Fight Plagiarism Using iThenticate
Kenneth Pinto, Educational Technologist
Centre for Instructional Technology
Plagiarism prevention in NUS

- What is plagiarism?
- Overview of iThenticate
- Some myths and facts about iThenticate
- How to use iThenticate to avoid plagiarism
What is plagiarism?
A short video to get you thinking about academic integrity vis-à-vis iThenticate
The My Little Pony Defence

“Melania Trump said, ‘the strength of your dreams and willingness to work for them.’

Twilight Sparkle from ‘My Little Pony’ said, ‘This is your dream. Anything you can do in your dreams, you can do now.’ ”

Sean Spicer, Chief Strategist, Republican National Committee
edition.cnn.com/2016/07/19/politics/melania-trump-michelle-obama-speech

What is plagiarism?
The Common Words Defence

“There’s no cribbing of Michelle Obama’s speech. These were common words and values that [Melania Trump] cares about — her family, things like that.”

Paul Manafort, Trump Campaign Chairman
www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/melania-trump-speech-plagiarized_us_578da752e4b0a0ae97c33675

What is plagiarism?
The 6% Defence

“Turnitin* spokesman Chris Harrick popped both speeches into his company’s anti-plagiarism algorithm… and found that six percent of [Melania] Trump’s speech… matched the first lady’s eight years ago. Trump used 63 words that matched [Michelle] Obama’s, and of those, 23 were ‘cloned’ in the same exact sequence from the 2008 speech.”

* iThenticate is by the same company as Turnitin

Melania Trump’s Speech Took 6 Percent of Words From Michelle Obama: Text Analysis Company
Overview of iThenticate

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT TURNITIN AND ITHENTICATE ARE THE SAME
iThenticate History

- iThenticate in NUS since 2014
- iThenticate account (request from CIT)
What does iThenticate do?

- You submit a paper to iThenticate.
- iThenticate generates a similarity report and index.
What does iThenticate *not* do?

- iThenticate *does not* determine if you have plagiarised.

Overview of iThenticate
### iThenticate & Turnitin Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>iThenticate</th>
<th>Turnitin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postgraduates, academic staff, researchers check own work</td>
<td>Instructors check students’ work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td>SimilarityCheck</td>
<td>SimilarityCheck, <em>GradeMark</em>, <em>PeerMark</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sources (1)</td>
<td>60 billion web pages, 144 million content items</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sources (2)</td>
<td><em>ProQuest Dissertations</em></td>
<td>300 million student papers</td>
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Overview of iThenticate
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>iThenticate</th>
<th>Turnitin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **File sizes** | 400 pages or less  
                 | 40 MB or less       |
| **File types** | Most text formats (doc, docx, pdf, txt, rtf, odt…) |                     |
| **NUS-specific** | Access via ithenticate.com | Access via IVLE or turnitin.com |

Source:
[wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/cit/Turnitin+and+iThenticate+Comparison](http://wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/cit/Turnitin+and+iThenticate+Comparison)

Overview of iThenticate
Myths and facts about iThenticate
What shows up as similar?

- A proper quotation
- An improper quotation
- References
- Common short phrases
The Similarity Index shows the percentage of paper that is plagiarised.

The similarity index shows similarity to other sources, even legitimate quotations and citations/references.

Adapted from:
The Similarity Index shows the percentage of paper that is plagiarised.

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Myths and facts about iThenticate
You can determine if a paper is OK or not from the Similarity Index.

The Similarity Index must be interpreted in the context of the paper and the actual writing. A low Similarity Index does not mean no plagiarism. Conversely, a high Similarity Index does not automatically mean plagiarised.

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Myths and facts about iThenticate
Side note:
I am aware that many journals and publications set a certain threshold for the Similarity Index.
In my opinion, this is naive and wrong.
iThenticate compares a paper against everything ever written.

There are sources that are not in [iThenticate]—especially if that material is only available in print.

Adapted from:

iThenticate compares a paper against everything ever written.

There are sources that are not in [iThenticate]—especially if that material is only available in print.


Myths and facts about iThenticate
iThenticate is infallible.

Sometimes, iThenticate does not highlight similarity as much as it should. Perhaps the source is not in the database. Perhaps you have paraphrased and restructured so much that the algorithm is fooled. Or other reasons.
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Matched text is likely to be completely coincidental or common knowledge.

The likelihood that a 16-word match is “just a coincidence” is less than 1 in a trillion. Turnitin also includes the ability to exclude “small matches” if the instructor wants to exclude common phrases.

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Your paper becomes part of the iThenticate database.

iThenticate does not store your papers as part of a student database (unlike Turnitin). However, you can choose to add your paper to the institutional database and/or a personal database.

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Myths and facts about iThenticate
How to use iThenticate to avoid plagiarism

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY

TAKE THE SIMILARITY INDEX AT FACE VALUE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Processed</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEST</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td>Nov 2, 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TEST</td>
<td>7:29:55 AM</td>
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</tbody>
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Destination Folder
My Folders - My Documents

Report & Repository Options

- Generate Report Only
- to Document Repository & Generate Report
- to Document Repository Only

Upload #1
Author First Name

Submit a document

31,555 Pages remaining

Upload a File
Zip File Upload
Cut & Paste

View: Recent Uploads

File Requirements
Files must be less than 40MB.
The maximum document length is 400 pages.
Author Last Name

Document Title

Browse for the file you would like to submit

Choose File

Add another file

Upload  Cancel
Globalization Economics

Inequality—Unsound Policies—IMF and The World Bank

According to Joseph E. Stiglitz, Columbia University Economist and winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics—the great hope of globalization is that it will raise living standards throughout the world. This seems like an agreeable bottom line and though globalization has done much for many, what has been done hasn’t reached many of the places and people that need it most. A survey done by the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization surveyed seventy-three countries. They found that in every region of the world except South Asia, the United States, and the European Union, unemployment rates increased between 1990 and 2002. They also found that 59 percent of the world’s people were living in countries with growing inequality, with only 5 percent living in countries with declining inequality (Stiglitz, 2007, p. 8).

Market Complexities
Economics drives globalization. Opening markets and freeing trade barriers so people can buy and sell their goods and services to whomever the please is one of most important goals of globalization. Allowing Adam Smith’s “Invisible Hand” to work its magic and allocate resources in the most efficient and effective way, thus, creating work and cheaper products and services for the whole world to use and enjoy it seems simple. In reality, it’s incredibly complex. The fact that a country opens itself to the outside world does not mean all the chips simply fall into place. Even if they want to import goods they can’t without a functioning port, capable people to run it as well as an able-bodied government and other necessary infrastructure like roads. A country that sees its GDP increase (the normal but not comprehensive measure of growth) may not know if the growth is sustainable. Education, knowledge and technology gaps must be filled if development is going to continue in any country.

Match Overview

1. Internet 80 words crawled on 10-Oct-2011 www.filebox.vt.edu
2. Internet 44 words crawled on 01-Nov-2014 garevna.ucoz.com
3. Internet 16 words crawled on 04-Dec-2008 www.ca.forumsyd.org
4. Internet 13 words crawled on 09-Mar-2014 www.peace-ed-campaign.org
5. Internet 13 words crawled on 04-Nov-2014 www.heteronomics.org
6. Internet 11 words crawled on 24-Jan-2015 www.internationaldevelopment.info
Questions to ask yourself

- Is the highlighted text common knowledge?
- Is the highlighted text substantive?
- If the highlighted text is substantive, did I quote (or paraphrase), cite and reference correctly? (Remember, you have to cite your previous work too.)
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politically unsustainable.' [World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization report] The commission surveyed seventy-three countries around the world. Its conclusions were startling. In every region of the world except South Asia, the United States, and the European Union (EU), unemployment rates increased between 1990 and 2002.* The commission also found that 5% of the world's people were living in countries with growing inequality, with only 5% percent living in countries with declining inequality. Even in most of the developed countries, the rich were getting richer while the poor were often not even holding their own. In short, globalization may have helped some countries—such as their GDP, the

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world does not mean all the chips simply fall into place. Even if they want to import goods they can't without a functioning port, capable people to run it as well as an able-bodied government and other necessary infrastructure like roads. A country that sees its GDP increase (the normal but not comprehensive measure of growth) may not know if the growth is sustainable. Education, knowledge and technology gaps must be filled if development is going to continue in any country, and jobs must be created or all will be for not.
YOUR FEEDBACK IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

j.mp/RU-Feedback
Questions?
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citpkg@nus.edu.sg
cit.nus.edu.sg/plagiarism-prevention