

Virtual Academic Integrity Laboratory (VAIL)

Faculty and Administrators Guide: Detection Tools and Methods

Developed by the Center for Intellectual Property (<http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/>) at UMUC.

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***Disclaimer:** This guide is for informational purposes only.
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Introduction

There are an ever-increasing number of resources available to foster academic integrity and detect plagiarized student work. This guide provides an overview of some detection services, software, and tools currently available and provides information to assist in evaluating plagiarism detection options that best meet your needs.

For the purposes of this guide, a "detection tool" is defined as software or a web service made available to educators and students to assist in identifying writing that is suspected to have been written by someone other than the student submitting the work for assessment. Some of these tools simply search for suspect text within a controlled database of collected student papers in a local environment, while other tools search content available on the World Wide Web, such as HTML, newsgroups, paper mills, and the like.

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Factors to Consider Before You Begin

According to a recent study, most students plagiarize from textbooks and other student writing more than from web resources and sites (JISC, p. 4). With this in mind, an instructor should consider the usefulness of detection tools in the overall scheme of their curriculum and instruction. This guide specifically, and detection tools in general, should be used within a comprehensive program to prevent student plagiarism and foster academic integrity. Such a program begins with re-evaluating course assignments, understanding your campus policies regarding student academic integrity, student copyright, and plagiarism. The Virtual Academic Integrity Laboratory (<http://www.ummuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/vail/>) at UMUC provides tools that assist in developing a comprehensive approach to plagiarism prevention.

Some limitations of detection tools that you should consider are:

- Books are typically not searched by these services; they can only search or compare student work with material that exists in an electronic format.
- Detection services and tools detect plagiarized words, not plagiarized thoughts or ideas.
- Many, if not all of the available self-titled "plagiarism checkers," "detection tools," or "detection services" cannot access subscription literature databases (e.g. Lexis-Nexis, Proquest, Ebscohost) or subscription web sites.
- A positive indication of plagiarism means only a beginning. For various reasons, submissions marked as "plagiarized" may not be actual cases of plagiarism.
- A negative search result may not be conclusive; the source text may not be within the search parameters of the detection tool being used. In addition, faculty must decide what to do with any identified plagiarized text strings.
 - Is it blatant "cut and paste plagiarism"?
 - Or is it simply a student who failed to learn how to paraphrase properly?

Student Copyright and Detection Services

Faculty should ensure that the use of a detection service does not violate their college's Intellectual Property Policy or the student's rights under the U.S. Federal Copyright Law (<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/>). Before submitting student work to online detection services, you should also familiarize yourself with your campus and/or departmental policies regarding student copyright. This is sometimes located in your institutional Intellectual Property Policies, but if you are having difficulty finding these policies begin by contacting a department chair, campus librarian, or academic council. In addition, spend a moment familiarizing yourself with the documentation and scope of the detection service you will be using.

In this stage you should be considering the following:

- Will the service archive all student submissions for further detection?
- Will the use of this service violate my university's FERPA (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc/ferpa/index.html>) policy?
- Is student permission obtained before retaining papers?
- Will all submissions be immediately destroyed after a report is generated?
- Has my institution made provisions for these concerns in their contract with the vendor?
- If not, should I use aliases for student names to avoid violating student privacy?

The Detection Process

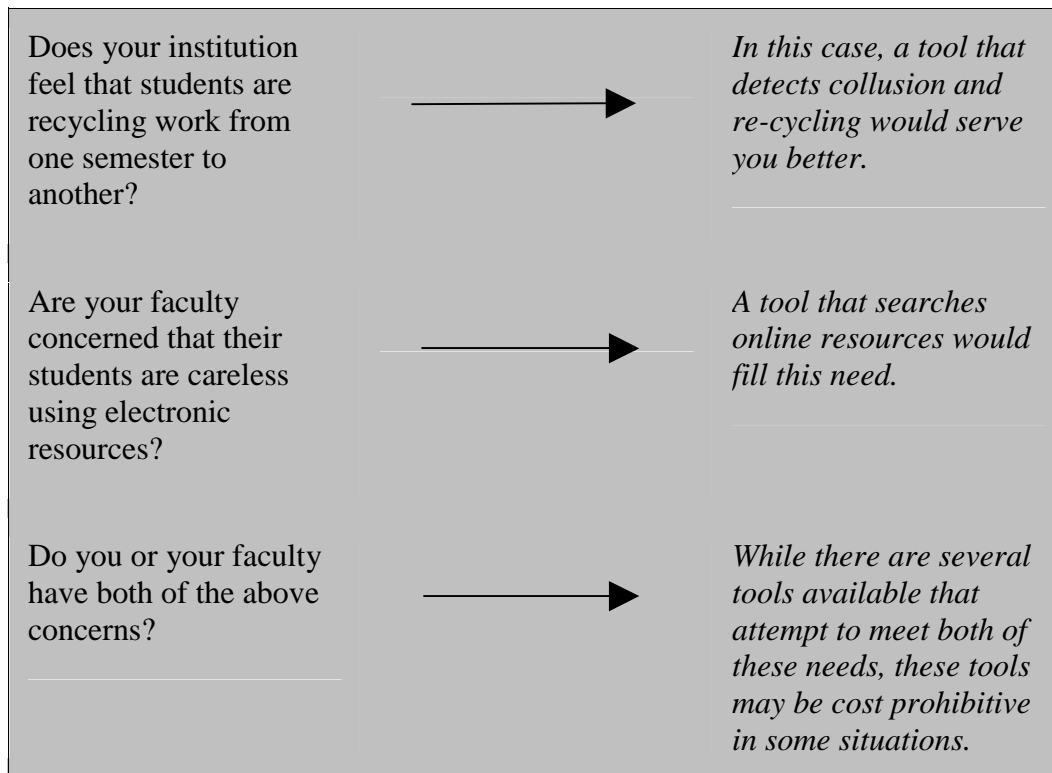
There are several components or common steps to a detection process, as noted in the taxonomy of researchers Culwin and Lancaster (2000). They include the following:

1. Choosing a detection tool.
2. Collecting student work.
3. Analysis—Submitting the work to the chosen tool.
4. Confirmation—Reviewing detection reports from tool.
5. Investigation—Approaching the student with suspected or confirmed plagiarized text.

The process of locating the source of suspected student writing can sometimes be daunting, as well as time consuming. For this reason, this guide begins by briefly discussing components of the final steps of the detection process—Analysis, Confirmation, and Investigation.

Choosing a Detection Tool

The tool you choose to identify plagiarized student work will vary from one situation to another. Are you looking for a resource to be used by one faculty member, an entire academic department, or the entire institution? The type of plagiarism your faculty encounters most often may also affect the choice of tool.



Online or Remotely Located Search Tools and Services

Online search tools are great for detecting plagiarized text that has been taken from a web source and used without attribution or what's becoming commonly referred to as "cut & paste" plagiarism. Many of these products function as advanced search engines that attempt to match the questionable text to words or phrases from the Internet such as public web pages, paper mills, etc. Although a few detection services are no longer available (Digital Integrity, HowOriginal.com, Paperbin.com), others are currently under development (Match Retrieval Development, Edutie.com).

Stand-alone Desktop Software

There are several software programs currently available to assist in detecting collusion in student course work; instances where students within one class or over several semesters or years may have re-cycled the same work or are working too closely together. The premise is that with this

software you can collect student work from your personal classes, academic department, etc., and use the software to seek out linguistic similarities in student assignments. Currently there is software available for textual-plagiarism detection and detection in computer code for computer science courses.

Web Search Engines and Other Web Resources

In addition to being a tool for seeking general content on the World Wide Web, several Internet search engines are effective detection tools for "cut & paste" plagiarism that may have originated from the WWW.

Subscription Databases

Because subscription databases of scholarly and popular literature are a standard resource for academic research, it also a common source of plagiarized text. Content in databases that offer abstracts or the full-text of articles, is often inappropriately used by students. These databases should be considered when an instructor knowingly assigned students to find scholarly sources in the fee-based research databases to which their institution subscribes.

Choosing a Detection Tool: Online or Remotely Located Search Tools and Services

Note: Please see the Terminology Appendix at the end of this document for definitions/ explanations of the categories used in the tables below.

Currently Available

Tool Name	Type of Detection	URL	
EduTie.com	Cut & Paste; Collusion	http://www.edutie.com	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
PlagiServe.com	Cut & Paste; Fraud	http://www.plagiserve.com	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
TurnItIn.com	Cut & Paste; Collusion; Fraud	http://turnitin.com/index.html	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
Glatt Plagiarism Self-Detection Program (GPSD)	Cut & Paste; Fraud	http://www.plagiarism.com	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
Moss (Measure Of Software Similarity)	Collusion in computer code	http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~aiken/moss.html	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
Jplag	Fraud; Collusion	http://www.jplag.de/	MORE INFORMATION (see below)

	computer code		
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EduTie.com

Vendor	Olexiy Shevchenko, Max Litvin, and Sasha Lugovskyy
Demo/Trial	Yes; Free trial of 10 submissions
Pricing Structure	Individual License \$150 (200 manuscripts limit), Departmental License \$800 (unlimited manuscripts), and Institutional License \$1,400 (unlimited manuscripts)
Platform	Web
Submission Formats	Electronic files; by students and faculty
Scope of Search	System tracks Internet source(s) used in a document; shows the degree of plagiarism and provides direct links to the sources.
Results Format	Web based
Results Turnaround	Submissions take approximately 24 hours to be processed.
Archives Student Papers	Yes. The documents are submitted to an EduTie server so that the customer could view them later. However, all the documents submitted to EduTie remain the property of the author, and EduTie.com has no right to view the documents or disclose them to any third party. (EduTie)
Summary of Reviews	A relatively new service (7/02); though the technology behind PlagiServe drives this product.
Comments	Tracks all online paper mills and hosts a database of reportedly 250,000 academic papers/works.
Identified Limitations	Submissions take approximately 24 hours to be processed; cannot access subscription websites
Special Features	Online Paper Submission; development of course

	institutional archive of submitted papers; integration into online course delivery systems; customization to your institutional Website set-up price ranges from \$1000 to 4,000; administrators can monitor usage of a school or department's account, create and change profiles and passwords and manage archives of uploaded papers.
Report Samples	From Edutie: http://www.edutie.com/sample_report.htm

PlagiServe.com

Vendor	Olexiy Shevchenko, Max Litvin, and Sasha Lugovskyy
Demo/Trial	No
Pricing Structure	Free
Platform	Web
Submission Formats	Cut & paste text in text box by faculty
Scope of Search	Searches the Internet and "paper mills"; has a local database of reportedly 70,000 student term papers, essays, and Cliff notes.
Results Format	Web based
Results Turnaround	Generates a report in less than 12 hours.
Archives Student Papers	Information presently not available.
Summary of Reviews	Generates a reports in less than 12 hours
Comments	Though you must register, it provides free, unlimited use; service is based in the Ukraine.
Identified Limitations	Instructor must submit all papers to system in one batch; only available through its website; cannot access subscription websites.

Special Features	Provides list of resources for further information about plagiarism.
Report Samples	From PlagiServe: http://www.plagiserve.com/sample.htm From "Results of Oxford's test of four text-based plagiarism detection tools" by Frances Condron (2001): http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/lrg/reports/pappendix1.html

Turnitin.com

Vendor	iParadigms, LLC/Plagarism.org
Demo/Trial	Yes; Free 1 month subscription includes 5 "Originality Reports"; Tutorials available for various features of service.
Pricing Structure	\$100 for an individual instructor; Site license based on institution's size, number of subscribers, and structure of institution: secondary school, 2-year college, 4-year college, and distance education. Est. \$4000 per annum for unlimited reports
Platform	Web
Submission Formats	Recommends MSWord and other word-processing, plain text; by faculty and students
Scope of Search	Submitted student papers are compared to internet resources; then against a database of previously submitted papers.
Results Format	Web based
Results Turnaround	"Originality Reports" reported to be returned in more than 24 hours.
Archives Student Papers	Yes. Student papers are retained in the TurnItIn.com database. All future submissions to the service are then checked against that growing database.
Summary of Reviews	In JISC study it scored low in technical reliability but high regarding ease of distribution. Also, JISC described

	this portal as having "poor technical support responses" and "high price outlay for mass uptake of their service".
Comments	
Identified Limitations	Trial searches web resources only; originality reports reported to be returned in more than 24 hours of submission; only available through its website; cannot access subscription websites.
Special Features	Offers a "Peer Review" feature where instructors can customize assignments so that students can then use it to review and evaluate each others' work; "Digital Portfolio" allows students and teachers to review their papers previously submitted and archived.
Report Samples	Originality Reports from TurnItIn.com: http://www.turnitin.com/services_1.html ; Peer Review: http://www.turnitin.com/services_2.html From "Results of Oxford's test of four text-based plagiarism detection tools" by Frances Condon (2001): http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/reports/pappendix1.html
JISC Ratings* Key: Excellent ***** Good **** Acceptable *** Poor ** Unsatisfactory *	
Developers Stability	*****
Speed of Response	*****
Clarity of Reports	*****
Accuracy of Reports	*****
Reliability of Software/Service	**

Glatt Plagiarism Self-Detection Program (GPSD)

Vendor	Glatt Plagiarism Services, Inc.
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<i>Demo/Trial</i>	No
<i>Pricing Structure</i>	Free online or order a Windows 95/98/NT version, \$65
<i>Platform</i>	Web
<i>Submission Formats</i>	Plain text, cut & paste into text box; by faculty
<i>Scope of Search</i>	A test designed to help users become more sensitive to their own writing style; it eliminates every fifth word and evaluates the student's accuracy and speed in replacing the words.
<i>Results Format</i>	Web based
<i>Results Turnaround</i>	Test is generated immediately.
<i>Archives Student Papers</i>	No. It seems to have the potential, but the function of the software has a different purpose.
<i>Summary of Reviews</i>	Helpful if the source of suspected student writing cannot be found. Can be used as a follow-up after detection of suspected student writing.
<i>Comments</i>	
<i>Identified Limitations</i>	Disclaimer admits: "Although it bears many similarities to the GLATT PLAGIARISM SCREENING PROGRAM... results on the PLAGIARISM SELF-DETECTION TEST are significantly less reliable"
<i>Special Features</i>	
<i>Report Samples</i>	N/A

Moss: Measure of Software Similarity

<i>Vendor</i>	Alex Aiken, developer
<i>Demo/Trial</i>	No

Pricing Structure	Free
Platform	Unix, Windows
Submission Formats	C, C++, Java, Pascal, Ada, ML, Lisp, or Scheme programs; by faculty
Scope of Search	Finds similarities among multiple sets of source code files.
Results Format	HTML pages listing pairs of programs with similar code
Results Turnaround	Reported to be quick; processing time is < 1 minute, but email latency on the Internet may delay results a few minutes longer. (MOSS)
Archives Student Papers	Yes. Results are retained for 10 days, then everything is reported to be deleted. (MOSS)
Summary of Reviews	According to JISC study, "Poor technical support response." "Turnaround of results is quick...but less quick than Copycatch"
Comments	Tool can be downloaded from website; assignments need to be submitted in one batch.
Identified Limitations	Accounts restricted to instructors and staff of programming courses.
Special Features	Automatically eliminates matches to code that is expected to be shared (e.g., libraries or instructor-supplied code).
Report Samples	N/A

Jplag

Vendor	Department of Informatics at the University of Karlsruhe
Demo/Trial	No

Pricing Structure	Free; must e-mail for account setup
Platform	Web based
Submission Formats	Java, C++, C, Scheme, Natural Language; by faculty
Scope of Search	Finds similarities among multiple sets of source code files. In addition to comparing bytes of text, it tracks programming language syntax and program structure, which guards against similarities between plagiarized files.
Results Format	HTML
Results Turnaround	Reported to be quick; processing time is < 1 minute. (Jplag)
Archives Student Papers	No. Of course some of the code is part of the resulting web pages which are stored on our server, but you can remove them whenever you want to. When you are using the command-line version the results are downloaded and removed automatically. (Jplag)
Summary of Reviews	
Comments	E-mail for account; assignments need to be submitted in one batch for similarity matching.
Identified Limitations	Suggests that it can be used for detection in text documents but producers do not support the success with this type of document.
Special Features	N/A
Report Samples	http://www.wipd.ira.uka.de:2222/example/

Under Development

Tool Name	Type of Detection	Developer	URL
MatchDetect Reveal (MDR)	Cut & Paste	School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Monash University	http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~kmonosto/MDR/
Non- Verbatim Copyright Infringement Detection for text	Cut & Paste (paraphrase)	By Ozlem Uzuner & Boris Katz	http://www.ai.mit.edu/research/abstracts/abstracts2001/information-access/09uzuner.pdf

Defunct Services and Tools

- HowOriginal.com
- Paperbin.com
- Digital-Integrity.com
- FindSame.com

Choosing a Detection Tool: *Stand-alone Desktop Software*

Tool Name	Type of Detection	URL	
CopyCatch Gold	Collusion	http://www.copycatch.freemove.co.uk	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
EVE2	Cut & Paste	http://www.canexus.com/eve/index.shtml	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
Glatt Plagiarism Screening Program (GPSP)	Cut & Paste; Collusion; Fraud	http://www.plagiarism.com/	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
Glatt Plagiarism Self-Detection Program (GPSD)	Cut & Paste; Fraud	http://www.plagiarism.com	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
WordCheck Keyword DP	Collusion	http://www.wordchecksyste.ms.com/wordcheck-dp.html	MORE INFORMATION (see below)
Wcopyfind	Collusion	http://plagiarism.phys.virginia.edu/Wsoftware.html	MORE INFORMATION (see below)

CopyCatch Gold

Vendor	CFL Software Development
Demo/Trial	Not readily offered on site; possibly available by request.

<i>Pricing Structure</i>	250£
<i>Platform</i>	Windows; installed on user's PC; can be installed on network; Java version soon available.
<i>Submission Formats</i>	Various document formats, e-mail; by faculty and students
<i>Scope of Search</i>	Compares work collected by instructor to web resources as well as an internal database.
<i>Results Format</i>	Web based
<i>Results Turnaround</i>	Results are nearly instantaneous because they happen on your network. (CopyCatch)
<i>Archives Student Papers</i>	No. The program lives on your computers. It uses the work your students produce or any electronic sources you have on your site, so (it) can compare last year with this year if you have the data. (CopyCatch)
<i>Summary of Reviews</i>	Culwin & Lancaster (2001): "wins hands down on value and money."
<i>Comments</i>	Instructor can set due dates within the system; results are processed in a batch after the due date; password necessary to access results.
<i>Identified Limitations</i>	Will not accept student submissions after the due date; cannot access subscription websites.
<i>Special Features</i>	Can be used to assist writing development, by allowing students to see where they are not interpreting text but are simply repeating it. Also allows students to see if and where they are repeating their own ideas. Campus license includes CopyCheck (used by students, allows the loading of electronic sources on one side of the screen and lets them practice paraphrase on the other side....; under development).
<i>Report Samples</i>	From Copycatch: http://www.copycatch.freemove.co.uk/ccessay1.htm

	From "Results of Oxford's test of four text-based plagiarism detection tools" by Frances Condon (2001): http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/reports/pappendix1.html
JISC Ratings* Key: Excellent ***** Good **** Acceptable *** Poor ** Unsatisfactory *	
Developers Stability	*
Speed of Response	*****
Clarity of Reports	*****
Accuracy of Reports	*****
Reliability of Software/Service	*****

EVE2

Vendor	CaNexus.com
Demo/Trial	Yes; Free 15 trial
Pricing Structure	Individual instructor- \$19.95 (one time charge with free updates). Site license is a one time charge, start at \$299.00 for high schools and grade schools, and \$399 for Universities and Colleges.
Platform	Windows (PC); Installed on user's workstation
Submission Formats	Plain text, Microsoft Word, or Corel Word Perfect; text must be cut and paste into a text box by instructor.
Scope of Search	Searches Internet resources through internet search engines; does not collect student work.
Results Format	Windows based with URLs of possible Internet sources
Results Turnaround	Depends on the speed of your computer, and the speed of your Internet connection, and the size of the paper. ^

	typical time is a few minutes per 2500 words. (CaNexus)
Archives Student Papers	No. We will never share your students' work with anyone else; our software is designed to make this impossible. (CaNexus)
Summary of Reviews	Culwin & Lancaster suggest using a web-based tool instead (p.5).
Comments	After submission the software then begins the search for the suspected text. This requires a continued connection to the Internet during the searching process. Results are presented in a pop-up window.
Identified Limitations	Students cannot submit their own papers; does not trace documents that are not in HTML format; cannot search for collusion within your students' coursework unless they are published on the web; cannot access subscription websites; not easily installed on server.
Special Features	EVE 2.4 under development
Report Samples	Report examples from Ramona Islam, Fairfield University: http://library2.fairfield.edu/instruction/ramona/analysis.html From "Results of Oxford's test of four text-based plagiarism detection tools" by Frances Condron (2001): http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/lrg/reports/pappendix1.html
JISC Ratings* Key: Excellent ***** Good **** Acceptable *** Poor ** Unsatisfactory *	
Developers Stability	***
Speed of Response	***
Clarity of Reports	***
Accuracy of Reports	***

Reliability of Software/Service	***
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Glatt Plagiarism Screening Program (GPSP)

Vendor	Glatt Plagiarism Services, Inc.
Demo/Trial	No
Pricing Structure	\$300.00; \$250.00 if purchased with Glatt Plagiarism Self-Detection Program
Platform	Windows (PC); Installed on user's workstation
Submission Formats	Plain text files
Scope of Search	"Knowledge tester"—The program eliminates every fifth word and evaluates the student's accuracy and speed in replacing them. The score is based on a proprietary database, statistical variables, and probability theory.
Results Format	Program based; Windows
Results Turnaround	Reported to be immediate. (Glatt)
Archives Student Papers	N/A
Summary of Reviews	
Comments	Program available in CD-ROM format; Useful for detecting plagiarism from an unidentifiable source, because it evaluates how well a student remembers 'own' writing"; Glatt Plagiarism Teaching Program for student use to prevent plagiarism is also available.
Identified Limitations	Program does not detect the source of suspected text, it evaluates a student's knowledge of their own writing
Special Features	Program does not detect the source of suspected text, it evaluates a student's knowledge of their own writing

Report Samples	N/A
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WordCheck Keyword DP

Vendor	Information Analytics
Demo/Trial	Yes; Free 30-day trial; 5 documents
Pricing Structure	WordCHECK DP Profiler Basic - \$59 academic price, 1000 profiles; WordCHECK DP Profiler Pro - \$179 academic price, 3,000 profiles and WordCHECK Site License Program—see http://www.wordchecksystems.com/sitelicense.html
Platform	Windows (PC)
Submission Formats	Word processing file formats, plain-text
Scope of Search	Searches and compares content stored on local hard drive
Results Format	Program based; Windows
Results Turnaround	Reported to be quick (WordCheck); processing time is < 1 minute.
Archives Student Papers	N/A; searches and compares content stored on local hard drive in user-controlled database only.
Summary of Reviews	According to JISC study (2001), results are quick, but less quick than CopyCatch; easy to mass distribute; poor technical support; and pricing is cost effective.
Comments	Fully functional trial subscription.
Identified Limitations	Does not detect plagiarism from Internet sources; Cannot be installed on network for multiple users.
Special Features	Stand-alone product that does not need web access.
Report Samples	From Wordcheck.com: http://www.wordchecksystems.com/examples/gettysburg.htm

JISC Ratings* Key: Excellent ***** Good **** Acceptable *** Poor ** Unsatisfactory *	
Developers Stability	***
Speed of Response	*****
Clarity of Reports	*
Accuracy of Reports	*
Reliability of Software/Service	*****

Wcopyfind

Vendor	Lou Bloomfield, Professor of Physics, University of Virginia
Demo/Trial	N/A
Pricing Structure	Free
Platform	Windows (PC)
Submission Formats	Complete files, HTML
Scope of Search	Local files on hard drive or a local file server, including local files with .htm or .html extensions; web-resident documents that are pointed to by local Internet shortcuts (URLs).
Results Format	HTML
Results Turnaround	Reported to be quick (Wcopyfind); processing time is < 1 minute.
Archives	N/A; program only scans through documents that you have

<i>Student Papers</i>	in your collection or have identified on the web.
<i>Summary of Reviews</i>	
<i>Comments</i>	
<i>Identified Limitations</i>	Cannot search Internet resources unless you specify an exact URL you suspect as a possible source; cannot access subscription websites.
<i>Special Features</i>	
<i>Report Samples</i>	Report examples from Ramona Islam, Fairfield University: http://library2.fairfield.edu/instruction/ramona/analysis.html

Choosing a Detection Tool: *Web Search Engines and Other Web Resources*

General Search Tips for Detection

Using web search engines can be a quick and easy way to get started *without downloading any software or registering* for an account with an available detection service. If you are considering using a web search engine or another Index to online resources, you should first be clear that the tool you select will meet your need.

When using a search engine, keep in mind the following points:

- When searching, choose a unique phrase from the suspected text. Unlike the detection tools previously discussed, you cannot upload a complete file to search engines; you must identify a specific string of text to submit.
- Be sure to familiarize yourself with the method to 'phrase search' the tool of your choice. A common method of phrase searching is accomplished by putting your text string in quotations (""). Exact phrase searching can be helpful if you think that the student has copied someone else's words verbatim.
- If you suspect that they may have paraphrased another author, try using Google.com because of its sophisticated search algorithm and page ranking.
- Consider beginning with a powerful search engine or meta-search engine; these tools will access several other web databases and search engines concurrently.
- Follow up this search, by searching Internet directories and online bookstores. Online bookstores sometimes offer extensive book reviews and are crawled by several of the most common search engines.
- Other unique places to search would be in the index of Paper Mills and free online databases of scholarly literature.
- Finding suspected text that may have originated from a discussion groups, Usnet, mailing list and Multi-User Domains (MUDs and MOOs) can be more difficult because electronic discussion has to be archived to be found by most Internet search engines.

Suggested Places to Begin

Meta-engines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AllTheWeb.com, http://www.alltheweb.com • Altavista.com, http://www.altavista.com • Google.com, http://www.google.com • Dogpile.com (Good for newsgroups), http://www.dogpile.com • Metacrawler.com, http://www.metacrawler.com
Directories:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looksmart.com, http://www.looksmart.com • OpenDirectory.com, http://dmoz.org/ • Yahoo.com, http://www.yahoo.com
Online Bookstores:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon.com, http://www.amazon.com • Barnes & Noble.com, http://www.bn.com • Borders.com, http://www.borders.com
Sites for Search Assistance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major engines, from SearchEngineWatch.com, http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/ • Web Searching Tips, from SearchEngineWatch.com, http://www.searchenginewatch.com/facts/index.html • How search Engines Work, from SearchEngineWatch.com, http://www.searchenginewatch.com/webmasters/work.html

Unique Web Resources

Site Name	Description	URL
Find Articles.com	Full-text magazine and journal articles	http://www.findarticles.com/
News Index.com	Latest news articles	http://www.newsindex.com/

	published on the Web	
The Paper Store	Paper mill	http://www.paperstore.net/
Internet Subject Specific Paper Mills	List compiled by Peggy Bates and Margaret Fan, Kimbel Library, Coastal Carolina College	http://www.coastal.edu/library/mills5.htm

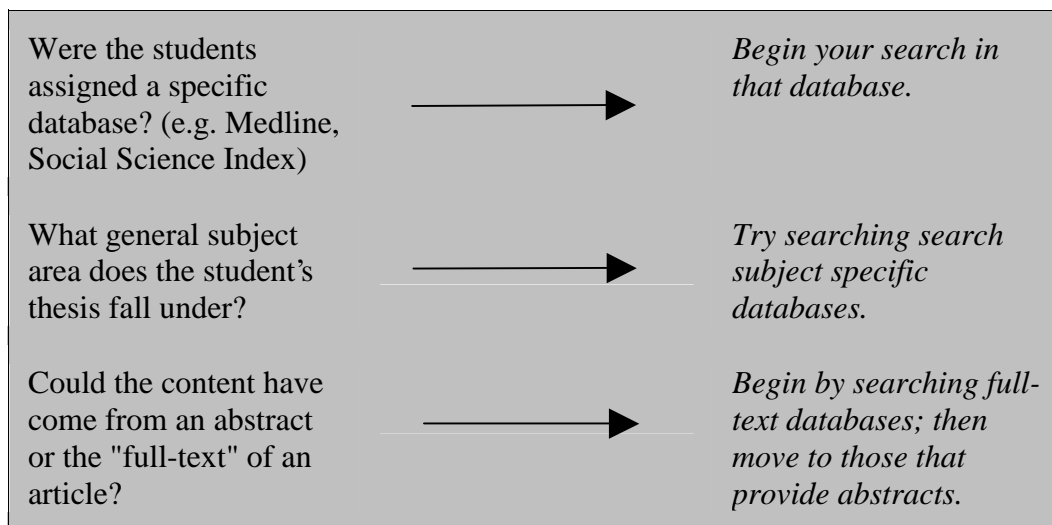
Choosing a Detection Tool: *Subscription Databases*

General Search Tips for Detection

A suspected text source that may have been taken from a periodical resource indexed in a subscription database can be difficult to uncover. At the present time, most detection tools and services cannot provide access to subscription databases. Therefore, the instructor is left with the task of out-thinking the student, and deciding in what database to begin their search. This is a time consuming process however, most academic libraries make available at least one **general full-text database** that undergraduates gravitate towards as a first-stop in their research. These include examples such as:

- Academic Search Premier
- LexisNexis Academic
- Proquest Direct
- Expanded Academic ASAP, Infotrac
- EbscoHost

If searching fails, this can be narrowed by asking:



Count yourself one step ahead if your library makes available the opportunity to search multiple databases concurrently from one interface. Choose a unique phrase from the suspected text and

investigate how to 'phrase-search' within the chosen database. If this feature is not available, select specific key concepts or keywords from the text in question to combine with Boolean operators (http://florin.syr.edu/webarch/searchpro/boolean_tutorial.html).

Detection Workshops and Training

While plagiarism and student academic integrity are cross-curricular concerns, workshops can be developed to meet the specific needs of individual academic departments and instructors. Detection software can fit into many niches within the campus community. No matter what stage you or your campus may be regarding plagiarism detection and detection tools; it remains a growing concern for educators. Because of its varied application, leadership in campus communities in choosing and implementing detection tools may come from a variety of sources. If you would like to develop resources or awareness on your campus, consider presenting professional development workshops on the subject.

Interested entities are:

- IT Departments
- Course Developers
- Course Instructors
- Librarians
- Writing Center Instructors and Advisors
- Individual Departmental Faculty

Plagiarism detection and prevention is a cooperative effort. Course faculty often seek out librarians for assistance when confronted with suspected plagiarized text. Librarians are a good source for guidance on searching Subscription Databases as well as Internet resources. They should be consulted for workshops offered.

Resources for UMUC Faculty

A Web-based plagiarism detection service is available to UMUC faculty and staff worldwide who are currently teaching or support teaching activities at UMUC. For more information and to learn how to request an account, see the UMUC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (<http://www.umuc.edu/library/turnitin.html>).

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Terminology Appendix

Accuracy of Reports—"Eleven essays were tested a total of 116 times over a period of three months. Those that search the Internet returned inconsistent results for the same plagiarized material depending on when they were submitted" (JISC, 2001, p.8).

Archives Student Papers—By design, desktop software allows the user to control their student's papers because they are typically not submitted to an outside service and stores the papers in a local environment/network.

Clarity of Reports—Results examined for accuracy, clarity of coding, and for the contribution that clarity made to the speed of interpretation (JISC, 2001, p. 9).

Comments—Additional notes on service/tool.

Demo/Trial—Identifies if a free trial is available. Many free services do not offer demos or trials.

Developer's Stability—JISC rating given for "level of support offered, professional web-site design, and industry experience of vendors" (JISC, 2001, p.10).

Identified Limitations—Notes issues that may be of concern to a potential user.

JISC Ratings—**Joint Information Systems Committee (2001)**. Technical review of plagiarism detection software report. Luton, Bedfordshire: University of Luton and Computer Assisted Assessment Centre. Retrieved May 22, 2002, from <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/pub01/luton.pdf>

Platform—Notes whether tool/service is operated from a web site or desktop software.

Pricing Structure—Cost to use tool/service. Notes if individual or site license is available.

Reliability of Software/Service—Web based portals are believed to be less reliable because they work across multiple networks and depend on unknown factors. The reliability of the service has a direct impact on the reliability of results (JISC, 2001, p. 9).

Report Samples—Provides hyperlinks to examples of the detection results provided by the named product.

Results Format—Notes the method reports or results of a search are displayed for the user. Often products that detect "cut & paste" plagiarism, display results in HTML and provides hyperlinks to the source text.

Results Turnaround Time—The time it takes to receive an evaluated student paper after submission.

Scope of Search—Notes the sources consulted when a search is executed.

Special Features—Highlights additional features offered by the service/tool.

Speed of Response—Products that rely on the Internet and World Wide Web will have slower turnaround-time than those running locally (JISC, 2001, p.10).

Submission Formats—Notes the electronic file formats accepted by the tool/service.

Summary of Reviews—Gives snippets of user's experiences from other resources.

Tool Name—The name of a currently available utility used to identify the source of suspected plagiarized text.

Type of Detection—*Collusion*: instances where students within one class or over several semesters or years may have re-cycled the same work or are working too closely together; *Cut & Paste*: plagiarized text that has been taken from a web or electronic source and used without attribution; *Fraud*: submitting a complete text written by someone other than yourself for assessment.

URL—The web address of detection tool or service.

Vendor—Identifies producer, developer, or responsible entity for the name's tool or service.