



# Detecting Originality and Plagiarism in Academic Publishing

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# Plagiarism in Context

## Office of Research Integrity:

“Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

- a) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- b) Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
- c) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.
- d) Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.”

Source: Dept of Health & Human Services, Office of Research Integrity Annual Report 2006  
[http://ori.dhhs.gov/documents/annual\\_reports/ori\\_annual\\_report\\_2006.pdf](http://ori.dhhs.gov/documents/annual_reports/ori_annual_report_2006.pdf)

# Plagiarism in Context

Plagiarism – taking credit for the work of another, includes:

- **citation plagiarism**: “the conscious failure to credit appropriately a prior discoverer, so as to give an improper impression of priority”
- **self-plagiarism** (auto-plagiarism): the publication of (or submission of) the same content in (or to) different journals
- “**plagiarism by omission**”, or “citation amnesia or “citation negligence”: ignoring highly relevant citations intentionally

# A growing problem?

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## Commentary

*Nature* **435**, 737-738 (9 June 2005) | doi:10.1038/435737a; Published online 8 June 2005

## Scientists behaving badly

Brian C. Martinson<sup>1</sup>, Melissa S. Anderson<sup>2</sup> & Raymond de Vries<sup>3</sup>

1. Brian C. Martinson is at the HealthPartners Research Foundation, 8100 34th Avenue South, PO Box 1524, Mailstop 21111R, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440-1524, USA.

2. Melissa S. Anderson is at the University of Minnesota, Educational Policy and Administration, 330 Wulling Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA.

3. Raymond de Vries is at the University of Minnesota, Center for Bioethics, N504 Boynton, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA.

**To protect the integrity of science, we must look beyond falsification, fabrication and plagiarism, to a wider range of questionable research practices, argue Brian C. Martinson, Melissa S. Anderson and Raymond de Vries.**

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**Table 1 | Percentage of scientists who say that they engaged in the behaviour listed within the previous three years (n = 3,247)**

| Top ten behaviours                                                                                       | All  | Mid-career | Early-career |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Falsifying or 'cooking' research data                                                                 | 0.3  | 0.2        | 0.5          |
| 2. Ignoring major aspects of human-subject requirements                                                  | 0.3  | 0.3        | 0.4          |
| 3. Not properly disclosing involvement in firms whose products are based on one's own research           | 0.3  | 0.4        | 0.3          |
| 4. Relationships with students, research subjects or clients that may be interpreted as questionable     | 1.4  | 1.3        | 1.4          |
| 5. Using another's ideas without obtaining permission or giving due credit                               | 1.4  | 1.7        | 1.0          |
| 6. Unauthorized use of confidential information in connection with one's own research                    | 1.7  | 2.4        | 0.8 ***      |
| 7. Failing to present data that contradict one's own previous research                                   | 6.0  | 6.5        | 5.3          |
| 8. Circumventing certain minor aspects of human-subject requirements                                     | 7.6  | 9.0        | 6.0 **       |
| 9. Overlooking others' use of flawed data or questionable interpretation of data                         | 12.5 | 12.2       | 12.8         |
| 10. Changing the design, methodology or results of a study in response to pressure from a funding source | 15.5 | 20.6       | 9.5 ***      |
| <b>Other behaviours</b>                                                                                  |      |            |              |
| 11. Publishing the same data or results in two or more publications                                      | 4.7  | 5.9        | 3.4 **       |
| 12. Inappropriately assigning authorship credit                                                          | 10.0 | 12.3       | 7.4 ***      |
| 13. Withholding details of methodology or results in papers or proposals                                 | 10.8 | 12.4       | 8.9 **       |
| 14. Using inadequate or inappropriate research designs                                                   | 13.5 | 14.6       | 12.2         |
| 15. Dropping observations or data points from analyses based on a gut feeling that they were inaccurate  | 15.3 | 14.3       | 16.5         |
| 16. Inadequate record keeping related to research projects                                               | 27.5 | 27.7       | 27.3         |

Note: significance of  $\chi^2$  tests of differences between mid- and early-career scientists are noted by \*\* ( $P < 0.01$ ) and \*\*\* ( $P < 0.001$ ).

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POLICY FORUM

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY:  
**Responding to Possible Plagiarism**

Tara C. Long,<sup>1</sup> Mounir Errami,<sup>2</sup> Angela C. George,<sup>1</sup> Zhaohui Sun,<sup>2</sup> Harold R. Garner<sup>1,2\*</sup>

Documenting reactions from authors and journal editors to plagiarism may help others address the problem.

# Garner et. al.

## Comparing Medline content using eTBLAST

- 9120 articles with "high levels of citation similarity and no overlapping authors"
- 212 pairs of articles "with signs of potential plagiarism"
- 83 internal investigations leading to 46 retractions (Feb 09)



DOIs FOR RESEARCH CONTENT

10.1038/457240a

## REFERENCES

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Research Article  
**Challenges in optimal metabolic control of diabetes**  
Andreas Liebl\*  
Center for Diabetes and Metabolism Wallberg Clinic, Rottach-Egern, Germany  
email: Andreas.Liebl@t-online.de

\* Correspondence to: Andreas Liebl, Diabetes Zentrum Rosswandweg, Rottach-Egern, 83700, Germany.

**Conference:** International Symposium held at EASD, Jerusalem, Israel, 16 September 2000

**Keywords**  
insulin glargine • insulin lispro • insulin aspart • NPH insulin • oral antidiabetic agents • ultralente insulin

**Abstract**  
The results of the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) and the United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) showed that tight glycemic control with any of several therapies significantly reduce the risks for long-term microvascular complications of type 1 or type 2 diabetes. The results of these large-scale long-term studies also demonstrated that there is no threshold glucose [i.e. glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA<sub>1c</sub>)] and reduced risk. This means that 'optimal' glycemic control in a patient with type 1 or type 2 diabetes is a blood glucose level as close as possible to normal. Limitations of most available therapies for type 1 and 2 diabetes have hampered achievement of this goal. Most available insulin preparations used to treat patients with type 1 diabetes require multiple daily injections or continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII). Insulin levels only when used with a pump or a complex treatment regimen requiring a large number of daily injections. Pumps are limited by high expense, and complex injection protocols and non-compliance. The development of new insulins such as aspart insulin and lispro insulin, both short-acting, and insulin glargine, a long-acting insulin analogue suitable for once-daily administration, have addressed some of these challenges. In patients with type 2 diabetes, achieving optimal glycemic control is complicated by the progressive nature of the disease and the loss of efficacy of oral agents (e.g. sulfonylureas, metformin).



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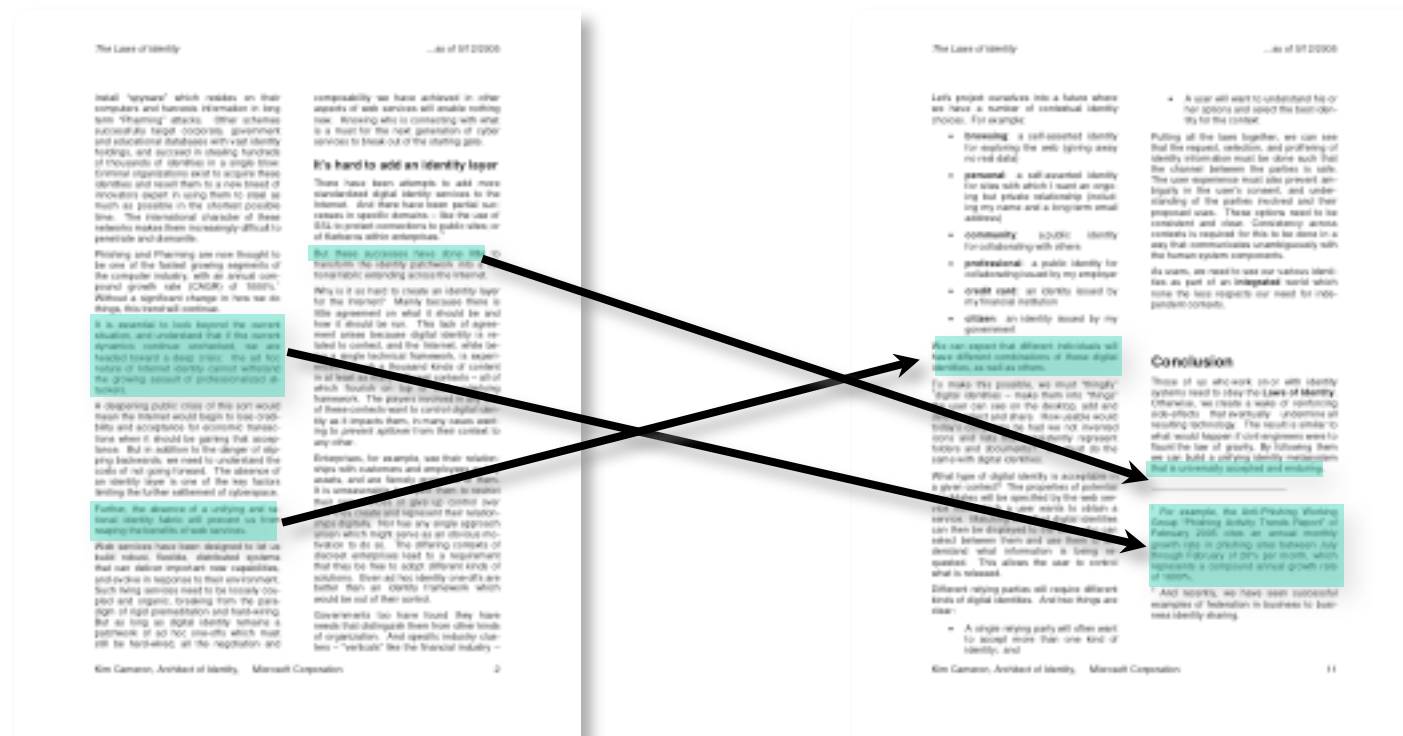


- 2006: CrossRef membership raises plagiarism as key area of concern
- Late 2007/ early 2008: pilot with seven large publishers and technology partner iParadigms
- June 2008: CrossCheck launched



~~Plagiarism Detection~~

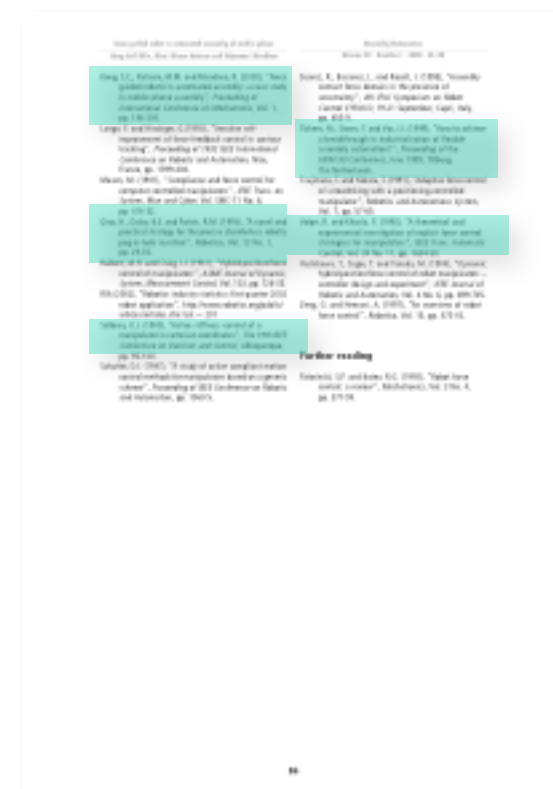
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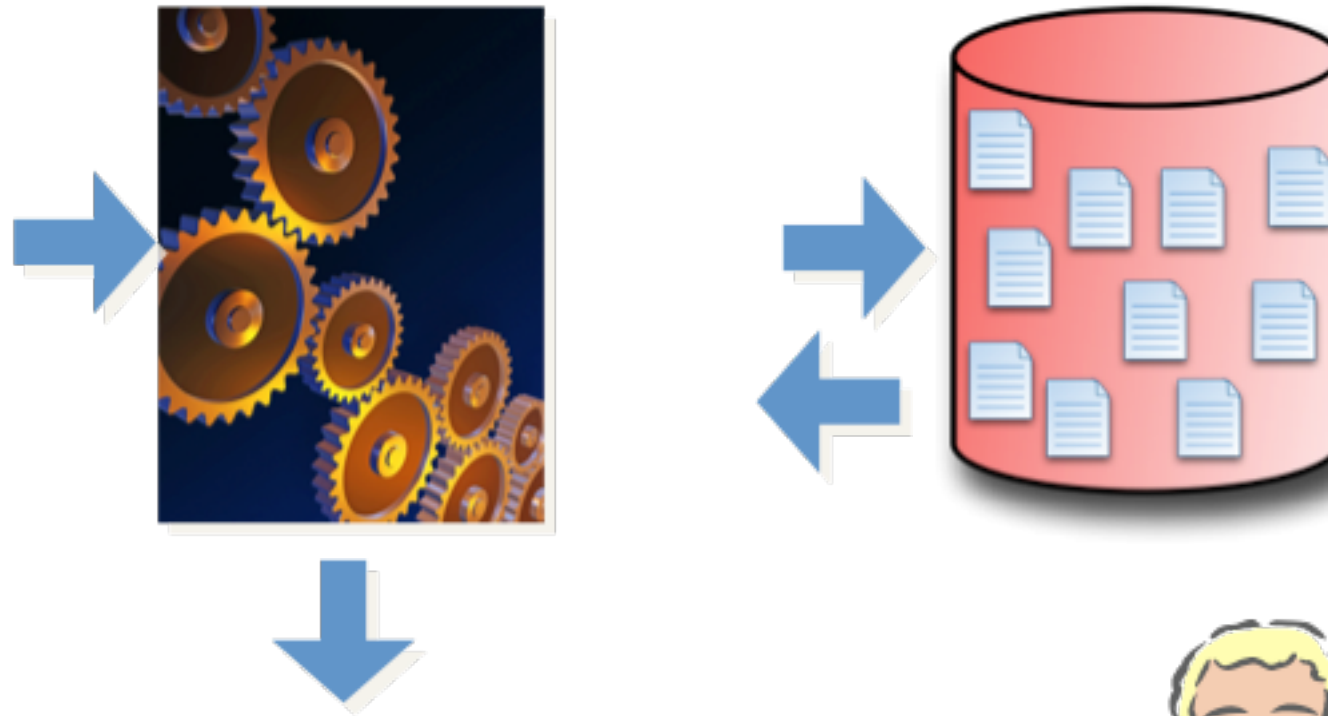
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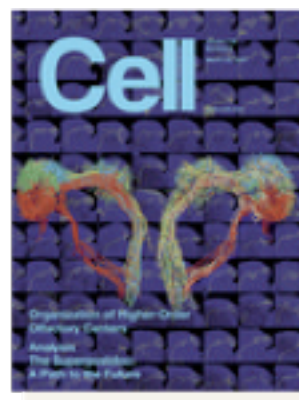
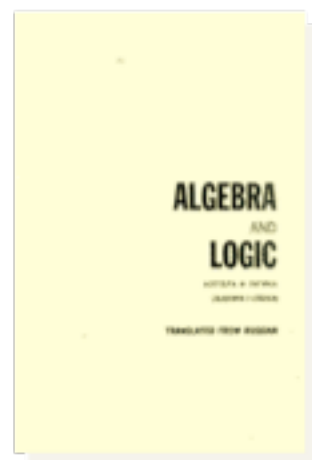
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is the sine qua non of academic publishers and librarians, and

the trust model of the Internet is almost completely antithetical to the model of

1

scholarly trust that has evolved following the development of academic publishing in early modern Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Publishers, who increasingly rely on the opaque indexing and ranking algorithms of Google and other search engines to drive traffic to their sites, find that their quality content remains mired in relative obscurity. Librarians worry that undergraduates wallow indiscriminately through Google search results, all but ignoring the sources that the library has so carefully vetted, selected, and purchased. There is a crisis of trust in academic publishing precipitated by the move to online publishing and the attendant

deprecation of traditional mechanisms of ensuring the authority and reliability of published works.

2

Some of the problems that have arisen during the move from print to online publishing echo those that occurred during the shift from a manuscript and oral culture to a print culture. In each case, traditional systems for establishing authority and reliability were displaced. It took centuries to build and create the current infrastructure for establishing the authenticity and reliability of scholarly print content.[1] The task of creating new authority mechanisms for online scholarly publishing has hardly begun.

Publishers and librarians have spent a turbulent decade engaged in the transformation of their respective practices. Previously, they were primarily concerned with physical media - the commissioning, production, distribution, curation, and archiving of works of print. Now, they find themselves preoccupied with the

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reliability of scholarly print content.[1] The task of creating new authority mechanisms for online scholarly publishing has hardly begun.

Publishers and librarians have spent a turbulent decade engaged in the transformation of their respective practices. Previously, they were primarily concerned with physical media - the commissioning, production, distribution, curation, and archiving of works of print. Now, they find themselves preoccupied with the development of analogous processes for digital content. With their attention focused on the operational aspects of a move to the digital world, they have not been as aware of the transition from the trust model of the print-based scholarly world to the trust model of the Internet.

2

Characteristics of Trust Kieron O'Hara, in his book Trust: From Socrates to Spin, describes how public trust can be characterized using two axes of criteria, global and local, and horizontal and vertical. O'Hara's characterization of public trust helps highlight why the move of scholarly trust mechanisms to the Internet has been so fraught.[2] O'Hara first describes how public trust can be categorized as either "local" or "global." Local trust is defined as trust that is based on personal acquaintance - trust that one extends to one's family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances and that is based on direct experience. Though local trust can be very strong, it suffers from one major deficiency - it is not always transitive and, thus, does not scale. Just because I trust my wife, it does not automatically mean that I trust her friends and it certainly doesn't mean that I automatically trust my wife's friends' friends. The degree to which local trust is transitive varies by individual and

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Publishers and librarians have spent a turbulent decade engaged in the transformation of their respective practices. Previously, they were primarily concerned with physical media-the commissioning, production, distribution, curation, and archiving of works of print. Now, they find themselves preoccupied with the development of analogous processes for digital content. With their attention focused on the operational aspects of a move to the digital world, they have not been as aware of the transition from the trust model of the print-based scholarly world to the trust model of the Internet.

Without qualifiers such as "academic" and "journal," that's just not true. But that doesn't keep the article from being interesting and worth reading. Bilder talks about the "internet trust antipattern" and ways to avoid it. I think Slashdot is a poor example; when I've visited, the feedback mechanisms haven't allowed me to "focus on authoritative and relevant postings," at least when discussions enter areas I know. eBay's system may be a better example. Google's "trust" system is tricky, as it equates popularity with authority. I've just touched some of the discussion here. It's interesting-but I wouldn't quite take it at face value. Recommended with caveats. Why we publish JEP This short piece from Maria Bonn, head of Michigan's Scholarly Publishing Office, tells us why the move from Michigan to Columbia University Press didn't work out and how the new home works. Bonn summarizes economic elements of the scholarly publishing crisis: Library budgets are flat or



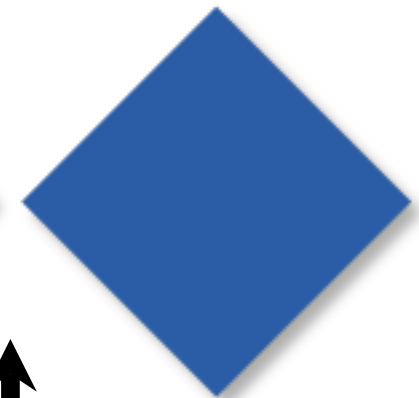
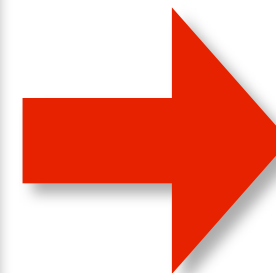
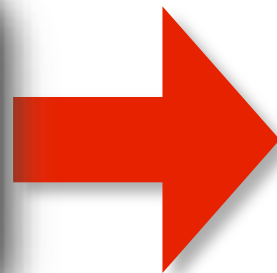
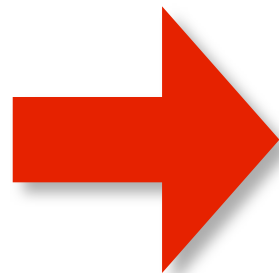
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| Cover Letter     | *Cover Letter    | Default     | Cover_Letter.doc     | 23.5 KB | 07/21/2008    |                        |                             | <a href="#">Download</a> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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# Future Functionality

- Changes will facilitate seamless transition from Editorial Manager & Preprint Manager to CrossCheck and back again.
- Automatic login to CrossCheck to simplify transition from Editorial Manager & Preprint Manager
- Automatic upload of files for similarity checking
- Automated download of similarity report from CrossCheck to Editorial Manager & Preprint

**GUT/2009/001255**

[First Submission]

## Shane test 1

Shane Cyr, Anna Benton, and Marisol Munoz

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FILE MANAGEMENT

**Decision:** Accept for Online First; **Decision Date:** 18 Mar 2009

**Status:** Final Decision ; Accept for Online First

**Date Received:** 18 Mar 2009

**Article Type:** Paper

**Corresponding Author:** [Shane Cyr](#)

**Keywords:** ABDOMINAL MRI

**Supplemental Files:** 1

**iThenticate Match Percentage:** 91

**GUT/2009/001255**

## Shane test 1

Shane Cyr, Anna Benton, and Marisol Munoz

[\[Full MS Info\]](#) [\[CrossCheck Analysis\]](#) [\[Compare Data\]](#) [\[Quick History\]](#) [\[Attributes\]](#) [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Cover Letter\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) [\[References\]](#) [\[Create a Note\]](#)  
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**Status:** Final Decision  
; Accept for Online First

**Date Received:** 18 Mar 2009

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**Article Type:** Paper

**Corresponding Author:** [Shane Cyr](#)

**Country:** United States

**Keywords:** ABDOMINAL MRI

**Supplemental Files:** 1

**DOI:** 10.1136/gut.2009.001255

**iThenticate Match Percentage:** 91



# Progress to date

- 46 member publishers
- 35 more in process of joining
- CrossCheck database
  - 11 million content items
    - 25m+ when all members indexed
  - 17,000 titles

# Plagiarism Repercussions

- Reputation
  - Author, Publication, Publisher, Research
- Legal - an author may
  - be a plagiarist without infringing copyright (e.g. if the copying is not substantial)
  - infringe copyright without being a plagiarist (e.g. if the copying is acknowledged)
- Time and money defending ourselves
  - from other authors and publishers who believe their work has been plagiarised by us
  - from our own authors who are aggrieved by actions taken following an allegation

Further reading: Plagiarism and the law, Joss Saunders - Blake Lapthorn Tarlo Lyons November 2007  
[www.bllaw.co.uk/sectors/publishing/publications.aspx](http://www.bllaw.co.uk/sectors/publishing/publications.aspx)

# Allegations of Plagiarism

...and what to do about them



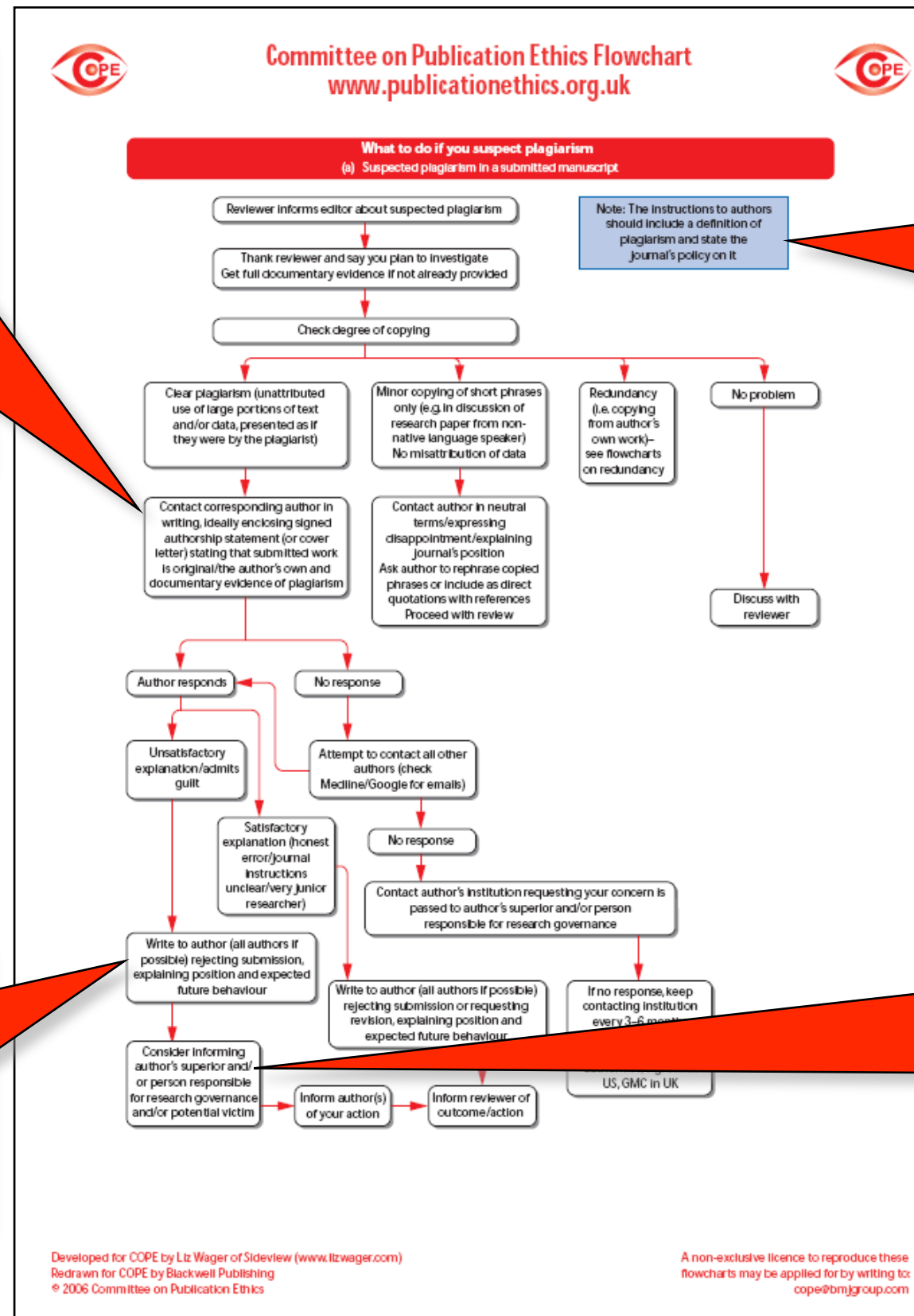
<http://www.publicationethics.org.uk/>

Contact author in writing, ideally enclosing signed authorship statement stating that submitted work is original and documentary proof of plagiarism

Instructions to authors should include a definition of plagiarism and state the journal's policy on it

Write to author(s) rejecting submission, explaining position and expected future behaviour

Consider informing author's superior and/or person responsible for research governance and/or potential victim



# Case Study

- 1969 Mary's article is published
- April 2004, John submits substantially the same article
- 2005 editor dies
- December 2005 John's article published
- January 2006 a reader alerts us to the similarity
- Feb 2006 we write to John and Mary
- Feb 2006 John claims he withdrew the article but there is no correspondence on file
- March 2006 extensive emails and correspondence on wording of retraction
- April 2006 retraction published
- April 2007 Office of Research Integrity at John's institution begins formal investigation
- June 2007 student newspaper picks up the story....

# Why join?

- To increase trust in your content by validating its provenance and authenticity
- To deter would-be plagiarists from plagiarizing your publications
- To deter would-be plagiarists from submitting to your publications
- To protect your reputation
- To promote the value of the publishing process



# Why CrossCheck?

- Only service with database of relevant publications to check against
- Discounted pricing as compared to using iThenticate directly
- CrossCheck community and CrossRef support



# Issues to be resolved

- Cost/benefit analysis on where to integrate and how much to check
- Use of “CrossCheck Depositor” and “CrossCheck Deposited” logos
- Integration into publishing workflows and systems
- Exploring detection of duplicate submissions

# Summary

- Plagiarism is a significant problem in academic publishing
- Initial results with CrossCheck are encouraging
- But it requires a critical mass in the target database, integration into publishing workflows, and a clear business model
- It will never substitute for the diligence of publishers, editors and peer reviewers
- ...and the cure can be more painful than the disease

# Thank You

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<http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html>