Avoid Plagiarism – Provide Attribution with the IEEE Style

Definitions, rules, and hints

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Plagiarism is taken seriously at the U of Arkansas

"It is the responsibility of all University students to understand the methods of proper attribution and to apply those principles in all materials submitted.”

- **Academic Integrity at the University of Arkansas**
  From the Provost of the University of Arkansas

- **Academic Integrity Sanction Rubric**
  Explains violation levels and the sanctions imposed at the University of Arkansas

- A helpful resource
  - [http://uark.libguides.com/plagiarism](http://uark.libguides.com/plagiarism)

Proper attribution varies by discipline!
Plagiarism will have an Immediate Impact

- It is possible to plagiarize in a draft document.
- It is possible to plagiarize on tests, especially those taken out of class that require referenced resources.
- It is possible to plagiarize in presentations.
- **Plagiarism is a level two violation for graduate students.**
  - XF applied for the course (if course related) and one sanction point earned.
  - At two sanction points, the student will be suspended for two full semesters (the student will be allowed to complete the current semester).
What is plagiarism?

“Scholarly authors generously acknowledge their debts to predecessors by carefully giving credit to each source. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you wrote or thought something that you in fact borrowed from someone, and to do so is a violation of professional ethics.”


[an example of an informal citation for a presentation]
Self plagiarism

According to the ACM governing body..

“In fact, the ACM Copyright Policy is rather liberal in granting authors the right to reuse any portion of their ACM copyrighted works in other works of their own. However, what is not ethical is the practice of reusing one’s own work in a way that portrays it as new when, in fact, it is not. Thus, reusing significant portions of a previously published work in another work of your own is acceptable, provided you cite the previous work and include a disclaimer stating a portion of the current work was previously published.”[1]

Common Knowledge

- Attribution not required when
  - You know the information without referring to a resource
  - A non-expert in your field is aware of the information
  - You find it in multiple reference tools (however, be sure that they aren’t all referencing the same source)
  - AND YOU USE YOUR OWN WORDS

- Cite it in your draft (recommendation)
  - Easier to remove a citation than to find out where you got the information later
  - Allows you to return to a source to verify information

- You faculty advisor is the final authority on what is common knowledge.
A recent example

- From outside the US
  - On April 2, 2012 Pal Schmitt resigned as Hungary's President after being accused of plagiarism.

- A comment made by Pal Schmitt in a TV station M1 interview on 3/30/12.

  "I have a clean conscience. I have written my thesis with my best knowledge I had at the time, and I never intended to plagiarize. However, I will accept the decision of the (University) Senate that has withdrawn my doctorate. But this has got nothing to do with me being a president."
"Most parts of Pål Schmitt's 215-page thesis - in hvg.hu's estimate some 180 pages - contain a word for word translation of a study Nikolai Georgiev had written in French before, which raises the suspicion of plagiarism," the report said.

President Schmitt strongly denied the allegations. The dissertation was evaluated by a panel of history professors. "The summa cum laude speaks for itself," he said in a statement. He knew Nikolai Georgiev and they had collaborated together on several topics. They had both used the minutes of International Olympic Committee meetings and other Olympics documents as sources.
Copyright issue!

- Translations are *derivative works* and can not be done without permission from the copyright holder.

- We are not talking about copyright issues today. It is best to remember
  - Copyright is about “fixed expressions” and economics of ownership.
  - Plagiarism is about ideas and the ethical issues around scholarship/attribution.
University Senate revokes Pál Schmitt’s doctoral (dr. univ.) title –

“since the former candidate’s doctoral dissertation is based on lengthy literal translations, it does not meet the professional and ethical criteria of the ‘dissertation prepared using scientific methods’ requirement for obtaining a university doctorate.”

“It was honest, manly work”: Hungarian President Pál Schmitt Refuses to Resign

Posted on March 31, 2012

Hungary’s president Pál Schmitt has been embroiled in a plagiarism scandal. Accusations were brought in January that 180 out of his 215-page-long doctoral dissertation were lifted from another author, but close scrutiny following in the wake of the scandal has also revealed that Schmitt copied from several other sources as well.

Excerpt from the Interview (a translation)

Schmitt: Let me repeat, because this is a matter of personal honor, this is one of the reasons I am giving this interview and I find this very important, that I did not intend to declare anyone’s intellectual property to be my own. I listed my sources. I followed the instructions.
Plagiarizing, that is, the offering as one’s own work, the words, ideas, or arguments of another person or using the work of another without appropriate attribution by quotation, reference, or footnote. Plagiarism occurs both when the words of another (in print, electronic, or any other medium) are reproduced without acknowledgement and when the ideas or arguments of another are paraphrased in such a way as to lead the reader to believe that they originated with the writer. It is not sufficient to provide a citation if the words of another have been reproduced – this also requires quotation marks. It is the responsibility of all University students to understand the methods of proper attribution and to apply those principles in all materials submitted.

The Electrical Engineering Department uses the **IEEE style** for attribution. Use this unless directed otherwise by your faculty advisor or instructor. Most examples in this presentation are based on that style with some additional information added.
Avoid Plagiarism Accusations

- Proper attribution
  - In-text citation
  - Reference
- Use your OWN words (paraphrase well)
  - Provide attribution if it is not your work or your idea
- When in doubt provide attribution
The basics of attribution

- Keep track of all your sources using proper attributions in everything you write ALL the time
  - this way you will never forget to provide attribution
- Drafts should have in-text citations even if a formatted reference is not yet included
  - RefWorks can assist you in this process
- The final document must have complete references
  - These should be formatted in the IEEE style unless otherwise instructed
  - Each reference should lead the reader to the original source
Provide attribution when

- It is not your words
- It is not your idea*
- It is not your work
  - Images including photographs, charts, graphs, diagrams
  - Lab work
  - Data*

*Except for “Common Knowledge”
The concept of biomaterials seems to be well defined in the engineering community today. *The Biomedical Engineering Handbook* states, “A biomaterial is used to make devices to replace a part or a function of the body in a safe, reliable, economic, and physiologically acceptable manner.”


- Yes – even remembered the quotation marks
- No – because the reference is poorly formatted
- No – because there is no in-text citation

This example was taken from an article I wrote in 2004 and has been modified.
In-text citations – IEEE style

- The in-text citation provides attribution.
- The in-text citation allows the reader to easily distinguish between your work and the work or ideas of others.
- The in-text citation sends the reader to the reference.
- IEEE uses a square bracket with a number, sequentially applied for the in-text citation. [1]
- Possible exception – unpublished information may not require an in-text citation as a reference may not be required. However unpublished information is still acknowledged with appropriate text. “Dr. XXX mentioned in her class that.....”

A list of references is not sufficient.
- **Without an in-text citation, you have plagiarized.**
IEEE style guide.

- IEEE has specific style guide.
  - Electrical Engineering LibGuide has a tab for Citing Sources
    Or
    http://uark.libguides.com/ELEG

- Incorrectly formatted references are an indication of inattention to detail.

- Your faculty advisor is the final authority unless he/she provides other directions.
Mechanics of attribution (IEEE style)

- Paraphrase whenever possible.
  - Paraphrasing well takes time! Especially dense technical information.

- Use introductory phrases when appropriate
  - Smith said ... [1].
  - According to Jones ... [2].
  - Papers presented at the IEEE conference indicated ... [3].

- In-text citations with square brackets.
  - Sequentially numbered.
  - Generally at the end of the sentence that completes the idea.
  - Inside the punctuation.
Direct Quotations

- It is not common to quote directly in electrical engineering writings.
- Quotation marks are essential when you do.
- IEEE style does not clearly indicate placement of in-text citations for direct quotes.
- Based on *Chicago Manual of Style*, in-text citation come immediately after the quotation, outside the quotation marks.

“A note number should generally be placed at the end of a sentence or at the end of a clause. The number normally follows a quotation (whether it is run in to the text or set as an extract). Relative to other punctuation, the number follows any punctuation mark except for the dash, which it precedes.”[1]

Technical terms, data

- Known technical terms do not need quotation marks
- Data you did not measure yourself and is not general knowledge requires attribution

“If you construct a figure or a table from data that were previously published as narrative text, you do not need permission, but you should reference the source of the data … [1].”

Images require attribution!

Falkirk Wheel Side [1]

Tables, charts and images

- The IEEE style guides do not specify how to provide attribution in these cases, just that attribution is required.
- Individual journals and conferences may have specific requirements.
- A recommendation:
  - Create a title (above the item) or caption (below the item).
  - Append the in-text citation to the title or caption.
- Another option (attribution less direct):
  - In the text state where the information in the table or chart was obtained and provide the in-text citation as appropriate.
  - Include the in-text citation if you refer to the item in your text.

Table 1 clearly shows that ...... [1].
Use the original when the details are important.

Cite where you got the information you used in your paper or report.

FIG. 14-31  Pressure drop for a valve plate, measured versus model prediction of Bolles [Chem. Eng. Progr. 72(9), 43 (1976)]. Reproduced with permission of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Copyright © 1976 AICHE. All rights reserved.

Taken from:
Style vs. intent

- If you cannot identify the author, a title, a publishing organization, and a publication date, **find a better resource**.

- But if you still use it – cite it.

- Better to cite badly without the proper style than to plagiarize.
“A key purpose of a reference ... is to aid the reader in finding the source of information.... When in doubt, it is better to err on the side of providing more information rather than less — if it could help the reader locate the reference, include it.” [1]

References

Tools to detect plagiarism

- SafeAssign™ is available through Blackboard
- This tool can only HELP
- It does not provide definitive answers
- Only deals with words and phrases, not the mechanical issues of citing.

- More information available at: 
Questions? Discussion?
Later in that speech, Mr. Streit used material that is nearly identical to portions of two Associated Press articles and a mythology-influenced Web site called Penumbra.

http://chronicle.com/article/Malone-U-President-Steps-Down/64328/

Academic?
Real world consequences.