which are freely downloadable online are mentioned in table II and user can download the software by using the web address and use it. Softwares which can be used free of cost with sign up requirement are mentioned in table III.

#### IX. BENEFITS OF USING ANTI-PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOLS

- With the help of plagiarism detection tools researcher can find out if any other person copied his/her research writing.
- It helps to improve writing skills as some plagiarism tools check grammar also.
- It filters the duplicate content.
- These tools are useful to avoid intellectual property issues.
- It promotes effective and efficient research.
- These softwares are useful for research scholars, website creator, and publisher.
- Plagiarism tools allow to access multiple databases.
- It allows to detect any incidents of plagiarism and helps to take appropriate action.
- It helps the researcher to properly cite references
- It creates awareness of plagiarism among research scholars, faculty members and help them to have successful academic careers in future by avoiding plagiarism.

#### X. LIMITATIONS OF DETECTION TOOLS

“The drawbacks of detection tools are:

- Inability to distinguish correctly cited text from plagiarized text.
- Books are typically not searched by these services.
- Detect plagiarized words, not plagiarized thoughts or ideas.
- Inability to process textual images for similarity checks”[46].

#### XI. SUGGESTIONS TO AVOID UNINTENTIONAL PLAGIARISM

If a researcher is intentionally plagiarizing in his/her paper, thesis, or dissertation, he/she should stop it. Otherwise it may spoil his/her carrier. But sometimes even if a researcher has not intentionally plagiarized but has not given references in

proper manner, then he/she has indulged in plagiarism. There are some simple tips for avoiding plagiarism of the unintentional variety.

- Researcher should give citation for all material whatever he/she is using for his/her research work.
- Researcher should know how anti plagiarism tools work.
- If anyone takes away text from his/her own article for writing another article is known as self plagiarism, therefore researcher should give citation for that work also.
- People some times change the word in the text and claim it as their own yet, then also falls under plagiarism, therefore researcher should give reference for that idea also which he/she is using for his/her research work even if he/she change the words.
- If the researcher use someone else’s words as it is he/she should always use quotation marks
- While citing the sources academic style sheet ( like APA, MLA, Chicago) should be followed
- After finishing all works a researcher should check through online plagiarism software before submitting his/her research work in anywhere

#### XII. CONCLUSION

In this technological era, plagiarism detection is essential for protecting the written work. It is concluded that all research scholars and authors of journal articles should be aware of plagiarism and anti-plagiarism softwares. Now -a - days “University Grants Commission” (UGC) insists research scholars to send one soft copy to the thesis to “Information and Library Network” (INFLIBNET) while submitting to Universities. So faculty members and research scholars have to use one of these anti plagiarism softwares in checking their thesis or research paper before submitting to universities. This will definitely improve the quality of the thesis work of the research scholars and authors of journal article.

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TABLE I. PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOLS FREELY AVAILABLE ONLINE

Tools/ Software name with URL	Method of checking	Pros and Cons
Article checker [27]  <a href="http://www.articlechecker.com">http://www.articlechecker.com</a>	It has three boxes, the first and third box enables to check a webpage while the middle allows to paste text/written words. The content which user want to check for plagiarism has to be pasted in the text box and press the "compare" button. It will compare with search engine and give the report.	<b>Pros</b> Webpage and text can be checked with google and yahoo option. <b>Cons</b> There is no facility to upload a file. It can check text document only.
Crossrefme [28]  <a href="http://www.crossrefme.com">http://www.crossrefme.com</a>	User has to paste the text into the given box and press the "submit" button. It will compare with the document available on internet and give the report.	<b>Pros</b> This service could be used to determine whether a given text has been correctly referenced. <b>Cons</b> There is no facility to upload a file. It can check text document only.

<p>Duplichecker [29]</p> <p><a href="http://www.duplichecker.com">http://www.duplichecker.com</a></p>	<p>For checking plagiarism user has to paste or upload the content file and click “search” button. It will compare the content with online sources and give the report.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> It is very useful because all the source websites from where the content were copied are displayed and researcher can use this service for giving correct references.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> It can check maximum 1500 words in one search at a time. It can check .docx and .txt file only.</p>
<p>eTBLAST [30]</p> <p><a href="http://etest.vbi.vt.edu/etblast3">http://etest.vbi.vt.edu/etblast3</a></p>	<p>User has to paste the text or upload the file in the given box and click on the “Search for similar Text” button. It will compare the text with different databases and give the report.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> It is a test-similarity based search engine and the text will be compared with the databases viz. MEDLINE, CRISP, NASA, PMC etc.</p> <p>User can find out same key words with the help of this.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> User can upload the text file only.</p>
<p>ITS [31]</p> <p><a href="http://www.itseducation.asia/plagiarism-checker.htm">http://www.itseducation.asia/plagiarism-checker.htm</a></p>	<p>The content which user want to check for plagiarism has to be pasted in the text box within quotation mark (“ ”) and press the search button. The report will appear within few minutes.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> This service is provided by ITS Tutorial School and very useful for students and teachers.</p> <p>Easy to use but it is mandatory to put quotation marks at the beginning and end of the text.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> It can accept 32 words in one search at a time. There is no facility to upload a file.</p>
<p>PaperRater.com[32]</p> <p><a href="http://www.paperrater.com">http://www.paperrater.com</a></p>	<p>This software is officially used in schools and Universities in about 46 countries across the world and this greatly helps students to develop their writing style.</p> <p>For checking plagiarism, user has to paste the text and references in the given box and click the “get report” button.</p> <p>It will compare the text with over 10 billion documents and show the report.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> This adopt artificial Intelligence which enable any user to enhance their writing skills. It not only does a proofreading but also checks and discovers the plagiarized content, covering a vast range of a large collection of indexes belonging to same of the prominent search engines.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> There is no facility to upload a file. It can check text document only.</p>
<p>Plagiarism Checker [33]</p> <p><a href="http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/">http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/</a></p>	<p>User has to paste the content in the given box, and click the big green button “Check for plagiarism!”. It will compare the content with the sources available on internet and give the report.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> This tool can identify the original source of plagiarized content that was copied from the internet.</p> <p>It can check content line by line.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> It can accept maximum 1500 words in one search at a time.</p>
<p>Plagiarism detect [34]</p> <p><a href="http://plagiarism-detect.com/">http://plagiarism-detect.com/</a></p>	<p>When open the URL it will show four option viz. check essay, check article, check website and other text. User has to choose option and upload any file or just copy paste text in given box and click “detect” button. It compares the content with sources available in google and yahoo search engine and gives report. For checking website, user has to paste website address in the given box.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> “It is a online service to detect plagiarism in a document, text or website” .[34]</p> <p>User can upload .doc, .docx, .odt and .txt files.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> There is no facility to check plagiarism in pdf format.</p>
<p>PlagiarismChecker.com [35]</p> <p><a href="http://www.plagiarismchecker.com/">http://www.plagiarismchecker.com/</a></p>	<p>When open the URL there will be two option. One is “for teacher” another is “for author”. User has to select the option and type one or more phrases from different parts of the document into the given search box and hit the Enter key after each phrase then click on “search” button. It will compare the content with online sources.</p> <p>Now new facility added for web publishers, it can find out if someone has plagiarized webpage.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> User can check if others have plagiarized their work online and if he creates Google Alert, he will get e-mail from Google when new instances of his phrases are published on the Internet.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> There is no facility to upload a file. It can check text document only.</p>
<p>PlagiarismSoftware [36]</p> <p><a href="http://www.plagiarismsoftware.net">http://www.plagiarismsoftware.net</a></p>	<p>User has to copy &amp; past or upload a file in the given box and then click the “search” button. It will compare the content with online sources and give report.</p>	<p><b>Pros</b> User can upload the file. It can check result line by line.</p> <p><b>Cons</b> It can check text document only. There is no facility to check .pdf file.</p>

See Sources [37]  <a href="http://www.plagscan.com/seesources/plagate.php">http://www.plagscan.com/seesources/plagate.php</a>	User has to click the “check test” button and upload a file in .doc/.docx or .html format copy paste text in the given box and click “Start Analysis” button. It will compare the content with Internet sources and show the results very soon.	<b>Pros</b> User can upload the file in .doc , .docx. and .html format. <b>Cons</b> In one time it can search 300KB or 1000 words only. <b>Note</b> : Professional version of see sources is also available by the name “Plag Scan”. Free trail available on <a href="http://www.Plagscan.com">www.Plagscan.com</a>
The Plagiarism Checker [38]  <a href="http://www.dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker/">http://www.dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker/</a>	User has to paste the document or upload Word file into the given box and click the “check” button. It will compare the content with internet sources and find similar text in the document.	<b>Pros</b> It is very quick and easy to use. It can check result line by line. <b>Cons</b> It provides limited free search . Only MS file can be uploaded.

TABLE II.

PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOLS/ SOFTWARE FREELY DOWNLOADABLE ONLINE

Tools/ Software name with URL	Method of checking	Pros and Cons
Anti-Plagiarism [39]  <a href="http://sourceforge.net/projects/antiplagiarism">http://sourceforge.net/projects/antiplagiarism</a>	The software has to be downloaded from the given URL and upload the file for checking Plagiarism. The software will scan the document and compare with online sources and give the result.	<b>Pros</b> It accepts file in any format viz. .rtf, .doc, .docx, .pdf . <b>Cons</b> Website shows free software but it is not so.
Plagiarism detector [40]  <a href="http://www.plagiarism-detector.com/">http://www.plagiarism-detector.com/</a>	User has to download the software. When user copy and paste the content in the text box, it will compare with other documents available on internet and give an immediate report .	<b>Pros</b> It is available in three language English, Russian and Ukrainian. User can use content in any format. This software is fast and reliable. <b>Cons</b> Free download for demo only.
Viper [41]  <a href="http://www.scanmyessay.com/">http://www.scanmyessay.com/</a>	User has to download the software and put the document in the given box. It will compare the given document from the large database of academic essays and other online sources and give the report regarding similar text.	<b>Pros</b> It provides unlimited resubmitting. There is no limitation for document length. <b>Cons</b> It is available for Windows only.
Wcopyfind [42]  <a href="http://plagiarism.bloomfieldmedia.com/wordpress/software/wcopyfind">http://plagiarism.bloomfieldmedia.com/wordpress/software/wcopyfind</a>	WCopyfind is an open source windows-based program that compares documents and reports similarities in their words and phrases. It is licensed under the Gnu Public License”. User has to download the software for checking plagiarism.	<b>Pros</b> User can check . doc and .docx file. <b>Cons</b> It is available for Windows only.
Winsite [43]  <a href="http://anti-plagiarism-software.winsite.com/linux/">http://anti-plagiarism-software.winsite.com/linux/</a>	User has to download the software and use it for checking plagiarism.	<b>Pros</b> It is freely downloadable for Linux. <b>Cons</b> It can not be downloaded for window oprating system

TABLE III.

PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOLS/ SOFTWARE FREELY AVAILABLE ONLINE WITH SIGN UP REQUIREMENT

Tools/ Software name with URL	Method of checking	Pros and Cons
Open-Access Plagiarism Search (OAPS) [44]  <a href="https://oaps.eu/">https://oaps.eu/</a>	User has to open a personal account in order to log in to this website and avail this service with no charge. The check for plagiarism will begin once the document is submitted. The search results will be sent in the form of a report to his/ her account.	<b>Pros</b> It highlights the similarities. <b>Cons</b> It can check text content only.
Plagiarismcheck [45]  <a href="http://plagiarismcheck.org/home">http://plagiarismcheck.org/home</a>	Plagiarismcheck provides free services but user has to create an account for using this service. After login user has to insert the text in the given box and click the “check for plagiarism” button. It compare the text with large number of internet sources and give the report .	<b>Pros</b> It Provides unlimited search . It can accept all file format. <b>Cons</b> It can not check plagiarism in .pdf file.