Using the Web and Library Databases to Detect Plagiarism

This handout shows how tools like Google, Google Scholar, Google Books, and full-text Library databases can be used to help detect plagiarism.

Google
http://google.ca

Google is particularly useful for finding material plagiarized from web resources.

Enter the phrase you wish to check into the search box, for example:

“The source of much of our knowledge of Ashoka is the many inscriptions he had carved on pillars and rocks throughout the empire. All his inscriptions have the imperial touch and show compassionate loving.”

Place quotation marks around the text to indicate that it must be searched exactly as typed.

Explore the results to determine whether the text has been taken from an online source.

If there are no results, reduce the search phrase to one sentence or phrase and place quotation marks around the text. The last sentence (“All his inscriptions have the imperial touch and show compassionate loving.”) has two adjectives that should preclude false positive matches, so it would be a good search phrase.

If you don’t get any results, try broadening the search by removing the quotation marks around the phrase, to see if parts of it occur.

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Google Scholar
http://ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/login?url=http://scholar.google.ca (Note: Accessing Google Scholar with the EZproxy prefix, as shown above, will allow access to the UVic Libraries full text subscriptions.)

Google Scholar is useful for detecting material plagiarized from online academic journals across a wide variety of disciplines.

Enter the phrase you want to check into the Google Scholar search box, for example:

“Observation schedules are predetermined using taxonomies developed from known theory.”\(^2\)

Again, use **quotation marks** to indicate that the phrase needs to be found exactly as typed.

Look for a match in the list of results.

Use the **“Get this @ UVic”** link to determine whether full text is available for the article.

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Google Books
http://books.google.ca/

Google Books can help detect plagiarism from its online book collection.

In the Google Books search box, enter the phrase you wish to check, for example:

“Perhaps one of the most valuable interactions with patients addresses their needs as consumers in consumer driven health care.”

Use **quotation marks** to indicate that the phrase needs to be found exactly as typed.

Titles of books containing the text you searched for will be displayed.

Click on the title to display the page which includes the text.

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**Databases with Full Text Searching**

**Academic Search Complete** and other Ebsco databases include a full text search feature that allows searching by phrase. Academic Search Complete is a multidisciplinary source for scholarly articles.

From the UVic Libraries web page ([http://library.uvic.ca](http://library.uvic.ca)), click on the “Databases” tab. Then, using the “Frequently Used Databases” drop down menu, select **Academic Search Complete**.

Once in the database, enter the phrase you wish to check, for example:

“One of the more common concerns articulated in the literature is the ability of consumers to buy goods and services from merchants located outside the reach of their own government’s taxing authorities.”

Use **quotation marks** to indicate that the phrase needs to be found exactly as typed.

Place a check mark in the “Also search within the full text of the articles” box.

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From your list of results, click on the PDF or other full text link to display the full text of the article.

Search the text to find the phrase. (Use CTRL-F on a PC or STR-F on a Mac and enter the first few words of the phrase to locate it in the document).

One of the more common concerns articulated in the literature is the ability of consumers to buy goods and services from merchants located outside the reach of their own government's taxing authorities. More specifically, there are two aspects of cross-border e-commerce...