Do’s And Don’ts for Researcher to Avoid Plagiarism

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Abstract: For conducting research, the researcher must have knowledge of the do’s and don’ts in research. A researcher should take care of proper citation, different citation styles, references, plagiarism, different types of cases of plagiarism, and the ways a researcher can save himself from the plagiarism. So to know all about plagiarism for a researcher is important for only taking care of the different ways to avoid it but also to conduct a quality research, setting a good example of research in educational field for further research. Plagiarism is theoretically simple to explain and describe but very hard to implement unless and until a researcher takes intense interest to know about it.

1. Introduction:

In educational research, to write a thesis or dissertation or especially research paper is most common thing now a days. With the more availability of resources and awareness amongst the research students the educational research has become easier than ever but simultaneously increased competition in research and academic field demands a high quality of research than ever. So research students have to be choosy about the selection of research topics. While doing research, for a research student so many questions are there to deal with and as research itself is a wide subject it’s not possible to get the knowledge of everything from books or classrooms. But then use of computers has solved this problem also. As a person can get information of anything, at any time, at any place with the use of computer so as the research students can also.

By doing research, the ultimate aim of the research student is to prove his or her research skills and competence and speaks about his own knowledge about the topic. But sometimes due to lack of knowledge about the research as a subject the research student creates some problems for himself. What the problems can be? The answer is that, the person who wants to give something new to the academic world for doing his own so called ‘research’, might have used the easily available sources likes books, magazines, websites, etc. and having very less knowledge or sometimes ignorance about the referencing, citation and it’s uses while using some others’ intellectual property, found guilty of conducting a serious offence in academic called ‘Plagiarism’.

2. What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a difficult concept to define because it encompasses a wide range of actions, ranging from merely writing incorrect citations to the wholesale theft of someone else's work or ideas.

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to “plagiarize” means
1) To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2) To use (another's production) without crediting the source
3) To commit literary theft
4) To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else’s work and lying about it afterward.

The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism which the Code defines as "the presentation of the work of another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement" (Article 16a). This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It could be the work of a fellow student, for example, an answer on a quiz, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased through one of the many available sources. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas. "Presentation" is not limited to written work. It also includes oral presentations, computer assignments and artistic works. If a research student translates the work of another person into French or English and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism. If he cites his own work without the correct citation, this too is plagiarism.

In simple words:
“DO NOT COPY, PARAPHRASE OR TRANSLATE ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE WITHOUT SAYING FROM WHERE YOU GOT IT! DON’T FORGET TO USE QUOTATION MARKS!”[8]

So now a natural question arises in the mind of the research student that as for doing research he has to refer lot of materials like books, papers, websites, journals and the material from this source provide a better guide to his research work also, then by getting help of this material is he doing plagiarism? Whether he should stop referring all this things and start to do research at his own? Obviously not, it’s not possible for a research student to do research without taking help from this materials but he should know that after getting help of this material he should properly give acknowledgement to the original writers.

3. What is considered as plagiarism in research? (Don’t do it)

1. **Quoting** involves using exact words, phrases and sentences from a source, setting them off with quotation marks, and citing where the information was taken from.[2]
   When a research student quotes something directly from any other’s work. It means he is just copying word to word what the other person has written in his paper or material. Even if he left out some text from that original text it is also considered as quoting or direct quotation.

2. **Paraphrase** means in her own word. [3] Paraphrasing the work of others by altering a few words and changing their order or by closely following the structure of their argument, is plagiarism because he is deriving his words and ideas from their work without giving due acknowledgement. Even if he include a reference to the original author in her own text he are still creating a misleading impression that the paraphrased wording is entirely her own.[9]

3. A **summary** is very similar to a paraphrase; it is also written by the writer of a paper in his or her own words. A summary is different from a paraphrase because it only summarizes the main idea of a source or the author of a source. In other words, a summary is more condensed and less specific than a paraphrase.[3]

4. When a research student **cut and paste information directly from net** without giving proper acknowledgement to the original source. Whatever material or information is derived from the Internet must be referenced and it should be included in the bibliography. Otherwise it is considered as a Plagiarism.[7]

5. When a research student doesn’t cite properly according to the styles used in his or her discipline. So failure to cite particular material properly misguides the reader about the source and the reader misinterprets that it is the work of the writer himself. And also including anything in the bibliography which is not referred is also considered as Plagiarism.[9]

4. So what a research student can do to avoid plagiarism? (Do it)

The best defense against plagiarism is knowledge and the practice of effective writing skill. [6] The research student should learn all about referencing, quoting, paraphrasing summarizing and also about citation. A research student should,

1. Before starting research, learn everything about research and plagiarism. A research student must have the knowledge about the do’s and don’ts in research as a subject.

2. While doing direct quoting that is when a research student is using someone else's exact words, he needs to place quotations marks ("...") around the words. He also needs to be careful not to rephrase or reorganize the words; otherwise he would be guilty of misrepresenting the author. If he wants to leave out part of the author's sentence he can use three ellipsis points (...) to show the words which have been omitted. Directly after the quotation, he should indicate from where the information comes from, using one of the standard methods (such as MLA and APA) to document the sources[8]

3. When a research student wants to paraphrase material, it's a good idea first to paste the actual quotation into his own notes (not directly into his draft) and then to paraphrase it (still in his notes). Putting the information in his own words will help him make sure that he has thought about what the source is saying and that he has a good reason for using it in his paper When he decides to use paraphrased material in his essay, make sure that he avoids gradually rewording the paraphrased material from draft to draft until he loses
sight of the fact that it's still a paraphrase. [7]

4. It is better for research student to write a brief summary of the author's overall argument in his own words than to paraphrase particular sections of his or her writing. This will ensure he has a genuine grasp of the argument and will avoid the difficulty of paraphrasing without plagiarizing. He must also properly attribute all material he derives from lectures. [9]

5. When a research student consults a Web site, he should log the Web address in a separate document from the paper he is writing so that he will be able to return to the Web site and cite it correctly. He should also print the relevant pages from any Web sites he uses, making sure he notes the complete URL and the date on which he printed the material. Because electronic sources aren't stable and Web pages can be deleted without notice, beware of directing the readers to sources that might have disappeared. [7]

6. As research student should never cut and paste information from an electronic source straight into his own essay, and never type verbatim sentences from a print source straight into essay. Instead, he should open a separate document on his computer for each source so he can file research information carefully. When he types or cuts and pastes into that document, should make sure to include the full citation information for the print source or the full URL and the date he copied the page(s). For Web sources, make sure to cite the page from which he is taking information, which may not necessarily be the home page of the site he is using. Use logical and precise names for the files he creates, and add citation information and dates. [7]

So a research student should take necessary care while writing a paper or research report or dissertation. In addition to take care of above points the research student should also take care of following points also,

- At the end of the research paper research student will need to include a page where he lists his research sources in alphabetical order, using the last name of the author or authors. This page is called the "works cited" page in MLA (Modern Language Association) style and the "references" page in APA (American Psychological Association). This list will tell the reader which source the research student has used and where he got them. The reader will then know where to find the source if he or she has any questions about the source or what it says. [3]

- He should also know about what is the difference between reference and citation? Following is the example given of in-text citation and its referencing.

  - In text citation: Women have been invisible workers (PANDYA AND PATEL, 2010)[10]


5. Conclusion:

The research student should not avoid plagiarism just because of fear of the consequences but he should avoid it to make sure that whatever research he or she is producing is of highest quality to rely upon for further research. Plagiarism is very interesting topic to know about, once a student get it clear in his mind about the topic and also about the concepts of citation and references, he will definitely enjoy to write paper or dissertation with its use and makes sure that he himself can save him from plagiarism. Avoiding plagiarism means not simply make it sure that the all references a research student has used are correct but showing a person's academic skill to make his or her research work the best. [9]

References:


