ANALYZING TURNITIN ORIGINALITY REPORTS

Originality Reports

An Originality Report from Turnitin is NOT a plagiarism report, but it can help you the lecturer/tutor to identify POTENTIAL sources of plagiarism.

The Originality Report from Turnitin simply indicates the similarity between work submitted in the Turnitin database and other works previously submitted in the database, websites and other electronic sources.

If there are matches between what is submitted and other sources then Turnitin will alert you to this by highlighting the matched sections and a summary at the right of the screen (See screenshots below).

For each matched section it will state the percentage of similarity of the entire paper. Therefore the total figure given is an addition of the percentages of all sections or instances of similarity. If for example a total of 34% is given, this means that the paper is overall 34% similar to others and 66% original.

Low/high percentage/no matches

A **low percentage** on an originality report does not necessarily mean plagiarism is not detected, neither does a **high percentage** mean that there is high evidence of potential sources of plagiarism. An Originality Report may not have **any matches**, far from indicating no potential sources of plagiarism, it may mean that the student did not do enough research , reading, as well as referencing of other sources. Such papers still have to be carefully examined, because not many resources are in the plagiarism database, and the resources that are only available in the printed form may only be detected by your own knowledge.

Steps in Analysis

To get a more accurate report percentage, references must be excluded. The report icon is colour coded. Note the overall Similarity Index percentage and match against the colour code. The lighter the colour the less match is found as indicated below.

SIMILARITY INDICES

No matching words	1 word – 24% matching text	25%-49% matching text	50-74% matching text	75%-100% matching text

Safe /unsafe percentages

A percentage below 15% (blue-green) may be considered safe, however within that 15% may be potential instances of plagiarism. Therefore these must be examined to see if students have proper in-text citations.
A high percentage could possibly be any figure over 25% (yellow-orange-red). However again each instance must be carefully examined, because sources may be properly referenced but because the database may not be familiar with the sources referenced but with other links, it may show potential plagiarism by highlighting these sources. Therefore it is always good to check each instance.

Quotes should be placed within **quotation marks** and carefully referenced to avoid being highlighted.

If the work is not properly **paraphrased**, then these must be corrected to demonstrate good academic writing.
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Words that are common or form part of the **jargon** and **terminology** will be matched by Turnitin, but this is normal and should be considered when analysing the Originality Report.

AN ORIGINALITY REPORT

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The Turnitin database gives a **33%** for this paper. This is arrived at by adding all the percentage for each section where potential plagiarism is highlighted. However if you were to check each citation that is highlighted, you will realize that they are all properly referenced. This brings home the point that we cannot go solely by the overall index number but must consider each highlighted section.

Note that Match 1 is properly referenced but it is not citing the source identified by the database. This is the same for most of the others highlighted by Turnitin.

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Originality | GradeMark | PeerMark

Information Literacy (IL): Making Law Resources More Accessible through

BY KARLENE ROBINSON

turnitin

33% SIMILAR

-- OUT OF 0

Match Overview

1	www.ashine.org Internet source	10%
2	www.wuni.edu.et Internet source	4%
3	www.cbdd.wsu.edu Internet source	4%
4	www.ats.edu Internet source	4%
5	www.rcpos.org Internet source	2%
6	www.mia.albizu.edu Internet source	2%
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8	www.greenhill-internat... Internet source	2%
9	sebt.umwestern.edu Internet source	1%
10	www.congovision.com Internet source	1%
11	www.cde.athabascau.ca Internet source	1%
12	Md. Safiul Hoque, Shah... Publication	<1%

perform at home, at school or on the job. IL competencies empower individuals and transform them to critical independent thinkers and learners. Law is one discipline where the information grows exponentially and therefore information users and handlers must harness information literacy and the information technologies that come with it to great advantage.

According to the American Library Association (ALA) IL is defined as "a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information". IL becomes increasingly important as information grows and the rapid technological growth fuelling it. This information is available in multiple media and unfiltered formats and therefore must be assessed for accuracy, reliability and validity. It is the information literate individuals that will be able to wade through the vast abundance of information and locate the material they need in record time and use it responsibly. An information literate individual according to ALA is defined as one who is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally

While IL, ICT and education are inextricably linked, and the growth of IL to some extent has depended on the expansion of ICT, they can and should be distinguished. IL takes into account the intellectual capabilities involved in using information, as well as the capabilities of using the necessary technologies that provide or contain the information. On the other hand ICT is simply the hardware and the software used in the delivery of the information and IL is important for efficiency. Over the years IL has been used in libraries in a variety of ways to assist users to gain efficient access to information.

IL & ICT in Libraries

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Text-Only Report

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