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?

DOESN'T KNOW THE ANSWER
SO ASKS, "WHAT DO YOU THINK?"
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, then Chief Strategist, Republican National Committee
dition.cnn.com/2016/07/19/politics/melania-trump-michelle-obama-speech
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 a service provided by Turnitin, LLC.

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

What is plagiarism?
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.
## iThenticate & Turnitin Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>iThenticate</th>
<th>Turnitin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduates, academic staff, researchers check own work</td>
<td>Instructors check students’ work</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td>SimilarityCheck</td>
<td>SimilarityCheck, GradeMark, PeerMark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sources (1)</td>
<td>60 billion web pages, 144 million content items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources (2)</td>
<td>ProQuest Dissertations</td>
<td>300 million student papers</td>
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Overview of iThenticate
# iThenticate & Turnitin Comparison

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<tr>
<td><strong>File sizes</strong></td>
<td>400 pages or less</td>
<td>40 MB or less</td>
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<td>Most text formats (doc, docx, pdf, txt, rtf, odt…)</td>
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<td>Access via ithenticate.com</td>
<td>Access via IVLE / LumiNUS</td>
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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:

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.

Adapted from:

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:


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.
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.

Adapted from:


Myths and facts about iThenticate
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.

Adapted from:
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>
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Upload a file

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My Folders - My Documents

Report & Repository Options

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

Upload #1

Author First Name

Files must be less than 40MB.
The maximum document length is 400 pages.
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 whenever the pleasure 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 an 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 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 to continue in any country.
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. (8) - ‘The commission also found that 5 percent 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 while the poor were often not even holding their own. In short, globalization may have helped some countries – their GDP, the

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 5 percent of the world’s people were living in countries with growing inequality, with only 5 percent living countries with declining inequality

Stiglitz, 2007, p. 8). 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.
Questions?

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cit.nus.edu.sg/plagiarism-prevention
HAVE A MINUTE?
HELP US IMPROVE
j.mp/RUfeedback1