Avoiding Plagiarism & Collusion

Doing it right – Developing Good Academic Practice

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Aims of the Session
• Provide an overview on:
  • Academic integrity
  • Good academic practice
  • Various types of academic misconduct
  • Implications of academic misconduct on your academic degree

Learning Outcomes
• At the end of the session, you should be able to:
  – identify when you will need to reference the work of others using a proper referencing system
  – reflect on situations where plagiarism and collusion is likely to occur and how to avoid them

Learning Outcomes
– identify where to go for further information
Academic Integrity

• It is fundamental to the values promoted within UH.

• “Intellectual honesty” .... in which you do your academic work honestly and ethically.

Academic Integrity

• In particular...
  – Giving full credit to those who have helped you or whose work that you have incorporated in your own.
  – Representing your own work honestly and accurately
  – Collaborating with others only when it is group work.

Academic Integrity

• Why is it important?
  – Students should be judged on their own ability and not unfairly taken advantage of by others.
  – Pride in yourself, the work you submit and within your profession.

Good Academic Practice

“refers to the process of completing your academic work independently, honestly and in an appropriate academic style, using good referencing and acknowledging all of your sources.”

Source: Achieving Good Academic Practice, http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/ai/students/goodpractice.html
Good Academic Practice

- Need to develop...
  - study skills (e.g. reading, note-taking, research etc)
  - critical enquiry and evaluation (e.g. balanced opinion, reasoning and argument)

Source: Achieving Good Academic Practice, http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/ai/students/goodpractice.html

What is Plagiarism?

“… passing off someone else’s work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, as your own for your own benefit”

Carroll 2002

Common varieties of Plagiarism

- Patching
  - joining texts or paragraphs from various different sources
- Paraphrasing
  - using someone else’s text, but expressing it in between of your own words
- Self-plagiarism
  - Using materials from your previous studies without acknowledging or referencing

Keyword: Quotation

- A quotation uses exactly the same words as the original
- It should be placed in quotation marks – “……”
- It may also be highlighted with an indented block
Keyword: Acknowledgement

- You must appropriately cite and reference other people’s work.
- You need to do BOTH properly.

So why is it important?
- This is good practice and it will help you to read and learn from sources more effectively.
- Avoids the risk of being accused of an assessment offence.

Which of these should be acknowledged?

- Copyright free images taken from the web
- Newspaper articles that are published without an author’s name
- Piece of music from your own MP3 collection
- Ideas or code taken from a tutorial on a web site
- Quotations from other people’s work
- Bits of code you have used on past courseworks

Citing and Referencing

- Citing

Acknowledging at the point in your main text where it is used with brief details of the source.

- Referencing

The full bibliographic information about the source (title, who wrote it, when and where it appeared, and who published it), usually found as a footnote or at the end of the document.
Inadequate Referencing

- www.google.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/news
- “ACM Digital Library”
- Software Engineering by Sommerville
- en.wikipedia.org
- http://logos.herts.ac.uk/libqdp/plagiari sm/start.html

Harvard Referencing Systems

- It is an author and date system
- In main text ...
  Henderson (2001) argues that …..
- The bibliography would list the references alphabetically, e.g.:

Vancouver Referencing System

- It is a numeric system
- In main text...
  Henderson (1) argues that …. 
  The bibliography would list the references numerically in the order they appear in the text, thus:

What is Collusion?

“… passing off work which he/she has undertaken jointly with another person as having undertaken independently ”
Helping you do it the right way...

- Information Hertfordshire (previously LIS) has plenty resources to help you to develop good academic practice e.g. i-Spy tutorial...
  

Tools used to detect Plagiarism or Collusion

- Turnitin - online plagiarism detection tool
  - [http://submit.ac.uk/](http://submit.ac.uk/)
- Ferret – use for both plagiarism and collusion
  - [http://homepages.stca.herts.ac.uk/~pdgroup/](http://homepages.stca.herts.ac.uk/~pdgroup/)

Turnitin

- Online Plagiarism Detection Tool
  - Given a username and password to access the system
  - Upload a copy of your work (report)
  - Check against the Turnitin database and web resources to generate an originality report

Consequences...

- If your submitted work/actions leads us to suspect you of plagiarism, collusion or any other kind of academic assessment offence, there are procedures we followed and may lead to penalties being applied.
Consequences...

- Penalty on assessment offences varies depending on
  - on the **severity** of the offence
  - number of previous assessment offences committed by the student.

The effect on you...

- **Reduced mark** or awarded **Fail grade** in may mean that your degree classification is **detrimentally** affected.
- Assessment offences will be..
  - Recorded in your student file
  - Included in employment or academic references.

Thanks for your attention

Q & A
Extra – Plagiarism Quiz

- [http://logos.herts.ac.uk/libgdplagiarism/coursefiles/course_files/html/C01M01P160.html](http://logos.herts.ac.uk/libgdplagiarism/coursefiles/course_files/html/C01M01P160.html)