Brno 10/6

2015

An easy enough question to answer?

- Is it ok to sell access to plagiarism detection systems to students?
- This question is the source of a lot of controversy
- We have made it our policy NOT to sell to students
- Students may be co-reviewers though

It's not our idea

- Requested by our customer universities in Finland and Sweden
- Students may not share the same definition of plagiarism
- Students may deliberatley or not plagiarise
- Students with access to plagiarism detection accounts only learn to work the system, not what plagiarism is

Just a small number of students cheat

- Plagiarism detection accounts in the hands of students only work if the student know what plagiarism is and they want to do the right thing. – But then there are no real reason for them to use it...

- Honest – knows what is good and do good

- Honest – tries to do good but fails occationally

- Dishonest

If I change it enough, it becomes mine

- Does it cease to be plagiarism just because it passes the plagiarism detection system?

- Does not help the student understand the problem

There are only four resasons. It is because you have…

- A/ …little to no understanding of what plagiarism is
- B/ …misunderstood what a system for plagiarism detection actually does
- C/ …lost your memory
- D/ …plagiarised – and you want to know how bad it is showing

Why do you need it?

- We ask

- We do not see students fall inte cathegory C (I lost my memory) and D (I want to get away with cheating) very often

A/ ...little to no understanding of what plagiarism is

- - Want to check if I accidentally plagiarized
- - I want to see if I made enough changes to the texts I have been using
- In the best case scenario, they would delete
- In the worst case scenario, we would be helping the student get away with plagiarism

B/ ...misunderstood what a system for plagiarism detection actually does

- I need feedback on my essay
- I want to check that I haven't missed any quotes somewhere
- Contact your tutor. Explain your situation. Ask them to check the essay. Ask to be the co-reviewer of the report.
- The diffence is that you have been open about your concerns

C/ …lost your memory

- I have been writing for five years

- Legitimate reason

- What if he doesn't understand what plagiarism is?

- Happy to go to his tutor

D/ ...plagiarised – and you want to know how badly it is showing

- Not common that students ask outright
- Asking for user accounts from gmail addresses
- What is the student doing when they DO manage to get a hold of a user account?
- We don't have enough statistics to say but...

It is hard to spot the logical error

- We could put this on the students
- Is it possible to eradicate plagiarism by giving every student a personal user account?
- No more similarities! = NO MORE CHEATING!?
- Remove a misspelling from an essay and the misspelling is GONE
- Change the words up until the system isn't showing any more similarities.
- The plagiarism is NOT gone

Different answers to these questions:

- What is plagiarism and cheating?
- What does plagiarism detection systems do?

What is plagiarism and cheating?

- It is not the same thing

- what did the assignment look like?

- What were the circumstances?

- What were the tools provided to solve the task?

- We need to agree on this:

- If text B cannot exist without text A, you need to refer to text A.

What does plagiarism detection systems do?

- They don't detect plagiarism
- You are using a text analyzing software
- There are no systems for thought extraction and comparison
- Even if there were, how would it identify fraudulent similarities?
- We give you indications, tools and excerpts
- The rest is your job

We do not sell to students

- It would be unethical to sell to students
- It would render the universities use of it pointless
- But what is the result?
- Students get cheated by other systems by getting passed by them
- We like to think it makes some students think again

Finland and Sweden

- Most Universities try to help by checking the FIRST essay

- Learning the way of academic writing

- It is good to get caught early because they will have the chance to learn in a situation where it was ok to fail
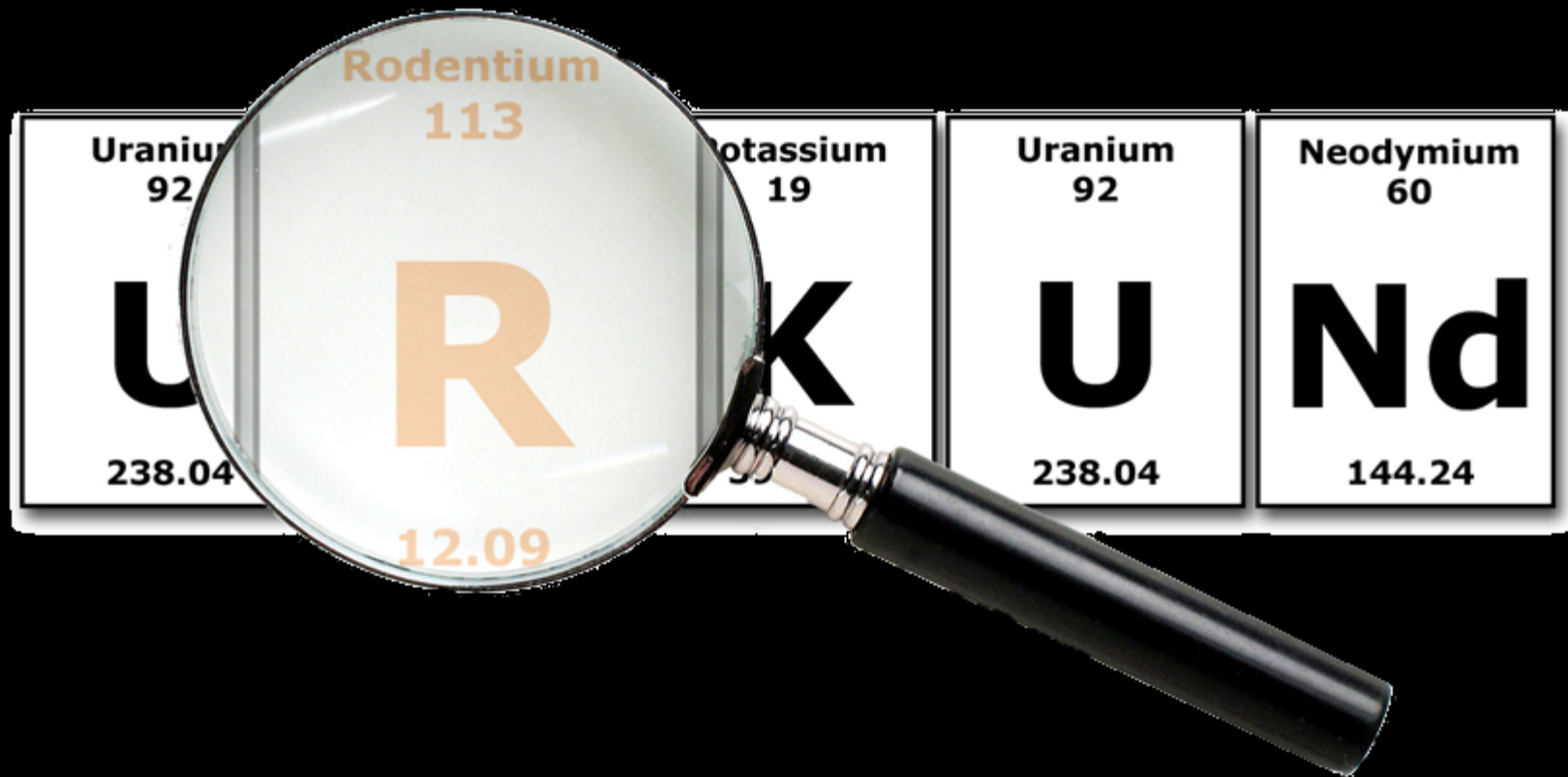
What we DO

- Come to Q15 at 16.30 and I will show you what we DO

URKUND

The most effective system

for detecting plagiarism

in the two most recent tests, 2010 and 2013*

TEST SYSTEM 2013*	EFFECTIVENESS
URKUND	95
Turnitin	87
Copyscape	87
Ephorus	76
PlagAware	75
Strike Plagiarism	75
PlagScan	72
Compilatio	72
PlagiarismDetect Premium	72
Docoloc	70
PlagiarismDetect Standard	65
Duplichecker	63
PlagTracker	41
Plagiarisma	39
OAPS	39
PlagiarismFinder	38
	MAX 130

■ = "Adequate"
■ = "Poor"
■ = "Unacceptable"

* http://plagiat.htw-berlin.de/software-en/2010-2/
http://plagiat.htw-berlin.de/software-en/test2013/report-2013/

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