

Everything you need to know about

PLAGIARISM

in 5 minutes or less

1

WHAT IS IT?

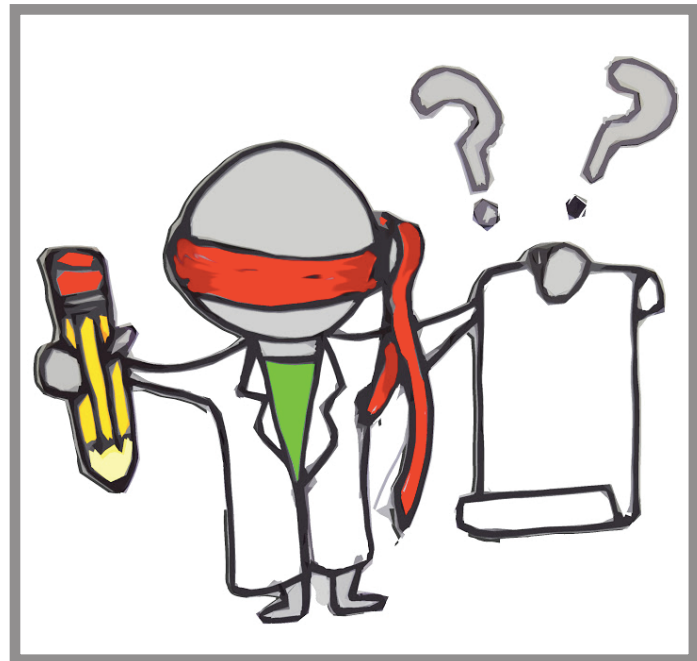
Presenting someone else's work as your own. This can take many forms, such as reproducing written passages or figures without permission. While the former requires citation, the latter may also require copyright permission.

2

50 SHADES OF PLAGIARISM

Not all plagiarism was created equal - some is due to simple misunderstandings of what is considered plagiarism. Here are the different forms plagiarism can take:

- x Taking passages from other sources verbatim without citations or quotations
- x Reusing your own previously published work without citations or quotations*
- x Reproducing figures or images from another source without permission



* This is real, and it's called Self Plagiarism. Even if you wrote it, if it's already been published, it must be cited.

3

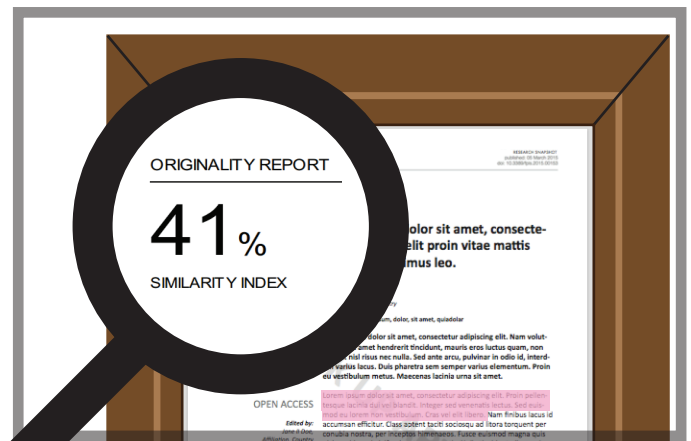
DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPRODUCE TEXT AND/OR FIGURES?

Copyright defines who is allowed to use your work (the publisher? the authors? the public?) and how they are allowed to use it (can it be altered? does it need a reference?). Some publishers require the user to submit an application or pay a fee to reproduce content. This information can usually be found on the publisher's website.

4

HOW CAN YOU CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM?

Publishers should check all submitted manuscripts for overlap. Frontiers uses a software called iThenticate to detect plagiarism. Each and every manuscript we receive is scanned with this program, and the resulting report is checked by a dedicated team to make sure everything is in order: iThenticate reports highlight text that overlaps with other publications, and provides a list of these sources as well as an overall additive percent similarity.



BOX 1: A BRIEF DIGRESSION INTO COPYRIGHT

Frontiers' articles are copyrighted under a Creative Commons license (CC BY) where authors retain ownership. Below is a breakdown of types of Creative Commons licenses (all require credit given to the original source):

- CC BY - others can reproduce, manipulate, and distribute
- CC BY-ND - "no derivatives": others can reproduce and distribute your work but they cannot manipulate it
- CC BY-NC - "non-commercial": others can reproduce and manipulate your work, but only distribute it non-commercially
- CC BY-SA - "share alike": others can reproduce, manipulate, and distribute your work, but, any derivative works must be licensed under the same terms

These terms can be mixed and matched to create more restrictive licenses, such as CC BY-NC-SA or CC BY-NC-ND

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY MANUSCRIPT IS FLAGGED FOR PLAGIARISM?



If you've received an email from us asking you to reduce overlap, don't panic! We'll include the iThenticate report so you can see exactly what requires editing. Do your best to paraphrase, and cite, cite cite! If it's important to keep verbatim text, put it in quotes and include the reference appropriately. For cases of plagiarized figures, make sure to include the necessary permissions.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. If there is a high percentage of overlap, or significant overlap is still not resolved after multiple revisions, manuscripts can and will be rejected outright.



CLOSING REMARKS

To sum up, passing others' work off as your own is unethical, on top of being misleading to readers. Be sure to thoroughly reference your work, and avoid copying text word-for-word! When in doubt, check the publisher's or copyright holder's website to see what kind of license they use for their content. You can find this information on the Frontiers site here:

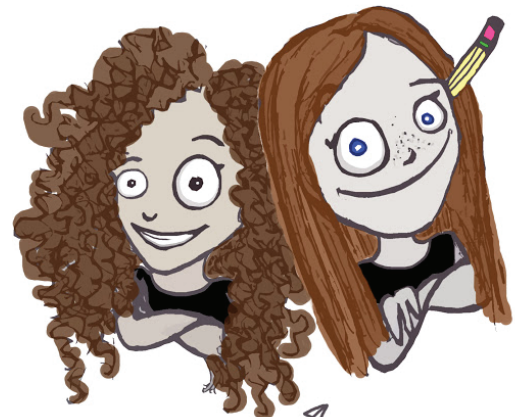
<http://home.frontiersin.org/about/about-frontiers>

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our editorial office at editorial.office@frontiersin.org

BOX 2: SILVER LININGS!

For those wondering how on earth you're going to reword a PCR protocol in your methods section, don't worry. We're more lenient on passages that include a lot of technical jargon.

Guidelines presented to you by



Daisy & Chloé