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Citation Management & Avoiding Plagiarism

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Citation Management & Avoiding Plagiarism

Hacking the Stacks
Graduate Workshop
Spring 2015

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Learn how to get the most out of CMS to organize different research projects

Define plagiarism and various forms it takes and where to go to help avoid plagiarism

Discuss the ethics of writing, plagiarism in particular, and how CMS can help you

Learn how to fold ethical writing practices into your research to avoid plagiarism
Let’s talk about academic writing in general, before we talk about citations and plagiarism.
What is academic writing? Why does it exist?

It is a dialogue, an exchange of ideas. A conversation on research, and the teaching and learning of academic pursuits.
What is your role as a graduate student?

You are in training. Training to participate in this higher level conversation.

You need to learn how to write well and write ethically.
Academic writing has one distinct feature.

The citation.
The role of citations in scholarly writing

• Validates the author’s argument
• Provides the reader with more information
• Creates a record of the scholarly conversation

• The onus of validity and veracity is on the writer.
Citations have many formats

Footnotes, Endnotes, Works Cited page, Bibliography, Reference List, etc...

Different disciplines use different formats for different reasons.
Common formats:

MLA    APA    Chicago    Harvard

And there are hundreds more....
Citation formats have different structures

Citation structures carry different meanings

- Author/Date in STEM disciplines: because there is high volume of publications, emphasizes two key elements
- MLA: Humanities: emphasizes the Author and work, date not as important
Don’t know which citation format to use?

By discipline,
Ask your professor

Writing an article for a journal? That journal will have specific formats. Check with the editor.
How does plagiarism fit into this?
Plagiarism defined:

“intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas, information, etc. are common knowledge.”

http://www.wmich.edu/conduct/academiconesty/
Plagiarism is academic dishonesty. It is theft of ideas.

You can avoid plagiarism by acknowledging the original author or source.

- Footnote
- Endnote
- In text citation
- Bibliography, Works Cited page
When you need to acknowledge the original author:

• Direct Quotes from another source (even your own)

• Paraphrasing or summarizing ideas: Prompt acknowledgement is required when material from another source is paraphrased or summarized, in whole or in part, in one's own words.

• Borrowed facts: Information gained in reading or research which is not common knowledge must be acknowledged.

• Text strings that are more than 3-5 words in length (varies by discipline)
The university libraries has many resources to help you format your citations.

Highly recommend buying the style guide affiliated with your discipline. Often cheap. Updated regularly, every 3-5 years or so.
Citation Management Software

Citation management software is a great tool to help you keep track of citations of books and articles that you use for research.

• Refworks
• Mendelay
• Proquest Flow
• Seamless export and import of citations from databases and catalogs
• Can organize by project
• Share bibliographies with co-authors
• Format citations in a variety of styles
• Attach .pdfs, images
• Annotate citations
• Take it with you when you graduate
I am going to walk you through how to set up an account in Refworks and demonstrate how easy it is to

– export citations into this software
– Organize citations by project
– Format citations to various styles
Helpful links

Citation styles
• http://www.wmich.edu/library/citing

Videos on Writing Ethically Well
• http://libguides.wmich.edu/c.php?g=40163&p=803075

RefWorks Citation Management Software
• http://libguides.wmich.edu/c.php?g=40163&p=255576