



GROSSMONT COLLEGE LIBRARY

Library Guide for Faculty

Locating Sources of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas. It can range from an unacknowledged quote to copying an entire paper and turning it in as one's own work. Full-text library databases and the Internet have definitely made plagiarism easier, since they enable cut-and-paste copying. The following guide walks you through locating the original source of material you suspect is plagiarized.

Plagiarism from the Internet

1. Identify suspicious words, phrases, or sentences.
2. Choose a large search engine. Generally, Google is a good choice, since it is large and fast. However, each search engine searches slightly differently, so if at first you don't succeed, try another search engine.
 - a. <http://www.google.com>
 - b. <http://www.raging.com>
 - c. <http://www.alltheweb.com>
3. Enter the suspicious words or phrase. If entering a phrase, enclose it in quotes (i.e., "America's nationalism is threatened by elves from Ireland").
4. The search engine will give you a list of results with the closest hits ranked first. You will also see the words or phrase you searched in the context of the web page where they were found.
5. Click on the most likely match. If the web page is large, use the Find function (in the Edit menu of your web browser) to search for the words or phrase again and locate them on that particular page.

Plagiarism from Library Online Resources

If you believe the information was copied from one of the library's online databases, the search process is similar to that for Internet sites. You will have to search each database until you find a match.

1. Identify suspicious words, phrases, or sentences.
2. Choose a likely database to search. Some possibilities (which our students use from our library homepage) are:

EBSCO Academic Search Elite	CQ Researcher
ProQuest Direct	Grove Dictionary of Art
Info Trac	Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians
3. Enter the suspicious words or phrase. In Proquest Direct, words should be linked by AND (i.e., Americas and nationalism and elves) and phrases enclosed in quotes (i.e., "America's nationalism is threatened by elves from Ireland"). If you have trouble with a particular database, ask a librarian for help.
4. The database will give you a list of results. When you look at individual articles, your search terms will be highlighted.

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