Using iThenticate in Research
Part of NUS Libraries’ Researcher Unbound series
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?
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
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.”

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

What is plagiarism?
Overview of iThenticate
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

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

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<td><strong>File sizes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NUS-specific</strong></td>
<td>Access via ithenticate.com</td>
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[wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/cit/Turnitin+and+iThenticate+Comparison](wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/cit/Turnitin+and+iThenticate+Comparison)
Some myths and facts about iThenticate
The “Similarity Index” shows the percentage of paper that is plagiarized. The Similarity Index is just a percentage of material in the paper that matches sources in the iThenticate’s databases. Text that is quoted and cited will be included in the Similarity Index, which offers a great opportunity to check for proper citation.


Some myths and facts about iThenticate
You can determine if a paper is OK or not from the Similarity Index % and do not need to look at the Originality Report.

The Similarity Index must be interpreted in the context of the paper and the actual writing. The only way to do this is to look at the Originality Report.

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.

iThenticate has expertise in plagiarism and can render judgement on specific cases.

There is no “threshold” Similarity Index that is either “good” or “bad”--each Originality Report needs to be examined to understand what a student did and whether or not there is a problem.

iThenticate compares a paper against everything ever written: web pages, books, publications… etc.

There are sources that are not in [iThenticate]—especially if that material is only available in print. But the sources that students typically use are largely included in [iThenticate].

Adapted from:
Your paper becomes part of the iThenticate database.

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

Adapted from:

Some myths and facts about iThenticate
How to use iThenticate to avoid plagiarism

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY
TAKE THE ORIGINALITY
INDEX AT FACE VALUE
Upload a file

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
Globalization Economics

Market Complexities

Economics drives globalization. Opening markets and freeing trade barriers so people can buy and sell their goods and services to whomever the price is one of the 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 wait for 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 to continue in any country.

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 it needed most. A survey done by the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization surveyed sixty-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 communities with growing inequality; only 5 percent living in countries with declining inequality (Stiglitz, 2007, p. 8).
Market Complexities

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 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 wealthier while the poor were often not even holding their own. In short, globalization may have helped some countries increase their GDP.
Questions?
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