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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

S. Neal

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.

TURNITIN.COM STUDENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION

I hereby consent to allow any required paper in course _____ to be submitted to Turnitin.com, an electronic database, owned and operated by iParadigms, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, for purposes of comparing such paper for possible textual matches against Internet-available resources and iParadigms' proprietary database in order to assist in the detection and prevention of plagiarism. I further understand and agree that my paper will be included as a source document in the Turnitin.com database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. I acknowledge and agree that use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of a use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site as well as a Registration Agreement between iParadigms and IUPUI.

I acknowledge that my consent is given freely and voluntarily and that I may revoke this consent in writing at any time, except to the extent action has been taken in reliance upon my prior consent.

I further agree to cooperate with efforts by my instructor and/or other instructors, to detect and prevent plagiarism, including the release of my name to third parties as necessary to try to verify the originality of papers submitted by myself or other students.

_____   _____
Student's signature   Instructor's signature

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

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IUPUI and Turnitin.com

urnitin.com Defined

promote academic integrity, University Libraries, University College, and the Dean of Students are providing access to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. e service compares submitted text against a database of over 100,000 previously submitted student papers and performs a thorough search of Internet Resources. rnitin.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 ails on the ways in which the technology at Turnitin.com can detect instances of plagiarism such as: straight duplication, word substitution, sentence addition, etc., w their solutions page.

otaining Student Authorization Prior to Using the Service

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 plied 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 vice without the student's voluntary authorization, and no student may be assigned a lower grade or otherwise penalized for declining to participate.

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 vice. The instructor shall be responsible for maintaining the original authorization form indefinitely or working with the instructor's department to maintain the original m 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 vide 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 ethodology 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 erence 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 rnitin.com service.

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

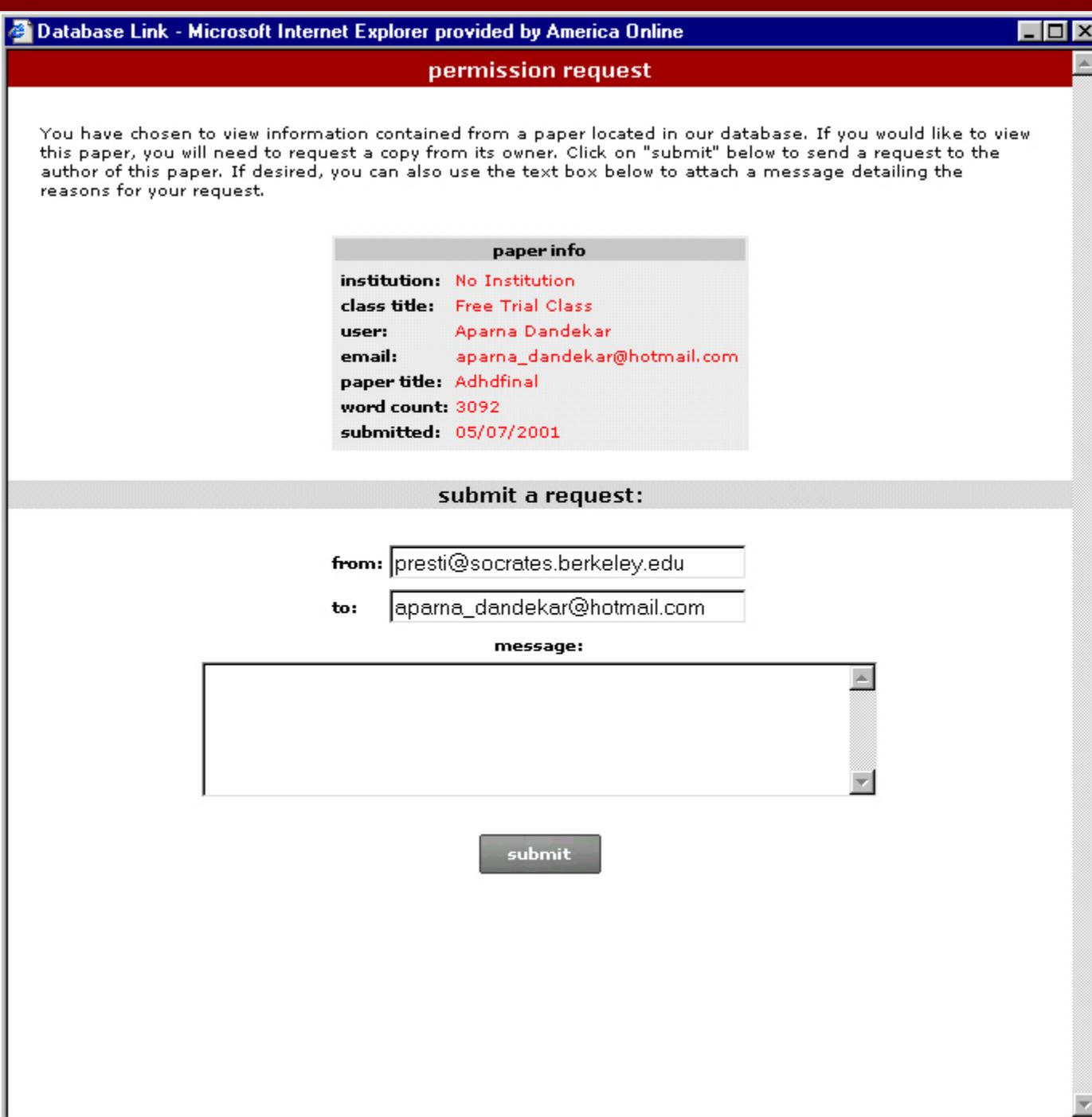**similarity index:** ■ (89% matching text)   **version:** # 2 (03-08-04)   side-by-side version

Sources:	link	match
Internet	http://www.strategicfinancemag.com/2000/08e.htm	36%
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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

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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