



Marvin Library's Role in Prevention and Detection of Plagiarism

The College's Code of Conduct specifically defines plagiarism as a violation of academic ethics and prohibits its occurrence. Article 5.1.1 of the Code (<https://www.hvcc.edu/catalog/judicial.html>) states:

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty that is considered a serious offense and carries severe penalties ranging from failing an assignment to suspension from school. A student is guilty of plagiarism any time s/he attempts to obtain academic credit by presenting someone else's ideas as her/his own without appropriately documenting the original source.

Appropriate documentation requires credit to the original source in a current manuscript style that is appropriate to the assignment and the discipline.

Examples of someone else's ideas may include the following:

- Language, words, phrases, symbols*
- Style (written, oral or graphic presentation)*
- Data, statistics*
- Evidence, research*
- Computer programs, creative projects, artwork*
- Intellectual ideas such as theories and lectures*
- Web sites, digital forms of communication such as e-mail, chat room, and instant messaging*
- Photographs, video, audio*

To assist students in recognizing the ethical use of information which precludes plagiarism, the library maintains a Cite Your Sources web page (<https://www.hvcc.edu/lrc/cite.html>) listing print and online sources for common styles guides. The availability of this content is included in library instruction sessions. A module on defining and avoiding plagiarism is included in the "How to use the library" course available to all students in the Blackboard course management system. Librarians also refer students to the Writing Center which offers assistance with the preparation of bibliographies. As a demonstration of the library's commitment to excellence in proper attribution of sources and in contrast to plagiarism, the Library Research Award is given annually to six to ten students using criteria including well-formed citations from more than five sources which are included in outstanding papers.

In this climate of fulltext access, plagiarism is as easy as cutting and pasting from a wide range of online sources. The college maintains a subscription to Turnitin.com, an online service which searches for similarities in identified passages from sources including well-known paper mills (where research papers can be purchased). Turnitin.com is available from the faculty/staff tab in the Blackboard portal environment (<https://www.hvcc.edu/deptweb-portal/turnitin/>). Assistance with this resource is available from the Center for Effective Teaching.

To detect plagiarism, the library offers the following:

1. Readings and resources in Marvin Library:

The Library routinely acquires materials for faculty and students on research skills and practices. A current selection includes:

- Posner, Richard A. The little book of plagiarism. New York: Pantheon Books, 2007.
Circulating Collection K1485 .P67 2007
- Weber, Amy S. and Ryan Demetrak. Information literacy: the perils of online research. Lawrenceville, NJ: Cambridge Educational, 2006. Instructional Media Center DVD ZA3075
- Lipson, Charles. Doing honest work in college : how to prepare citations, avoid plagiarism, and achieve real academic success. Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 2004.
Circulating Collection PN171.F56 L56 2004 c.2
- Wetherington, Kevin and Shannon McWhirter. Research skills: how to find information. Huntsville, Tex.: EVN, 2002.
Instructional Media Center Videocassette PE1478 .W48 2002 VT 4259
- Mallon, Thomas. Stolen words: Forays into the Origins and Ravages of Plagiarism. San Diego: Harcourt, 2001.
Circulating Collection PN167 .M28 2001
- Lathrop, Anne and Kathleen Foss. Student cheating and plagiarism in the Internet era. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 2000.
Circulating Collection LB3609 .L28 2000

For additional sources, search the library catalog using keywords including *plagiarism*, *information literacy*, *research methodology – study and teaching*. Librarians can assist with locating items from our collection or obtaining materials through interlibrary loan. Contact your library liaison about purchasing materials related to this topic.

2. Search strategies to identify sources of text

(see “Detecting Electronic Plagiarism”, Suffolk University Library, <http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/detect-plagiarism.htm> which was the inspiration for this section and the source of many of these suggestions):

The list of cited works that accompanies a student paper may identify the origin of material suspected to be plagiarized.

a. Books

The library catalog can be used to identify if a book is in the Marvin Library collection. A book’s table of contents, index, margin notes, or the red-herring sticky note can be used to identify plagiarized passages. Interlibrary loan is available to obtain book sources which are not owned by the library. An increasing number of websites provide book portions online, including Amazon’s

Search Inside feature, publishers' and authors' websites, and GoogleBooks.

- b. Articles
A proper citation identifies the journal source of an article, including the database if obtained fulltext online. Even without an accurately cited source, many databases, such as Academic Search Premier and JSTOR, include fulltext searching. Locate a unique string of text (such as "*insights into the structure and meaning of poetry*") rather than "*meaning of poetry*") to determine if it appears verbatim in the source cited.
 - c. Websites
As with articles, locate a unique string of text and enter it surrounded by quotation marks in Google, GoogleScholar, and/or other search engines. Unique phrases will keep the returned results to a manageable size, for example "*Nixon administration dramatically improved relations with China*" rather than "*Nixon visited China*".
3. Faculty librarian assistance with search strategies by request.
Faculty librarians do not routinely inspect and verify submitted papers *en masse* at the request of teaching faculty. However, librarians are available to meet with a faculty member to recommend search strategies and resources to investigate suspected plagiarism. These requests are treated like any other reference query. Teaching faculty are encouraged to contact their subject liaison for an individual appointment in these cases.

The author acknowledges the plagiarism policies compiled by Vera Stepchyshyn and Robert S. Nelson in Library Plagiarism Policies (Clip Note #37), Chicago: American Library Association, 2007.

Prepared and maintained by Brenda Hazard, May 2008