

Perspectives on role of university libraries to prevent plagiarism among research scholars

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Abstract:

This paper reviews the prospective role of university libraries (UL) in preventing plagiarism by Pakistani researchers.*

A sequential mixed-methods research strategy was used to collect data about the status and prospective role of UL in preventing plagiarism in Pakistan. A questionnaire-based survey of all central ULs in Pakistan was used to gather basic facts and perspectives, and nine chief librarians who administer text-matching software (Turnitin) in their universities were interviewed in-depth.

According to both data sets, most of the librarians have adequate information-technology skills and are willing to play a significant role in preventing plagiarism. They believe, however, that strong support by policy makers and academic authorities would help libraries to be more effective in this task. Toward that end, the paper highlights specific measures that university libraries (UL) in Pakistan and other developing countries can employ to combat plagiarism and teach, facilitate and promote the ethical and legal use of information by researchers.

* The paper is based on a part of the findings of the PhD study by the first author

Keywords: Anti-plagiarism instruction, detection, Pakistan, plagiarism prevention, role, university librarians.