UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

EXPERIENCES WITH PLAGIARISM RUBRIC IN M-GEO ACADEMIC SKILLS

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BACKGROUND

- Q4 assignment AY2018: many plagiarism fraud cases
  - => no grade; no feedback
  - => no 2nd test opportunity (if 2nd “strike”)
  - => no continuation into research phase year2
  - => lots of work for examiner, ProgManager, EB

  - But observation: Often not intentional fraud but wrongly citing

BACKGROUND (2)

- Problems with that were:
  - Demotivating for students
  - Frustrating for Grader
    - no tool until fraud (turn blind eye if not severe)
    - no stimulus / consequence for student until fraud call
  - No grading done / no feedback / no learning done by student (on plagiarism as well as assignment)

OUR APPROACH

- Exchange with Programme Manager and EB August/September 2019

- Our thinking:
  - Teach over punish
  - Cheating is always fraud.
  - Poor referencing while learning is poor execution of the assignment.
  - Poor referencing after learning (AS completed or Year2) is fraud.

OUR APPROACH (2)

- First go by the MGEO AS Team (Sep 2019)

- Review of old examples from Academic Skills course;
  - 8 categories of typical infringements;
  - weighing of their severity by experienced graders
  - “Sloppy table” (Malintent vs. sloppiness)

OUR APPROACH (3) – EXAMPLE CATEGORY

5. → A·large·number·of·**overlapping·words,·without·referencing**.·Still·some·level·of·own·logic·visible·in·that·the·text·has·been·applied·to·the·own·situation.·Nevertheless,·the·source·should·have·been·cited·properly·(Example·Zoltan·3).¶

achieve with global coverage due to the spatial and temporal variability of soil moisture and the weather and climate conditions and across all current passive microwave observations.

This research will develop the scaling approach for soil moistures products, which will use high resolution model predictions together with data assimilation of coarse scale observations. It will overcome issues related to the lack of concurrent overpasses by required satellites or lost data due to cloud coverage, and It will integrate different inputs data such as multiple satellites data and UAVs data products. It will be validated directly against ground-based soil moisture observations, For the suitable application of high-resolution soil moisture in agriculture and water resources management, UAVS data will give the continuous time series of soil moisture which will be required at temporal frequencies like less than three days.

OUR APPROACH (4) – RUBRIC

- Assignment Q2 AY2019 extra rubric criterium
- 8 classes into 10% to 80% deduction (later changed to max 50%) or fraud
- Percentage over fixed amount deduction

Plagiarism deductions This criteria shows problems with the proper use of referencing that leads to plagiarism	**0 Pts** **% Full score** No problems detected All citations, quotes and referencing done according to the "rules," e.g., all	**0 Pts** **10% deduction** Appropriate quotation of a sentence or major part of a sentence	**0 Pts** **20% deduction** A large number of overlapping words, but referenced properly. Better phrasing in	**0 Pts** **30% deduction** A large number of overlapping words, without referencing. Still some	**0 Pts** **50% deduction** Copying of an entire sentence or more (or the equivalent of it)	**0 Pts** **Fraud = no grade** Copying of an entire paragraph or more (or the equivalent of it)

OUR EXPERIENCES

- 2020 Q4 statistics
  - 86 submissions; 28 deductions (33%)
  - 25 marks <6
  - No fraud case this time (but they do occur)

OUR EXPERIENCES (2)

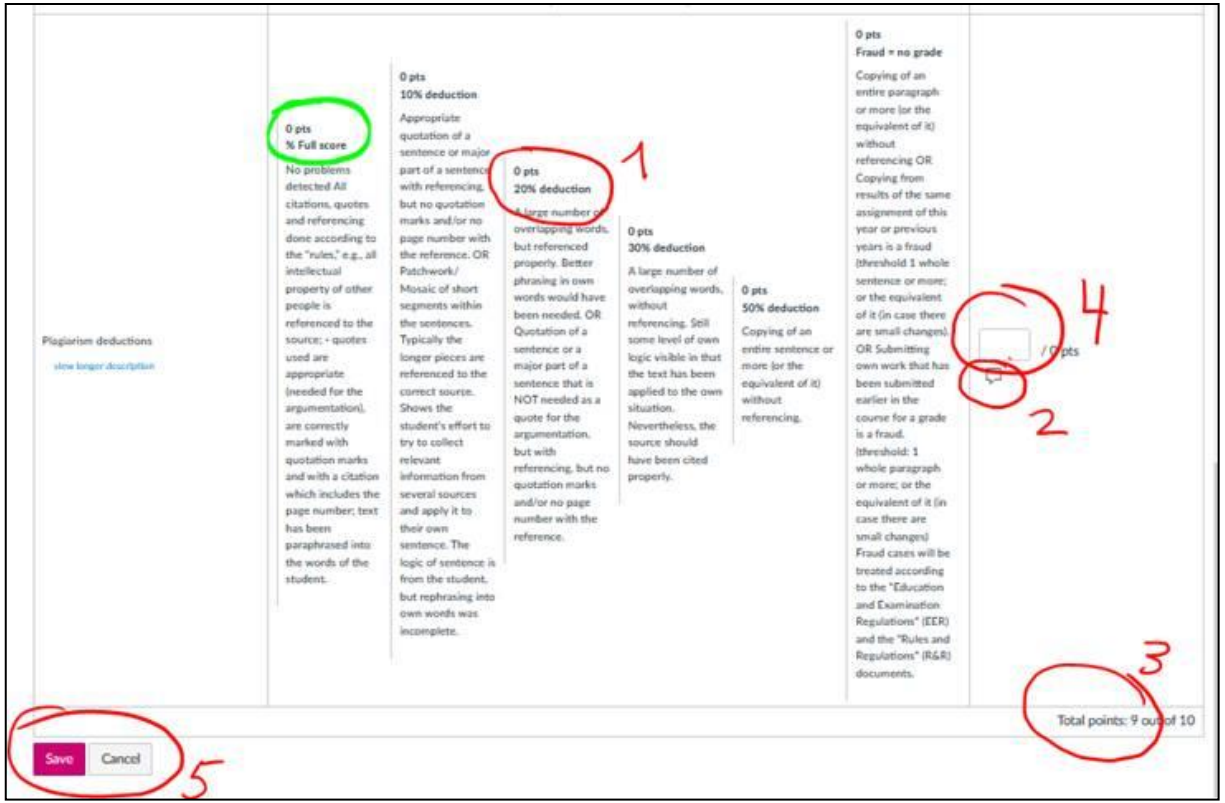
- Staff say:
  - *Students with **milder infringements** get feedback that this is **not OK** while in the past they just got away clean*
  - *Students with **slightly stronger infringements** get feedback that this **is not OK**, get a reduced grade but also feedback on the quality of the content of their submission (with fraud calls, the submission is not graded and no feedback is given).*
  - ***Fraud is still fraud** (we do have cases!)*
  - *there are now **more objective criteria** for the grader to judge the different levels of infringement*

OUR EXPERIENCES (3)

- Lessons learnt / ideas
  1. Feedback in CANVAS criteria is key for learning of student
  2. Percentage deduction is cumbersome in CANVAS and leads to errors => needs a fix
  3. Frequency of infringement is not captured => include in grading instructions
  4. Do not over-regulate! (current level is OK)
  5. Make simCheck examples available
  6. Make students own simCheck available
  7. Check simCheck results “UTwente Submitted works” carefully

OUR EXPERIENCES (4)

4. Percentage deduction is cumbersome in CANVAS and leads to errors => needs a fix



OUR EXPERIENCES (5)

4. Frequency of infringement is not captured => include in grading instructions

From grading alignment meeting

We strictly flag infringements of plagiarism (as defined in the rubric and the example sheet). If a heavier infringement is incidental, the graders are allowed to reduce from the heavier categories to a lower one if the deduction would otherwise be disproportionate to the overall text. But any detected infringements will always result in some deductions (at least 10%). (sorry this sounds almost like legal text; I think all present will know what I mean, but I can imagine that [..] you would like this explained; let me know).

OUR EXPERIENCES (6)

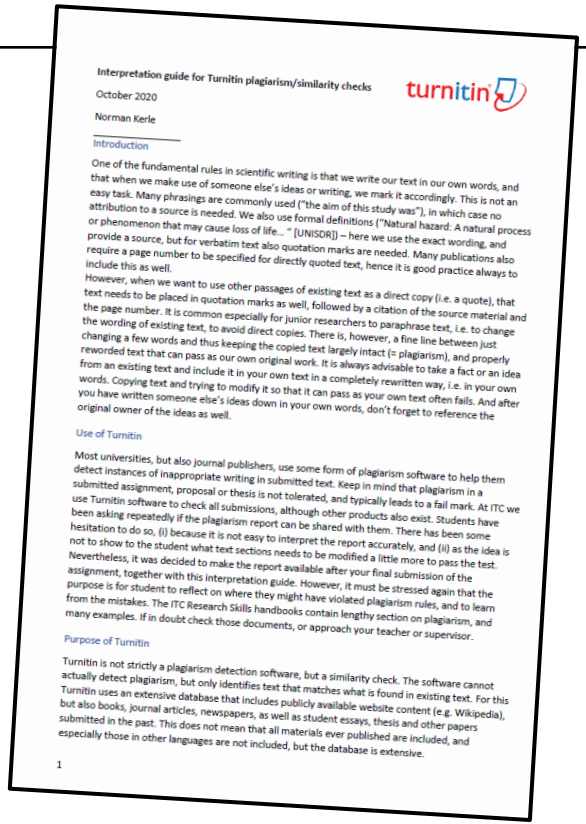
5. Make simCheck examples available => tricky, needs permission

=> Go through some examples together (before Q2 assignment)

6. Make students own simCheck available

⇒ After grading completed

⇒ With interpretation guide



Interpretation guide for Turnitin plagiarism/similarity checks

October 2020

Norman Kerle

turnitin

Introduction

One of the fundamental rules in scientific writing is that we write our text in our own words, and that when we make use of someone else's ideas or writing, we mark it accordingly. This is not an easy task. Many phrasings are commonly used ("the aim of this study was"), in which case no attribution to a source is needed. We also use formal definitions ("Natural hazard: A natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life…" [UNISDR]) – here we use the exact wording, and provide a source, but for verbatim text also quotation marks are needed. Many publications also require a page number to be specified for directly quoted text, hence it is good practice always to include this as well.

However, when we want to use other passages of existing text as a direct copy (i.e. a quote), that text needs to be placed in quotation marks as well, followed by a citation of the source material and the page number. It is common especially for junior researchers to paraphrase text, i.e. to change the wording of existing text, to avoid direct copies. There is, however, a fine line between just changing a few words and thus keeping the copied text largely intact (= plagiarism), and properly reworded text that can pass as our own original work. It is always advisable to take a fact or an idea from an existing text and include it in your own text in a completely rewritten way, i.e. in your own words. Copying text and trying to modify it so that it can pass as your own text often fails. And after you have written someone else's ideas down in your own words, don't forget to reference the original owner of the ideas as well.

Use of Turnitin

Most universities, but also journal publishers, use some form of plagiarism software to help them detect instances of inappropriate writing in submitted text. Keep in mind that plagiarism in a submitted assignment, proposal or thesis is not tolerated, and typically leads to a fail mark. At ITC we use Turnitin software to check all submissions, although other products also exist. Students have been asking repeatedly if the plagiarism report can be shared with them. There has been some hesitation to do so, (i) because it is not easy to interpret the report accurately, and (ii) as the idea is not to show to the student what text sections needs to be modified a little more to pass the test. Nevertheless, it was decided to make the report available after your final submission of the assignment, together with this interpretation guide. However, it must be stressed again that the purpose is for student to reflect on where they might have violated plagiarism rules, and to learn from the mistakes. The ITC Research Skills handbooks contain lengthy section on plagiarism, and many examples. If in doubt check those documents, or approach your teacher or supervisor.

Purpose of Turnitin

Turnitin is not strictly a plagiarism detection software, but a similarity check. The software cannot actually detect plagiarism, but only identifies text that matches what is found in existing text. For this Turnitin uses an extensive database that includes publicly available website content (e.g. Wikipedia), but also books, journal articles, newspapers, as well as student essays, thesis and other papers submitted in the past. This does not mean that all materials ever published are included, and especially those in other languages are not included, but the database is extensive.

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ISSUES TO BE SOLVED

- Subtraction by percentage in CANVAS needs solution
- Severity vs frequency (probably OK as is)

- Hard to capture
  - Copied figures
  - Copying of ideas (but thoroughly rewritten)