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Turnitin.com: an exploration of a plagiarism detection tool

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Turnitin.com - an exploration of a plagiarism detection tool.

IUPUI University Library
Sally Neal, Assistant Librarian

What we will cover:

- Plagiarism Detection Tools
- Not focusing on educational aspects of this issue today, although, this is very important!

Plagiarism Tools available

- Glatt Plagiarism Services – deletes words
- Essay Verification Engine (EVE2) – web comparison
- WordCHECK – builds a database of papers, not networkable, no internet
- CopyCatch Gold – builds a database of papers, networkable, no internet
- WCopyfind – Univ. of Virginia, free software, builds a database of papers

Plagiarism Tools Available

- JPlag – computer programming
- MOSS (Measure of Software Similarity)
- MyDropBox.com (merger of EduTie.com/PlagiServ?) – internet and database of papers
- Turnitin.com – internet and database of papers

Turnitin.com

- Defined: a plagiarism detection tool/service
- Specifically designed algorithms are used to create a digital fingerprint of any text.

The digital fingerprint is compared to:

1. A local database of previously submitted student papers
2. The web
3. Subscription-based, full-text databases – ABI Inform, Periodical Abstracts, Business Dateline
4. Papermill papers – *only* when submitted to database as ‘legitimate’ paper or at free papermill sites

How it works

- **Either the student or instructor can submit the paper electronically; an 'originality report' is generated within 24 hours**
 - **Always instructor driven; instructor sets up class account**
- **In setting up classes, you can give TAs permission to run reports**
- **Can either 'cut & paste' sections or upload Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, HTML, plain text documents**

Why is it Valuable?

- Database of previously submitted work
- It's algorithms are designed to detect subtle instances of plagiarism such as: changing word order, adding sentences, or integrating an existing work with his/her work
- Saves the faculty member time – one doesn't have to search multiple search engines, know searching strategies, etc.

What Turnitin is good at

- Web searching
 - Satterwhite & Gerein, Colorado College study – outperformed other plagiarism detection services & search engines
 - Joint Information System Committee – British post-secondary schools
- Archives old web pages
- Serves as a warning – its very existence deters

What Turnitin is not good at

- Invisible Web – subscriptions databases, usenet groups
- Print sources – textbooks, theses
- Stops at one match – instructor then must check attribution
- Cannot interpret proper citation – will just show matches

Copyright & Privacy

- Why a problem?

Because student papers stay *perpetually* in the *proprietary* Turnitin.com database.

Copyright Concerns

- a tenet of fair use is that a profit is not made off of the material, yet it could be argued that Turnitin.com *is* making a profit off the material (my viewpoint)
- Turnitin claims no ownership of the student submitted paper. Copyright resides with the creator of the content.
- Turnitin.com argues that they are actually protecting students' copyright by not having the material used again without permission

Copyright Cont'd.

- Digital Fingerprint – Turnitin states paper is neither a copy nor a true derivative, mathematical algorithm
- Turnitin only shares the matching part of a paper
- Not tested in courts yet nor is there a statute

Privacy concerns

- At IUPUI, the concern was over privacy – is this student paper a student record? Thus, does it fall under FERPA, the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act?

Stipulations for Use

- Due to copyright and privacy concerns, IUPUI and IU are requiring that students *consent* to having their papers submitted to Turnitin.com (through signing a consent form).
- A student cannot be compelled to participate.
- No student can be assigned a lower grade or penalized for not participating in the service.
- But,...

For purposes of Fairness and Equal Application, IUPUI *recommends*

Provide Turnitin.com as an alternative to required work, such as:

- 1) submit a short reflection paper on research methodology in addition to a final paper
- 2) submit a draft bibliography prior to submission of the final paper
- 3) submit the cover page and first cited page of each reference source to be photocopied and submitted with the final paper
- 4) as an alternative to one of the three required options above consent to participate in the Turnitin.com service.

Other Concerns

- If a match is found against a previously submitted work, you only receive the instructor's name and e-mail, not the matched content.

How to encourage participation

- Use the student consent form to create a 'level playing field' statement at the beginning of the semester.
- Asking the student to sign the consent form after the fact, is more difficult for the faculty member to carry out

Using the Tool for Prevention (As a Learning tool for students)

- Have students submit the papers themselves
- When you receive the 'originality report' you can share the report with the student to address poor citing occurrences, discuss proper paraphrasing, etc.

Using the Tool for Prevention (As a Learning tool for students, cont'd.)

- Having student run their own papers through the service may alleviate their concerns about unintentional plagiarism and sends a message that the instructor values their intellectual work.

For more information about Turnitin.com

<http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/turnitin/home.html>



diana University-Purdue University Indianapolis



IUPUI and Turnitin.com

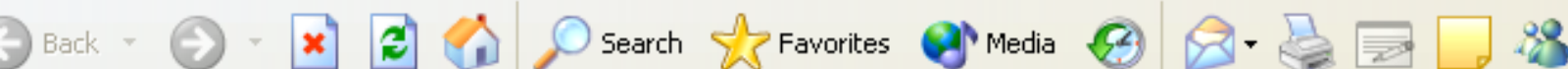
Turnitin.com Defined

To promote academic integrity, University Libraries, University College, and the Dean of Students are providing access to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. The service compares submitted text against a database of over 100,000 previously submitted student papers and performs a thorough search of Internet Resources. Turnitin.com is being made available to assist IUPUI instructors/faculty in tracking down plagiarized material in an easier, faster, and more complete way. For more details on the ways in which the technology at Turnitin.com can detect instances of plagiarism such as: straight duplication, word substitution, sentence addition, etc., view their [solutions page](#).

Obtaining Student Authorization Prior to Using the Service

As a contractual condition of use, IUPUI requires all instructors who desire to use the service to obtain each student's voluntary consent to participate (using a form supplied by the university) prior to comparing whole or parts of a student's paper with the Turnitin.com database. No student may be compelled to participate in the service without the student's voluntary authorization, and no student may be assigned a lower grade or otherwise penalized for declining to participate.

The authorization form is provided here: [Student Turnitin.com Authorization Form](#) (PDF format). Be sure to have your students read and sign this form *prior* to using the service. The instructor shall be responsible for maintaining the original authorization form indefinitely or working with the instructor's department to maintain the original form in the student's permanent record. For purposes of fairness and equal application, IUPUI strongly recommends that any instructor who desires to use the service provide it as an alternative to required work, e.g., an instructor might offer students a choice from the following options: (1) submit a short reflection paper on research methodology in addition to a final paper, (2) submit a draft bibliography prior to submission of the final paper, (3) submit the cover page and first cited page of each reference source to be photocopied and submitted with the final paper, or (4) as an alternative to one of the three required options above consent to participate in the Turnitin.com service.



Address http://www.turnitin.com/or_printversion.asp?r=78.8148564069882&svr=6&oid=12584391

Google Search Web 665 blocked AutoFill Options

author: Jim Allen **title:** Globalization **paper ID:** 12584391 **submitted:** 02-13-04 1:17 PM PST

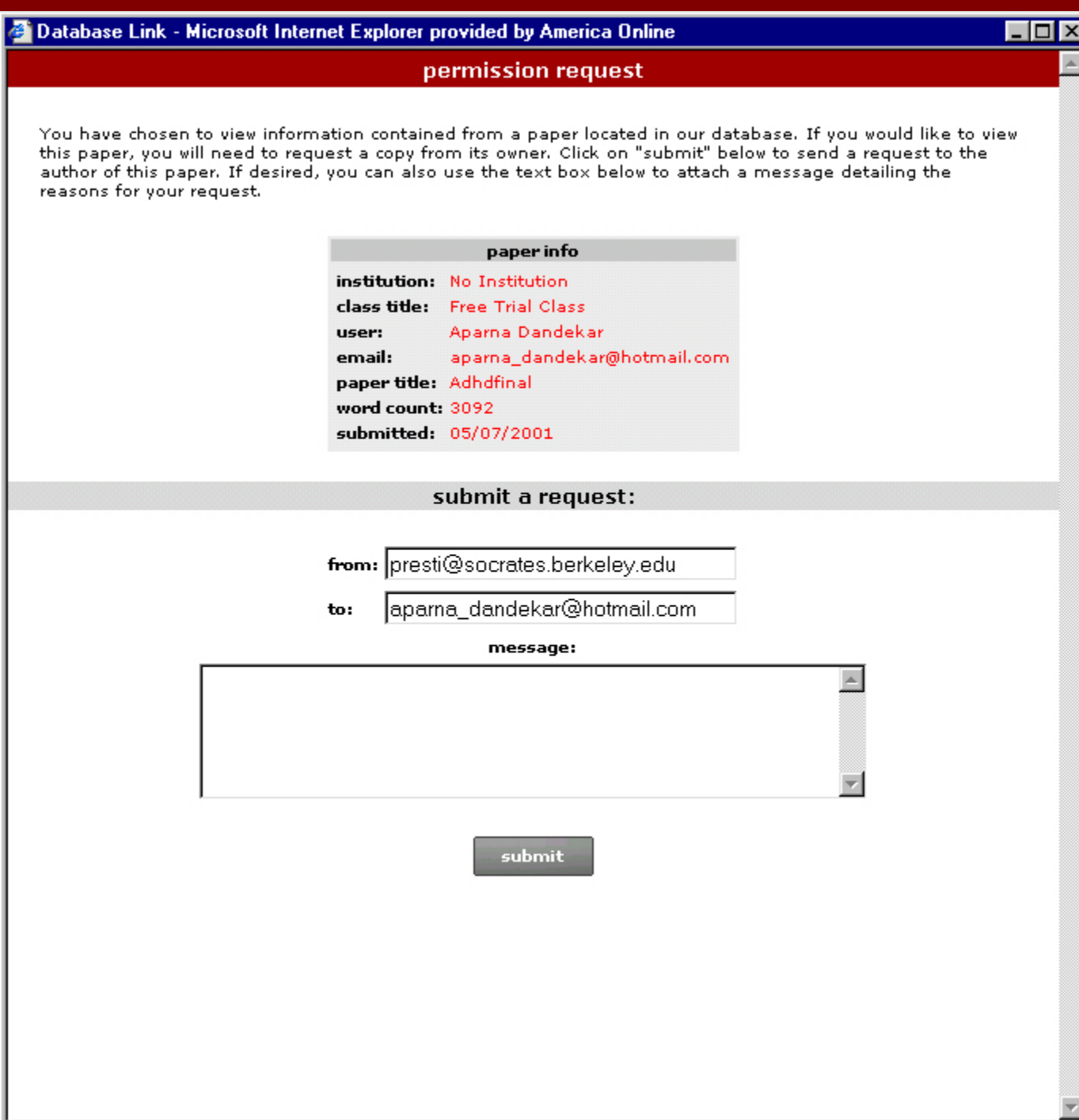
similarity index: (89% matching text) **version:** # 2 (03-08-04) [side-by-side version](#)
Sources:

	link	match
Internet	http://www.strategicfinancemaq.com/2000/08e.htm	36%
Internet	http://www.opportunityservices.com/blog/archives/000193.html	28%
Internet	http://www.unesco.org/culture/industries/trade/html_enq/question20.shtml	25%

Report text:

Thesaga of globalization often reads like a novel. Global competition and electronic commerce are transforming business practices. For financial professionals, the story turns on the need to transform themselves from "bean counters" and tax experts into the next generation of business heroes - supply chain managers. They are the professionals who execute top-notch operations by integrating suppliers and customers throughout planning and operations. Supply chain management has emerged over the past few years as the key to success in the global economy, regardless of industry or company size. Its premise is simple: Operational strategies should be designed and managed around customer needs. As a company adapts to a customer-driven supply chain, it is critical to develop appropriate performance measures. As the organization becomes more permeable, measurements must incorporate team members - suppliers and customers - outside the traditional organization.

Foreign investments are increasingly an important area for international trade in general and for trade of cultural goods and services in particular. By the end of 1999, the total stock of foreign direct



Permission requests

When you click on a link to a paper in our database, this window is displayed. This form allows us to send a request to view the paper in question directly to its author.

Note: Although we will indicate the sources of any suspected plagiarism within our database, are never at liberty to distribute or in any way disclose their contents. When permission to view a paper is granted through this form, a copy of the paper in question must be personally sent by the paper's author.

Statistics at IUPUI

- Cost: \$10,000 annually for IUPUI campus
- Interest came from administration, in Bloomington, introduced at Faculty Council
- IUPUI: 30 users; 326 submissions, IU-Bloomington: 145 users; 5191 submissions

Statistics Cont.d

- Co-locational server idea
- Integrate it into course software such as WebCT or Blackboard
- IU's integrating the tool into W131, English Writing course
- Copyright/privacy issues interpreted differently, depending on institution

Participating Institutions

- University of Notre Dame
- IU, IUPUI
- Georgetown University
- University of Maryland University College
- United States Military Academy, West Point
- Dartmouth University
- University of Florida
- Lehigh University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- Auburn University
- Hofstra University
- California State University System
- Tulane University
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of California Irvine
- United Kingdom

Indiana Participating Institutions

- IU, IUPUI
- University of Notre Dame
- Calumet College of Saint Joseph
- University of Evansville
- University of Indianapolis
- Purdue University – North Central
- Hanover College

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