Concurrent Session 3 | Room 1

WHY DO WE NEED AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP ON PLAGIARISM PREVENTION?

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Keywords

Academic integrity, Partnership, International, Digital scrapbooking strategies

Abstract

In 2021, an international research initiative was financed by the Canadian government to examine how to prevent plagiarism in universities. This presentation will present 1) the research project and its theoretical foundations and 2) how 63 researchers work collaboratively to achieve their goals.

Research on plagiarism is nothing new but it has mostly been centered on understanding how, why (Camara, Eng-Ziskin, Wimberley, Dabbour et Lee, 2017; Cleary, 2017; Eaton, 2020; Sarita, 2015; Strangfeld, 2019) and how many students plagiarize when writing their assignments (Pierce et Zilles, 2017), or on detecting plagiarism (Amin et Mohammadkarimi, 2018; Keuskamp et Sliuzas, 2007) and punishing the culprits (Halasek, 2011; Hamann et Kerwin, 2018). The present research project concentrates on working with students and faculty on trying to solve the problem before it arises.

Many researchers have declared that plagiarism is often caused by lack of knowledge (Chen et Chou, 2017; Elander, Pittam, Lusher, Fox et Payne, 2010b; Gravett et Kinchin, 2018; Ison, 2018), skills (Elander, Pittam, Lusher, Fox et Payne, 2010a; Rosser-Majors et Anderson, 2018), and training (Glendinning, 2014; Heckler, Forde et Bryan, 2013).

Unfortunately, we know very little about these deficits because they are spread over a large combination of skills needed to write academic papers. These can range from not knowing how to search and document the information needed to referencing the sources used. Certain authors will talk about university literacy (Miller et Schulz, 2014), other about writing from sources (Howard, Serviss et Rodrigue, 2010), doing patchworking (Howard, 1999) or in our case digital scrapbooking (Peters, 2015).

We suggest that when students write an academic paper, they need three sets of skills: informational, writing and referencing skills. They also need knowledge about how to prevent plagiarism. These skills and knowledge

combined with digital scrapbooking strategies enable them to write their assignments. In order to do this without plagiarizing, they need to be trained and this training needs to be done progressively, from primary school to the Ph.D. level. Our presentation will address the skills, knowledge and strategies in details.

In the second part of our presentation, we will talk about the research project, the people behind it, how it came to be and what we aim to do. The seven-year project, with two phases and research done in 31 universities in Canada, Europe and the United States will be introduced by researches taking part in the project. The following aspects of the project will be discussed: the partnership agreement, the data management plan, the creation and validation of the research instruments and generally what we all hope will come out of this project.

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