



# Explore@HKUL: Tips in using Turnitin for students

Rebecca Tam

Science Librarian and Learning Services Coordinator



# Understanding Plagiarism

Definition:

The action or practice of **taking someone else's work, idea**, etc., and **passing it off as one's own**; literary theft.



Source:

<https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/144939?redirectedFrom=plagiarism&>

# Plagiarism at HKU

- What is Plagiarism?

<https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/>

What constitutes plagiarism?

Self-plagiarism?

How much plagiarism is plagiarism?

How to avoid plagiarism?

How to quote / paraphrase another source?

Consequences of plagiarism

University Policies and Regulations

# Other resources on Plagiarism



## **10 Types of Plagiarism**

[http://www.turnitin.com/assets/en\\_us/media/plagiarism\\_spectrum.php](http://www.turnitin.com/assets/en_us/media/plagiarism_spectrum.php)



## **ReadingList@HKUL: Plagiarism**

[https://julac-hku.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/852JULAC\\_HKU/lists/9907341570003414?auth=SAML](https://julac-hku.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/852JULAC_HKU/lists/9907341570003414?auth=SAML)

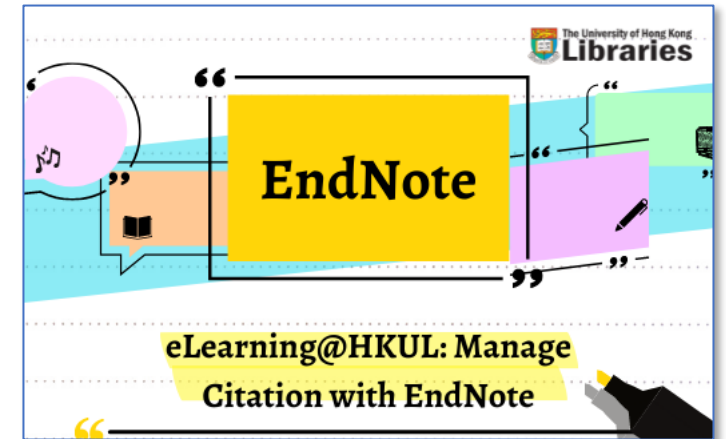


## **Information Literacy Training: Academic Honesty**

<https://learning.hku.hk/catalog/course/ilt01/>

# Assist you in proper citation

- **Readinglist@HKUL: Citation Styles:**  
[https://julac-hku.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/852JULAC\\_HKU/lists/9928326850003414?auth=SAML](https://julac-hku.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/852JULAC_HKU/lists/9928326850003414?auth=SAML)
- **Citation Management Tools**
  - Endnote  
<http://lib.hku.hk/endnote/>
  - Zotero & Mendeley:  
[https://libguides.lib.hku.hk/endnote/other\\_citation\\_management\\_tools#s-lib-ctab-21683669-3](https://libguides.lib.hku.hk/endnote/other_citation_management_tools#s-lib-ctab-21683669-3)



## **Access the course:**

<https://learning.hku.hk/catalog/course/ilt02/>

# Turnitin @ HKU

- **University policy**

Compulsory check of Research Postgraduate theses upon formal submission since 2011

[https://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/f/page/394/Workflow\\_PlagiarismCheck\\_Nov2016.pdf](https://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/f/page/394/Workflow_PlagiarismCheck_Nov2016.pdf)

- **Departmental / Faculty policy**

Compulsory or random check of theses or student assignments



# HKU Turnitin Figures (Jan-Dec 2021)

- Papers submitted = 244,254
- Reports generated = 332,935
- Every hour there were **38 Similarity Reports** generated!



Turnitin Feedback Studio is an academic tool, used by 34 million students and 15,000 institutions worldwide.

It offers three main features:

- Check for similarity
- Give feedback
- Grade assignments



### Global student papers database



USE TO:

Discourage student collusion, the most common form of plagiarism, when comparing against 15 years' worth of student papers.

**1.8** student papers  
BILLION

**1** papers are submitted daily during peak period  
MILLION

Submissions from around the world

### Internet archive



USE TO:

Compare matches against individual internet sources to easily see potential copy and paste plagiarism.

**22** new pages added daily  
MILLION

**99.3** current and archived web pages  
BILLION

**102** pages crawled and updated daily  
MILLION

### Premium scholarly publications



USE TO:

Researchers and students can easily compare original work against published works from around the world.

**89.4** subscription articles  
MILLION

**56** subscription journals  
THOUSAND

**>1.3** publishers from around the world  
THOUSAND

**13** open access repositories  
THOUSAND

**95%** journals are included in our database  
OF THE TOP 10,000

# Turnitin database content

Source:

<https://www.turnitin.com/about/content>

# Turnitin vs Other Free Plagiarism Check Websites

## Turnitin

- **HKU subscription** since 2004
- Turnitin has a well-established privacy policy:  
[https://help.turnitin.com/Privacy\\_and\\_Security/Privacy\\_and\\_Security.htm#Privacy\\_Policy](https://help.turnitin.com/Privacy_and_Security/Privacy_and_Security.htm#Privacy_Policy)

## Free Plagiarism Check Websites

- Free
- No guarantee to what to do with your paper. **It may be resold to other students for profit making.**

# Get started – Create a Student Account

## Access via [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)

1. Instructor adds you in a class > receive a welcome email from Turnitin
2. You are given a set of Class ID and Class Enrollment Key

## Access via Moodle

Once a Turnitin assignment is created by instructor, you can submit papers to Turnitin via Moodle.

**No need to create a student account separately.**

# Get started – Create a Student Account

- Go to <https://www.turnitin.com/>
- Click "Create Account"
- Select "Student"
- Complete the form with Class ID and Class Enrollment Key
- Use your HKU email address to register

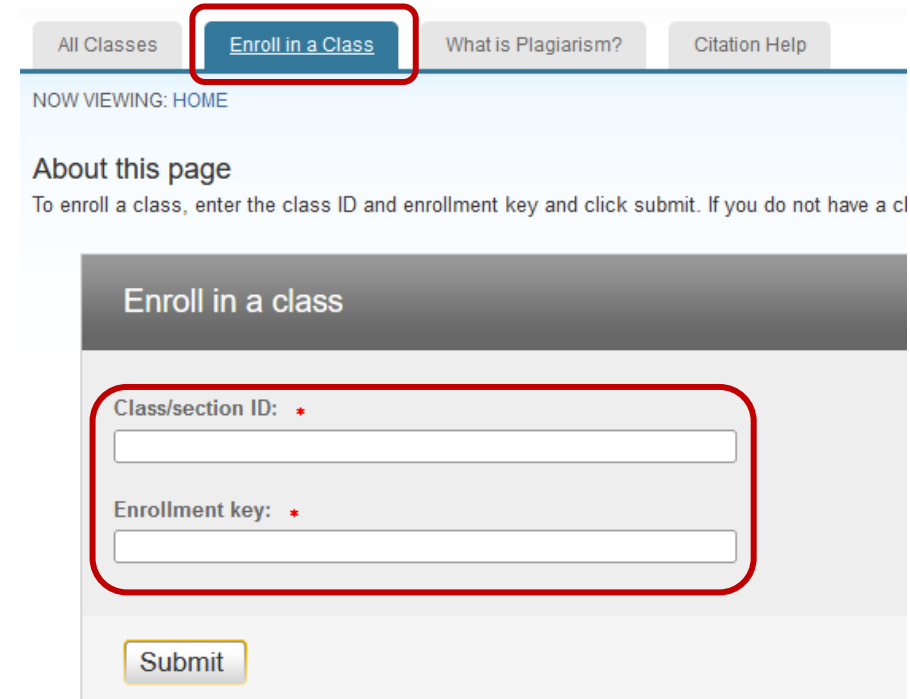
For students who have submitted any Turnitin assignments via Moodle before, go to **Login > Forgot your password? Click here** to reset your password.

# What if you have several accounts?

- Not recommended as it is not convenient to manage
- Students in active classes count against HKU's student limit. Once the limit is reached, no other students can enroll in classes and submit papers.
- Please request to merge multiple user accounts via the Turnitin Help Desk or the Libraries.

# Already have a Student Account...

- Login at <https://www.turnitin.com/>
- You can **enroll to more than one class** in Turnitin with different sets of Class ID and Enrollment Key.



All Classes **Enroll in a Class** What is Plagiarism? Citation Help

NOW VIEWING: HOME

About this page  
To enroll a class, enter the class ID and enrollment key and click submit. If you do not have a cl

Enroll in a class

Class/section ID: \*

Enrollment key: \*

Submit

# Paper Submission



[Class Portfolio](#) [My Grades](#) [Discussion](#) [Calendar](#)

NOW VIEWING: [HOME](#) > [TESTING 20211108](#)

Class Homepage

This is your class homepage. To submit to an assignment click on the "Submit" button to the right of the assignment name. If the Submit button is grayed out, no submissions can be made to the assignment. If resubmissions are allowed the submit button will read "Resubmit" after you make your first submission to the assignment. To view the paper you have submitted, click the "View" button. Once the assignment's post date has passed, you will also be able to view the feedback left on your paper by clicking the "View" button.

Assignment Inbox: Testing 20211108

Assignment Title	Info	Dates	Similarity	Actions
Assignment 1		Start 08-Nov-2021 10:09AM Due 15-Nov-2021 11:59PM Post 16-Nov-2021 12:00AM		<a href="#">Submit</a> <a href="#">View</a> 

## Assignment Instructions

No additional instructions have been entered for this assignment.

- *Late paper submissions are not allowed for this assignment.*
- *Resubmissions are allowed for this assignment.*

# Paper Submission

Submit: Single File Upload ▾

Cut & Paste Upload

STEP ● ○ ○

First name

Rebecca Shuk Ying

Last name

Tam

Submission title

[What can I submit?](#)


Requirements for single file upload


- File must be less than 100 MB ([read suggestions](#) to meet requirements)  
If your file contains images, you may remove the images or save the file as a rich text or plain text file to make the file smaller. If your file is a PDF and exceeds the 100 MB restriction: (1) copy the text in the document, (2) change the upload process to 'copy and paste', and (3) paste the text in the body field.

hide suggestions
- The maximum paper length is 800 pages
- All file types are allowed and can receive marks in GradeMark and PeerMark; however, only Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, WordPerfect, PostScript, PDF, HTML, RTF, OpenOffice (ODT), Hangul (HWP), Google Docs, and plain text files with at least 20 words of text will be eligible to receive Similarity Reports

Choose the file you want to upload to Turnitin:

Choose from this computer

 Choose from Dropbox

 Choose from Google Drive



# Digital Receipt

Congratulations - your submission is complete! This is your digital receipt. You can print a copy of this receipt from within the Document Viewer.

**Author:**  
Rebecca Shuk Ying Tam

**Assignment title:**  
Assignment 1

**Submission title:**  
Assignment 1

**File name:**  
definitions-plagiarism.docx

**File size:**  
15.7K

**Page count:**  
1

**Word count:**  
316

**Character count:**  
1137

**Submission date:**  
08-Nov-2021 10:24AM (UTC+0800)

**Submission ID:**  
1696038445

« Page 1 »

#### Definitions of plagiarism

According to Oxford English Dictionary (OED), it is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, ideas, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Sometimes, we simply refer to this as literary theft.

More definitions include the following:

Plagiarism is defined in dictionaries as the "wrongful appropriation," "close imitation," or "purloining and publication" of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions," and the representation of them as one's own original work, but the notion remains problematic with nebulous boundaries. The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe only in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic movement, while in the previous centuries authors and artists were encouraged to "copy the masters as closely as possible" and avoid "unnecessary invention".

抄襲 - 文藝創作學術領域，指將學術研究結果，或以學術創見和知識，用於對原著作或基本未經修改的抄襲，這是一種侵犯著作權的行為，但是一些時候是在轉化抄襲以較難以禁止，而轉化一些位數的抄襲是大量的轉化有巨大爭議。一些人認為抄襲是學術領域，而「抄襲」卻不是。抄襲是行為，而抄襲是行為，因為法律只保護思想的表現方式，而不是思想本身。

**References:**  
Oxford, O. E. "plagiarism, n." Oxford University Press.  
Plagiarism. (2014, October 21). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 08-05, October 29, 2014, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Plagiarism&oldid=630419903>

- **Digital receipt** will be generated  
(1) online immediately after the submission and  
(2) a copy will be sent to your email.
- It provides the **Submission ID** which is unique for Turnitin tracking the paper in the system.

# What is a Similarity Report?

- A typical submission made to an assignment in Turnitin generates a Similarity Report.
- The Similarity Report is the result of a comparison between the text of the submission against the search targets selected for the assignment
- Any matching or highly similar text discovered is detailed in the Similarity Report
- The similarity score is a percentage of a paper's content that matches Turnitin's databases; it is **not an assessment of whether the paper includes plagiarized material.**

Source: <https://help.turnitin.com/feedback-studio/turnitin-website/instructor/the-similarity-report/the-similarity-report-explained.htm>

# Interpreting the Similarity Report

The similarity index does not reflect whether the paper carries plagiarized materials. It is an indication of the **word-for-word match** with the Turnitin database.

- **Blue:** No matching text
- **Green:** One word to 24% matching text
- **Yellow:** 25-49% matching text
- **Orange:** 50-74% matching text
- **Red:** 75-100% matching text

Source: <https://help.turnitin.com/originality-check/turnitin-website/student/the-similarity-report/interpreting-the-similarity-report.htm>

# How does the Similarity Report help students?

It can help students improve their writing:

- Check if you have cited sources used in your paper
- You may review whether the in-text citations / bibliography are written consistently and correctly
- Are your writing referring to too many sources? Do remember to include your own ideas

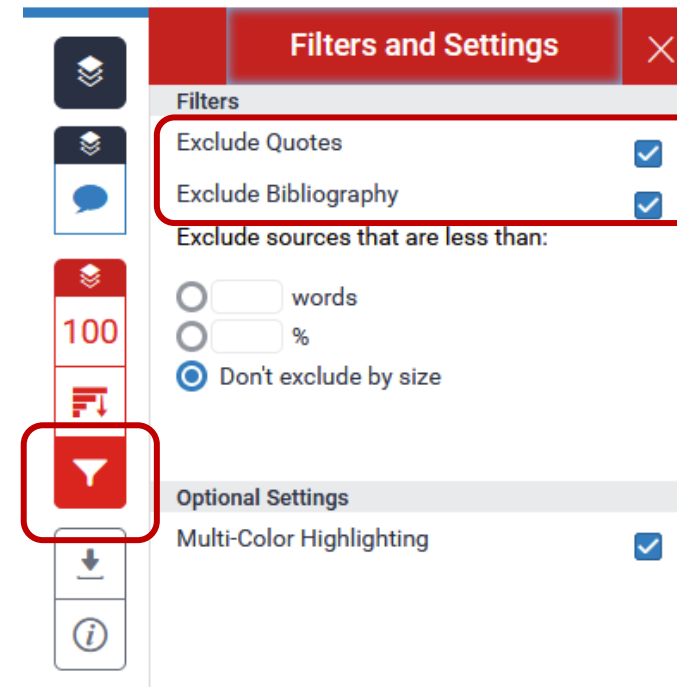


# Exclude Quotes and Bibliography

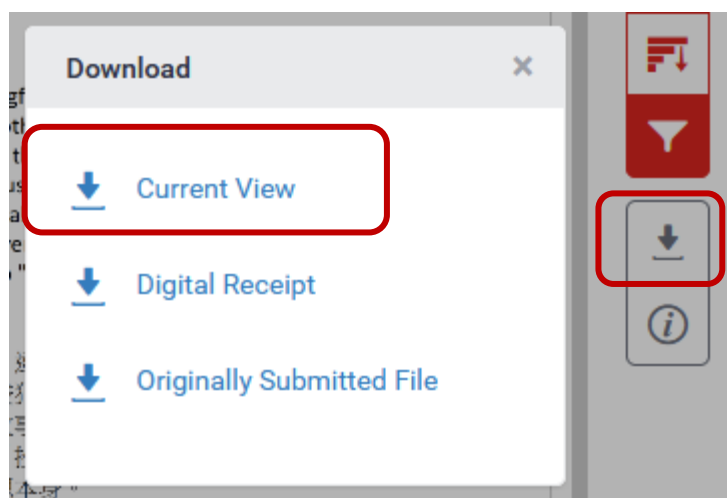
Removing the quotations and bibliography will reduce the similarity index temporarily. **It must be handled by the instructor.**

**Bibliography and quote exclusion definitions:**

<https://help.turnitin.com/feedback-studio/turnitin-website/student/the-similarity-report/bibliography-and-quote-exclusion-definitions.htm>



# Download Similarity Report / Text-Only Report



## Text-Only Report

### Assignment 1

#### ORIGINALITY REPORT

91%	82%	0%	91%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

#### PRIMARY SOURCES

1	Submitted to University of Hong Kong	91%
	Student Paper	

### Turnitin Originality Report

Processed on: 08-Nov-2021 10:25 HKT  
ID: 1696038445  
Word Count: 316  
Submitted: 1

Assignment 1 By Rebecca Shuk Ying Tam

Similarity Index	Similarity by Source
91%	Internet Sources: 82% Publications: 0% Student Papers: 91%

include quoted include bibliography exclude small matches mode: quickview (classic) report Change mode print download

91% match (student papers from 26-Apr-2013)  
Submitted to University of Hong Kong on 2013-04-26

Definitions of plagiarism According to Oxford English Dictionary (OED), it is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Sometimes, we simply refer this as literary theft. More definitions include the following: Plagiarism is defined in dictionaries as the "wrongful appropriation," "close imitation," or "purloining and publication" of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions," and the representation of them as one's own original work, but the notion remains problematic with nebulous boundaries. The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe only in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic movement, while in the previous centuries authors and artists were encouraged to "copy the masters as closely as possible" and avoid "unnecessary invention". 抄襲，亦稱作是偷竊、剽竊是偷竊成果、違反學術誠信「來源清楚」，是對於原著未經或基本未經修改的抄錄，這是一種侵犯著作權的行為，但是一些時候是否構成抄襲比較難以界定，例如模仿一個故事的情節是否屬於抄襲就有很大爭議，一些人認為故事情節屬於思想範圍，而「抄襲思想」並不是犯罪的行為，因為法律只保護具體的表現方式，而不是思想本身。References: Dictionary, O. E. "plagiarism, n.": Oxford University Press. Plagiarism. (2014, October 21). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 08:45, October 29, 2014, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Plagiarism&oldid=630449801>



# Common Questions

# Why the similarity report cannot be generated?


- Assignment settings:
  - Instructor has set "Generate reports on the due date"
  - If any file type is allowed, Turnitin will not generate a Similarity Report for certain types of files
- The submission is a resubmission
- Turnitin service outage
- and more...

Source: <https://supportcenter.turnitin.com/s/article/Why-has-my-similarity-report-not-generated>



# Can I check my own papers in Turnitin?

- Turnitin is for checking students' works
- Please stay tuned for the release of **Draft Coach for Microsoft Word on the web**, which allows students to check their papers without submitting them via assignment boxes created by instructors



# Can I submit multiple files to a Turnitin assignment box?

- The multiple file upload option is not supported. You can only upload a single file at any one time.

# How to delete a paper in Turnitin?

- Students cannot remove submissions from their assignments.
- Please **contact your instructor for paper deletion** and provide a reason and the Paper ID. The instructor could inform **HKU Turnitin Administrator** for deleting the paper permanently in the database.

# My paper got a 100% match, what can I do?

- Have you / someone submitted your paper to another class?
- Please explain the case to your instructor. If he/she is convinced, he/she can **exclude the matching source** in your Similarity Report for you.

Source: <https://supportcenter.turnitin.com/s/article/A-similarity-score-of-100-indicates-that-Turnitin-found-100-matching-text-to-one-or-more-sources-stored-in-the-Turniti>

# Useful Tips



You are allowed **three resubmission attempts** where the Similarity Report will **generate immediately**. After three attempts, you'll have to **wait 24 hours** before a new Similarity Report can be generated.



**Re-submission** will **overwrite** the original file submission in the same assignment box.

# Useful Tips



**Never use another student's account** to submit your paper as it will be stored in the Turnitin database permanently.



Students **cannot delete a paper permanently** in the database. Explain this to your instructor who, if convinced, can inform HKU Turnitin Administrator to remove the match from the current report.



# More Resources

**Turnitin@HKU**

<https://lib.hku.hk/turnitin/index.html>

**Student Guides on Feedback Studio**

<https://help.turnitin.com/feedback-studio/turnitin-website/student/student-category.htm>

**Student Resources Hub**

<https://help.turnitin.com/feedback-studio/student-resources.htm?Highlight=student%20hub>

**Student Quick Start Guide**

<https://help.turnitin.com/feedback-studio/turnitin-website/student/quickstart.htm>

**Turnitin Blog**

<https://www.turnitin.com/blog>

The background features a solid orange area on the left and a solid blue area on the right. Several paper envelopes in yellow, white, light green, pink, and blue are scattered across the scene. A large white circle is centered on the page, containing the text.

# Enquiries:

Email us at: [turnitin@hku.hk](mailto:turnitin@hku.hk)