

UTILIZING TURNITIN PROGRAM TO INVESTIGATE RESEARCH PIRACY

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a guideline for preventing research piracy aimed at lecturers, staff, and graduate students of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The sample group comprised 70 professors and students who had requested research plagiarism detection services. Data was collected through questionnaires, and descriptive statistics were used for data analysis, including frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. Results indicate that the majority of the sample group was female (49 individuals), aged 31-40 years, single, and had a monthly income between 25,000 - 30,000 baht. The mean score for Turnitin plagiarism detection was 4.05, with a standard deviation of 0.57. This study provides practical insights and recommendations for researchers to prevent research piracy and uphold academic integrity.

Keywords: Turnitin, Piracy, Research

INTRODUCTION

Currently, educators in academic institutions are responsible for offering guidance and research materials. At all educational levels, instructional materials are developed to present information obtained to colleagues and students in courses. Instructors should serve as examples for guiding learners to consider ethics and integrity when writing academic works. Today, information can be easily accessed on the internet and from various sources worldwide, allowing for fast information acquisition. However, when using this information to create one's own work, instructors must emphasize to students the importance of acknowledging and referencing other people's information to avoid copyright infringement. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism or the act of passing off others' works as one's own [1].

Each university subscribes to a plagiarism detection program, such as the popular TURNITIN program, to check for plagiarism. This program provides results that display the percentage of copied text in the document and identifies the original source through a link. It also covers redundant text and assigns a color with a number for each percentage. [2]

Therefore, the researcher is interested in studying the application of the TURNITIN program in detecting research piracy.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To provide guidelines for preventing copyright infringement of research works to lecturers, staff, and graduate students at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review discusses the research on utilizing of Turnitin program for detecting piracy in academic research. The relevant documents and studies were analyzed and the following topics are presented:

Copyright in Academic Works

The concept of copyright in academic works poses several problems that need to be addressed, such as textbooks and teaching documents, theses and papers, work using educational information systems, copying from original books, articles, and research papers. The essence of copyright in academic works is as follows: [3]

1. Textbooks and Teaching Documents

Under Section 4 of the Copyright Act 1994, textbooks and teaching aids are considered literary works, and under Section 6, they are copyrighted works. Those who hold the copyright to textbooks and teaching aids must consider two factors:

1.1 Originality - the creator must be creative and use their own knowledge without copying the work of others.

1.2 Knowledge, perseverance, skills, and labor - in addition to creativity, the creator must devote knowledge, ability, intelligence, and perseverance in creating the work. All such actions must result in the creation of works that are legally copyrighted.

Thus, if a teacher produces or creates textbooks and supporting documents with initiative, using their own knowledge, perseverance, skill, and labor, and the university is the sole publisher, then the teacher who composed or edited the textbooks and teaching materials holds the sole copyright.

2. Thesis and Dissertation

Theses and thematic papers are academic works in Master's and Doctoral programs. Generally, higher education institutions specify on the front cover of theses and thematic papers that "Copyright belongs to the university/institute/college", indicating that the higher education institution is the owner of the copyright in this field of academic work. However, there is an opposing opinion that the copyright should belong to the students. Thus, regarding the ownership of copyright in theses and thematic papers, there are two implications:

2.1 The first opinion is that theses and thematic papers are copyrighted by higher education institutions.

2.1.1 Research is one of the main missions of higher education institutions. Additionally, research is stipulated as a program of graduate studies that requires research in the form of a thesis and dissertation, with regulations issued by the institution that students must strictly follow.

2.1.2 Theses and thematic papers are not freely prepared by students but must be supervised according to the procedures of higher education institutions and professors who supervise thesis and dissertation writing. Moreover, this research is only a part of higher education because there are many subjects that need to be studied and evaluated according to the curriculum.

2.1.3 Theses and thematic papers are stipulated in Section 14 of the Copyright Act of 1994. Since public higher education institutions are equivalent to departmental level, they have the right to work created under their orders or under their control, as well as private higher education institutions.

2.1.4 Participation in the preparation of theses and thematic papers by personnel, including consultation, proposal review, revision, and oral examination, is still under the supervision of the higher education institution. These contributing individuals are not co-creators; therefore, the copyright belongs to the higher education institution.

2.2 The second opinion is that theses and thematic papers are copyrighted by students for the following reasons:

2.2.1 Although the higher education institution prescribes that "Copyright belongs to Institutions of higher education," students who write theses and thematic papers never sign or make a copyright letter to the institution they study.

2.2.2 Although the higher education institution is a juristic person that may have copyright under Section 14 of the Copyright Act B.E. 2537, the institution only specifies the procedures and framework for thesis and dissertation writing. The creative works are still created by students who are the true owners of the copyright. This discrepancy problem can be solved according to Section 17 of the Copyright Act of 1994. If a higher education institution wishes to grant copyright to the institution solely, it must make a letter for students to sign to transfer copyright to the institution.

How to Detect Academic Plagiarism

There are various methods to detect academic plagiarism [4].

1. Common Sense: This method is suitable for instructors who possess the required knowledge and experience in the field they are teaching. They can evaluate the job by relying on their experience and knowledge to detect plagiarism. The indicators such as sentence structure, vocabulary, writing style, and language use can help the instructors to detect plagiarism.

2. Linguistic Analysis: This method involves quantitatively examining the language characteristics used in the work. The idea behind this method is that each author has a unique writing style. If a document displays a writing style that differs from its overall writing style, it may be suspected of plagiarism.

3. Software Detection: This method involves importing the work into a computer and using software to verify the text similarity with the copied text. The software divides the document into smaller parts and checks it against websites or databases. It then reports the similarity of the messages and calculates the plagiarism rate.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative research methodology utilizing a questionnaire as the primary data collection method.

1. Population and sample

The population for this study consisted of 70 graduate students from Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. A simple random sampling technique was utilized to select the sample.

2. Tools used in the study

In order to collect data, the researcher employed an open-ended questionnaire. To ensure the quality of the questionnaire, two aspects were considered: content validity and reliability. The researcher utilized statistical data analysis to assess these aspects.

3. Data collection

The researcher provided the sample with a sufficient number of questionnaires and explained the objectives and methodology for completing the questionnaire. The data collection process lasted for approximately one month, during which the researcher collected the completed questionnaires personally.

4. Data analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using a computer software. Percentage, mean, and standard deviation were utilized as statistical measures.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. Personal Characteristics of Respondents: The majority of the respondents were female, with 49 individuals falling between the age range of 31-40 years old. Moreover, 42 respondents were single, and reported a monthly income range of 25,000 - 30,000 baht.

2. Satisfaction with the use of Turnitin Plagiarism Detection Program: The overall satisfaction level with the use of Turnitin program was found to be high ($\bar{x} = 4.05$, S.D. = 0.57). Service personnel received the highest satisfaction score ($\bar{x} = 4.21$), followed by processes and procedures ($\bar{x} = 4.07$), and information resources ($\bar{x} = 3.92$), respectively.

DISCUSSION

The study uncovered several significant findings regarding the use of the Turnitin research plagiarism detection program. The results showed that satisfaction with the program was high overall, with the most satisfactory areas being service personnel, processes and procedures for providing services, and information resources. These findings align with the research conducted Panuchanat Permpoon¹ and Bundit Phrapratanporn [5] Service quality that affects the decision to pursue a Master of Business Administration program Case study: Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University student. The study found that the quality of services that most affected the decision to pursue a Master of Business Administration program was management, followed by cost throughout the program, university infrastructure, internationalization, and academic programs, respectively.

Overall, the findings from this study provide insights into the effectiveness of the Turnitin research plagiarism detection program and the aspects of the program that are most valued by users. The results suggest that paying attention to the quality of service provided, including service provider attentiveness, accuracy in problem analysis, punctuality, and consumer friendliness, is crucial in ensuring user satisfaction and confidence in the program. Future research in this area may further explore ways to improve the quality of service provided by the program to enhance user experience and increase user confidence in its use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author expresses gratitude to The Graduate School and Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for their support in conducting this research. The author would also like to extend appreciation to the SSRU executives, namely Associate Professor Dr. Chutikarn Sriviboon, the president, and Associate Professor Dr. Duangsamorn Rungsawanpho, Dean of Graduate School, for their guidance and assistance. Lastly, the author extends thanks to all the respondents who participated in the research.

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