

Committee: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Topic: Promoting originality in academic research

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Position: Deputy President

Personal Introduction

Esteemed Delegates,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) of the 13th annual Campion School Model United Nations Conference. My name is Jim Flerianos and I am a 10th grade student attending the Erasmios Greek German School in Athens, Greece. It is my utmost honour to serve as the Deputy President of WIPO in this year's CSMUN, marking my 15th conference and the 5th time chairing.

I joined my school's MUN club in September 2023, barely even knowing what the UN was. The only thing I was aware of was that my brother was part of the MUN, and he loved it. Little did I know that it would soon become one of my greatest passions. Throughout this two-year journey, I have had the honour of meeting so many people coming from all over the world: from Oman to Switzerland and from Japan to the United States of America, all with the same goal: debate, meet new people, have fun, and of course ruin the dreams of every main submitter they come across.

I would like to personally congratulate you on the decision to join MUN. Whether it is in diplomacy, our everyday lives or our hobbies, we live in an era where we try to think beyond the horizon and challenge everything we know, trying to find meaning and purpose for every small detail, especially with AI starting to take a more significant role in our lives. As such, by taking the initiative of being part of such a community, you contribute to shaping a greater understanding of the world around us.

The newly-added WIPO revolves around three topics of great significance, one of which being "Promoting originality in academic research". Although the information provided will be extremely thorough and in a clear and concise timeline, I highly encourage you to conduct your own research to understand this topic in-depth.



If you have any questions or require any information, feel free to reach out to me at my email below.
I would be more than happy to help! I cannot wait to meet you all in October!

Sincerely,

Jim Flerianos

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Topic Introduction

Academic research has evolved over centuries, as it dates back to the pre-Socratic philosophers' era, who were focused on finding rational explanations for natural phenomena. During the Byzantine and Medieval era, scientific focus had shifted from the West to the East. As European nations were attempting to solve religious differences and conflicts, studies such as mathematics and chemistry flourished in Islamic nations. It would not be until the 16th century that the Scientific Revolution would lay the foundations for the modern version of science and academic research. Major discoveries and advancements, such as the heliocentric model of the solar system by Copernicus and Newton's laws, were made. In regard to academic research during this time, the first-ever scientific journal, *Journal des sçavans*, was published.

The importance of academic research lies in its ability to advance knowledge, foster innovation and inform critical decision-making in fields ranging from healthcare to public policy. The key to credible research is originality, maintained by ethical conduct and adherence to academic integrity. Plagiarism, which has been present since at least ancient Rome and has risen in modern times by artificial intelligence, threatens these standards, undermining trust, reputations, and the progression of knowledge. Institutions and organisations such as UNESCO and the ORI have established policies to uphold research integrity, yet challenges remain, including pressures to publish quickly, a lack of proper guidance, and the misuse of AI. Ensuring originality and ethical practice continues to be an important concern in maintaining the credibility and value of academic research.



Definition of key concepts

Copyright

“Copyright (or author’s right) is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works.”¹ A tangible benefit of this is the creators’ right to earn royalties whenever their work is reproduced, financially rewarding them for their labour.

Intellectual Property (IP)

Intellectual Property refers to “an idea, a design, etc. that somebody has created.”² Intellectual property is protected by laws and it is an obligation for creators to follow them, in respect of intellectual property.

Intellectual Property Rights

Any and all rights associated with intellectual property, owned by a person or company, that protect it against use without consent.³ An example of this is a patent, a right granted by a government to a creator, giving them the exclusive right to control the usage of their creation.

Academic Integrity

“intellectual honesty (being truthful at all stages) in proposing, performing and reporting any activity, which leads to the creation of intellectual property.”⁴

Academic Research

“a process of detailed and methodical investigation into some area of study. It involves intensive search, investigation, and critical analysis, usually in response to a specific research question or hypothesis.”⁵

¹ “Copyright.” *Copyright*, <https://www.wipo.int/web/copyright>.

² *Intellectual Property Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.Com.*

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/intellectual-property>.

³ Law, St Francis. “Intellectual Property Rights: Definition and Examples.” *St Francis School of Law*, 15 Apr. 2021, <https://stfrancislaw.com/blog/intellectual-property-rights/>.

⁴ “Academic Integrity Definition.” *Law Insider*, <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/academic-integrity>.

⁵ *Reading and Research Skills - University of Galway.*

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills/readingandresearch/>.



Originality

“the quality or state of being independent and creative in thought or action”⁶ Originality in a legal sense does not require novelty. This means that the work must originate from the author and not be copied, even if similar works already exist.

Plagiarism

“Presenting work or ideas from another source as your own, with or without consent of the original author, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement.”⁷ “Plagiarism” is the opposite of “original”, and can occur through false citation, intent, the usage of Artificial Intelligence, etc.

Research Misconduct

“fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing research, or in reporting research results.”⁸ Research misconduct is the product of plagiarism.

Background Information

Academic research

Development throughout the years

Academic research has existed in various forms and shapes for hundreds of years. Although we cannot pinpoint in time the first academic paper, we can assume that the first people to theorise, investigate and research in order to find answers about the world around us and rationally justify their work were the pre-Socratic philosophers. The earliest presocratic philosopher is Thales of Miletus (c. 620-545 BCE). These philosophers’ focus was to give nonmythological and pragmatic explanations mainly as to the origins of the world, of life, death and investigate physical science such as astronomy and physics.⁹

⁶ Definition of ORIGINAL. 3 Jul. 2025, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/original>.

⁷ Plagiarism | University of Oxford.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>.

⁸ Definition of Research Misconduct | ORI - The Office of Research Integrity.

<https://ori.hhs.gov/definition-research-misconduct>.

⁹ Pre-Socratics | Milesian School, Thales, Anaximander | Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/pre-Socratic-philosophy>.



Although during the Byzantine and Medieval eras, academic research was almost put to a total halt in Europe, Islamic nations flourished in mathematics and science. This pause in Europe would remain active until the Scientific Revolution (16th-18th century), when the focus surrounding religion was replaced by science. During this time, the first ever scientific journal, the *Journal des sçavans*, was established.¹⁰ It allowed researchers to share and critique findings. In addition, famous pioneers like Galileo, Ole Romer, and Newton achieved great feats in their respective fields.

Currently, universities and institutions support and fund academic research, while the internet has revolutionised access to information through digital libraries and has enabled researchers from all over the world to collaborate together. The publication of academic and scientific papers is at an all-time high at approximately 5 million annually.¹¹ Moreover, innovative tools that allow automated analysis have transformed how research is conducted. However, the rapid evolution of new technologies and the vast availability of online resources have raised certain challenges and ethical concerns surrounding plagiarism, unoriginality or improper credit of authorship. This has also been worsened by the rise of Artificial Intelligence. Nevertheless, due to such tools' rise in popularity and usage, one can assume that they will be inevitably utilised to conduct or assist in academic research to a notable extent in the future. As a result, attributing originality will become extremely difficult, especially on a statutory level, and it will nullify the independence and idiosyncrasy mandated for such works, a predicament that historically did not exist.

Importance of academic research

It is safe to assume that academic research has played a crucial role in the evolution of mankind's creations. Academic research is a method to question, investigate, answer and advance knowledge in all fields. Industries such as healthcare, technology or science flourish when innovative minds use their abilities to take a step forward. It informs citizens and develops their critical thinking. Being able to understand and accurately comprehend phenomena around us leads to effective policy-making for a variety of issues, thus solving global issues. For example, the Harvard Kennedy School Government

¹⁰ *Scientific Revolution | Definition, History, Scientists, Inventions, & Facts | Britannica.*
<https://www.britannica.com/science/Scientific-Revolution>.

¹¹ "China: Published Scientific Papers." *Statista*,
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/234780/published-scientific-papers-in-china/>.



Performance Lab provides information, feedback and research to governments to ensure that they are able to deliver coherent, efficient and sustainable outcomes to communities.¹²

Originality in research

Originality is an essential part of credible academic research. All the previously mentioned positive effects of academic research are in effect due to originality. Fabricating information, ignoring data, or plagiarising can be dangerous, misinformative, misleading and be ignorant of the effort of the original authors.

Academic integrity and ethics

The respect that a researcher shows to academic integrity serves as an integral part of their research. For it to be upheld, researchers need to produce their own ideas through non-fabricated information and acknowledge the work of others without any signs of plagiarism. Moreover, the conduction of ethical research requires transparency and accurate data collection. For research to be considered original, ethical conduct and the standards of academic integrity must be followed.

Institutional policies, guidelines and regulations

However, to this day, academic research tends to be plagiarised to some extent. This has led to institutions such as universities, schools or colleges and organisations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) or the Office on Research Integrity (ORI) in the United States of America (USA) to create policies and regulations on academic research to ensure that academic integrity is upheld. This ranges from standards and instructions, as seen in the policy created by the [University of Rwanda in collaboration with UNESCO](#), to a [strict penalty system](#) as implemented by the Indian Republic.

Plagiarism

Origins

The word “plagiarism” is derived from the Latin word “plagarius”, which means kidnapper. Thus, we can assume that plagiarism is an act of “stealing” or “kidnapping” knowledge. Originally, knowledge was thought to be communal and authorship was majorly ignored, and it would not be until the early 18th century, when the first copyright law was legislated, known as the Statute of Anne of Great

¹² “Home.” *Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab*, <https://govlab.hks.harvard.edu/>.



Britain.¹³ However, the first documented case of plagiarism goes all the way back to 80 AD when Fidentinus was accused of such an act by the Roman poet Martial.¹⁴ Later on, in 1601, the word “plagiarism” would be first used by the playwright and author Ben Jonson.

The effect of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In recent years, AI has brought new challenges in the fight against plagiarism, worsening its effects. The availability and easy usage of AI has turned it into an extremely useful tool used by many people around the world in their everyday lives in order to quickly complete mundane tasks or find answers even for their deepest thoughts. Moreover, it has become a fan-favourite tool by students, allowing them to complete long and difficult essays in a matter of minutes or seconds. This form of usage on its own is plagiarism as the true author is the AI Model. Furthermore, it functions based on information found on the internet. This means that it reproduces content usually without proper attribution, blurring authorship and raising critical ethical questions.

Impact on research

The main impact that plagiarism has on academic research is the breach of academic integrity. It leads to the creation of a dishonesty culture, undermining original authors and the hundreds, maybe even thousands of hours of effort put into the uncredited work. This “culture” can frighten researchers and discourage them from conducting research of any kind, hindering the advancement of knowledge. Moreover, it undermines the public’s trust in scientific finds, as research conducted in violation of academic integrity can possibly have detrimental effects on human health and safety, especially when it comes to research in the science and healthcare sector.

Apart from harming the values of academic research, plagiarism also stains the reputation of researchers and institutions, labelling them as distrustful and possibly harming their entire future in that field, and the reception of their future works. This could include the withdrawal of the paper, the revocation of the degree of the researcher, or even the termination of employment if the research was conducted under the auspices of an institution. It is important to note that, regardless of whether plagiarism was intentional or not, it is always treated seriously by academic institutions

¹³ *The Avalon Project : The Statute of Anne; April 10, 1710.*

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/anne_1710.asp.

¹⁴ *5 Historical Moments That Shaped the Concept of Plagiarism.*

<https://www.turnitin.com/blog/5-historical-moments-that-shaped-plagiarism>.



and the wider academia. An example of a serious account of plagiarism, is the case of Claudine Gay. This former president of Harvard was forced to resign on January 2nd, 2024, after significant plagiarism allegations and criticism of her past works.¹⁵

Challenges faced in promoting originality

Nowadays, there are various challenges faced while attempting to combat plagiarism. As many researchers and journals prioritise the quantity of the papers they have published over their quality, they often choose to take shortcuts by copying others instead of making an effort to do their own research, produce their own ideas or appropriately credit previous authors. Moreover, most researchers do their work under the auspices of an institution, which has set certain standards or deadlines for it. Due to the pressure they experience because of time constraints or the fear of the repercussions they might face if they are not able to meet certain deadlines, they are usually led to neglect the use of ethical methods to complete their work. Furthermore, many students do not receive proper guidance on methods to avoid plagiarism or conduct research correctly. As a result, their work or research is sometimes unintentionally plagiarised, simply due to their not being informed.

Date	Description of the event
80 AD	The first account of literary plagiarism against Fidentinus by the Roman poet Martial. ¹⁶
1601	The word “plagiary” is first mentioned by playwright and author Ben Jonson as "the purloining or wrongful appropriation of another's ideas, writing, artistic designs, etc., and giving these forth as one's own".

¹⁵ Lawrence, Andrew. “Harvard’s Claudine Gay Was Ousted for ‘Plagiarism’. How Serious Was It Really?” *The Guardian*, 6 Jan. 2024. *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2024/jan/06/harvard-claudine-gay-plagiarism>.

¹⁶ 5 Historical Moments That Shaped the Concept of Plagiarism. <https://www.turnitin.com/blog/5-historical-moments-that-shaped-plagiarism>.

Date	Description of the event
5 January 1665	The first literary and scientific research paper, “Journal des scavans”, written by Denis de Sallo, is published in Paris, France. ¹⁷
10 April 1710	The Statute of Anne of Great Britain, also known as the Copyright Act of 1710, the first ever copyright law, is passed ¹⁸ acting as the spark of a chain reaction that would lead to at least 181 countries ¹⁹ adopting copyright laws, thus protecting the rights of authors and intellectual property.
20 March 1883	The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property is signed, helping ensure the protection of intellectual property in other nations.
9 September 1886	The Berne Convention for the Protection of Artistic and Literary Works is signed, protecting the rights of authors. ²⁰
14 April 1891	The Madrid Agreement is signed, creating the Madrid System for the international registration of trademarks, leading to the establishment of a spectrum of international property services.

¹⁷ *Journal Des Scavans: The First Scientific Journal Begins Publication : History of Information.*
<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?entryid=2661>.

¹⁸ *The Avalon Project : The Statute of Anne; April 10, 1710.*
https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/anne_1710.asp.

¹⁹ Chase, Karlen. *Research Guides: Copyright: Copyright by Country.*
<https://research.lib.buffalo.edu/copyright/by-country>.

²⁰ *Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.*
<https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/berne/index.html>.

Date	Description of the event
1893	The administrative merger of the secretariats of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883) and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886) leads to the creation of the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (BIRPI), in order to ensure the enforcement of the aforementioned conventions and also act as the predecessor to the World International Property Organization (WIPO).
14 July 1967	The World International Property Organization Convention is signed, thus transforming BIRPI into WIPO, with the goal of promoting economic, social, and cultural development of nations across the globe through the usage of a balanced international intellectual property system. ²¹
17 December 1974	The WIPO becomes the 12th United Nations Specialised Agency with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
1998	The WIPO Academy is established to provide courses on intellectual property. ²²
March 2006	Hwang Woo-suk is fired from Seoul National University after being accused of academic

²¹ Salviati, Federico Guicciardini Corsi. *Nadi, Fiji 1 to 3 December*.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/aspac/en/wipo_ip_nan_10/wipo_ip_nan_10_ref_t9_3.pdf.

²² WIPO — A Brief History. <https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/history.html>.

Date	Description of the event
	misconduct and violating principles of scientific ethics. ²³
27-28 September 2007	The WIPO General Assembly adopts the 45 Development Agenda recommendations and establishes the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property. ²⁴
September 2011	Diederik Stapel, who at the time was a professor of psychology at Tilburg University, is suspended after being accused of research fraud and academic misconduct. ²⁵
1 June 2023	The Unified Patent Court is established, serving as a method to enforce European patents across borders. ²⁶

Major countries, organisations and alliances

People's Republic of China

In 2023 alone, China published 2.17 million scientific papers, thus acting as the world's leading producer of scientific publications.²⁷ As a rapidly evolving country, it has invested heavily in the scientific and technological sector in order to promote innovation. This has contributed to a rise in research output. However, many have questioned the quality, the ethical standards and originality of the aforementioned output, advocating for the prevention of misconduct. In April of 2025,²⁸ the

²³ Hwang Woo-Suk | South Korean Scientist & Stem Cell Pioneer | Britannica. 27 May 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hwang-Woo-Suk>.

²⁴ Development Agenda for WIPO. <https://www.wipo.int/ip-development/en/agenda/index.html>.

²⁵ Bhattacharjee, Yudhijit. "The Mind of a Con Man." *The New York Times*, 26 Apr. 2013. *NYTimes.com*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/magazine/diederik-stapels-audacious-academic-fraud.html>.

²⁶ *The Unified Patent Court Opens Its Doors!* | Unified Patent Court. <https://www.unified-patent-court.org/en/news/unified-patent-court-opens-its-doors>.

²⁷ "China: Published Scientific Papers." *Statista*, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/234780/published-scientific-papers-in-china/>.

²⁸ Travis, Kate. "Chinese Funding Agency Sanctions 26 Researchers in Latest Misconduct Report." *Retraction Watch*, 15 Apr. 2025,

National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) sanctioned 26 researchers and withdrew their work, after they were exposed by a research misconduct report. This may support the claims made questioning scientific research in China, but also proves that the country is making efforts to combat this issue.

Republic of India

In 2018, India developed and implemented its first anti-plagiarism regulations, which have been characterised as one of the strongest anti-plagiarism systems worldwide. According to these regulations, all academic theses submitted to universities must undergo plagiarism checking by any software approved by the university. Moreover, the University Grants Commission has established a multi-tier penalty system which ensures that an academic thesis that presents minor plagiarism (10%-40%) needs to be revised and resubmitted, whereas majorly plagiarised papers (above 60%) lead to the possible cancellation of degrees and can result in the disqualification from academic positions.²⁹

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America has shown emphasis on ensuring originality and integrity in academic research. The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) was founded in May 1992 under the auspices of the Department of Health and Human Services. As part of its responsibilities, this body investigates academic misconduct such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, and supports institutions with the tools needed for ethical enforcement and ensures compliance with federal regulations. Lastly, the ORI publishes guides on ways to ensure originality and academic integrity.³⁰

European Union

The European Union (EU) is a hybrid and unique intergovernmental and supranational organisation consisting of 27 European nations. Through the assistance of All European Academies (ALLEA), the European Commission was able to develop and establish the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, an international framework on research integrity applicable to all member states of the

<https://retractionwatch.com/2025/04/15/national-natural-science-foundation-china-misconduct-investigations/>.

²⁹ India Creates Unique Tiered System to Punish Plagiarism.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/india-creates-unique-tiered-system-punish-plagiarism>.

³⁰ Policies - ORI Mission | ORI - The Office of Research Integrity. <https://ori.hhs.gov/policies-ori-mission>.



European Union. Moreover, this document focuses on funding agencies and individual researchers conducting research throughout Europe, and states that all academic and scientific research papers published within the EU can be considered honest and reliable. Lastly, it strongly emphasises that plagiarism and fabrication are violations of good research practice and can be serious grounds for sanctions.³¹

International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI)

The International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) is an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) founded in 1992. The organisation's main goal is to promote the fundamental values of academic integrity, those being honesty, trust, fairness, respect and courage. Moreover, through its website, it offers tools for institutions to develop codes of conduct and plagiarism prevention training. Lastly, ICAI attempts to raise awareness on the issue through the conduction of global surveys, hosting conferences and collaborating with educational bodies throughout the globe.³²

URL: <https://academicintegrity.org>

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that offers guidance for publishers and researchers on academic integrity and ethical publishing. COPE has closely collaborated with the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in order to achieve its goal of promoting originality in scholarly research and its publications.³³

URL: <https://publicationethics.org>

Previous attempts to solve the issue

UNESCO and the University of Rwanda (2018)

In collaboration with UNESCO, and alongside the support of the Korean Funds-in-Trust, the University of Rwanda created a document in 2018 with the goal of developing national policies on research

³¹ *The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity - ALLEA*. <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>.

³² *ICAI | Values*. <https://www.academicintegrity.org/aww/ICAI/pt/sp/values>.

³³ "COPE Focus." *COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics*, <https://publicationethics.org/cope-focus>.

ethics in Rwanda. This framework focused on the [implementation of measures](#) in order to detect and prevent research misconduct and the creation of research ethics, especially for researchers who lacked experience in their respective fields.³⁴ Moreover, there has been a great emphasis placed on plagiarism. The framework defines plagiarism and provides clear preventative mechanisms, mentions penalty scales and clear instructions on how to utilise the Turnitin system. This particular attempt acted as the root to meaningful change in regards to academic integrity. However, it was partially effective, as enforcement mechanisms remained weak, leading to cases of plagiarism remaining unreported, unpunished or even unnoticed.

World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI)

The World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI) was founded in 2007 and up until now has hosted 8 global conferences where researchers and institutions discuss issues regarding academic ethics.³⁵ Moreover, there has already been a conference scheduled in 2026 in Vancouver, Canada, focusing on three topics of paramount importance: artificial intelligence, research security and indigenous knowledge systems.³⁶ Throughout its 18 years of work, the WCRI has published a series of documents outlining principles and statements made by the conferences with the purpose of challenging governments, organisations and institutions to develop more comprehensive standards for academic integrity. Included in those is the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity, which supports and outlines certain principles of integrity and transparency in research, as well as the responsibility that is placed upon researchers to report misconduct.³⁷ Moreover, the first ever Conference in Lisbon in 2007 created an agenda including the initiative of tackling the problem of plagiarism, image manipulations and inappropriate authorship credit through major publishers.³⁸ Lastly, WCRI 2017, which took place in Amsterdam, focused solely on improving research integrity. The agenda of that year's conference included, in accordance with the Singapore Statement:

³⁴ Anti-Plagiarism Policy - UNESCO Digital Library. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000266189>.

³⁵ ID22. "WCRIF." WCRIF - The World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation, 26 Aug. 2025, <https://www.wcrif.org/>.

³⁶ ID22. "WCRIF." WCRIF - The World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation, 26 Aug. 2025, <https://www.wcrif.org/>.

³⁷ ID22. "WCRI Singapore Statement." WCRIF - The World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation, 26 June 2025, <https://www.wcrif.org/guidance/singapore-statement>.

³⁸ ID22. "Background World Conference." WCRIF - The World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation, 27 Aug. 2025, <https://www.wcrif.org/organisation-rio-de-janeiro/background-rio-de-janeiro>.

ensuring honesty in academic research, accountability in the conduct of research, fairness in working with others and good stewardship of research on behalf of others.³⁹

Ombuds Committee for Research Integrity (1999)

The Ombuds Committee for Research Integrity was founded in 1999 by the German Research Foundation after a series of fraud cases in the 1990s, with its main goal being the promotion of the upholding of ethical standards and guidelines for scientific practice and addressing cases of misconduct. It acts as an advisory body where researchers can report confidentially or seek advice on issues such as plagiarism or data fabrication. As the German Research Ombudsman was one of the first national systems of its kind globally, it acted as a model or template for the structure of other integrity offices throughout the globe.⁴⁰ Similar to the action taken by the EU, it has produced a document with clear and strict guidelines protecting good research practice. In the document, it is strongly emphasised that plagiarism and fabrication are violations of good research practice and can be serious grounds for sanctions.

Possible solutions

Implementation of specialised policies in educational institutions

Institutions like universities or schools could clearly define their guidelines for academic research. Each institution would either enforce an original set of regulations, a pre-existing one like the Singapore Statement, or a combination of the two. Moreover, students or researchers who plagiarise content in their work should be met with strict penalties regulated by the percentage of plagiarised text found in each document. Researchers need to be discouraged in any way possible from plagiarising content in order to ensure originality. Lastly, researchers and students would go through specialised ethical conduction programs and research training courses against plagiarism, which would include instructions on properly conducting literature review and citing sources. This is because many end up plagiarising content simply because they were not informed on how to correctly conduct research.

³⁹ ID22. “Amsterdam Agenda.” *WCRIF - The World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation*, 19 Aug. 2025, <https://www.wcrif.org/guidance/amsterdam-agenda>.

⁴⁰ “Home ENG.” *Ombudsgremium – OWID*, <https://ombudsgremium.de/?lang=en>.



Third-party review panels

This is an issue that affects the global community, so it is safe to assume that international collaboration should not just be endorsed, but is a “must” in order to resolve it. The creation of a specialised, international and third-party review panel would discourage researchers and limit their ability to plagiarise or fabricate information. This body could act as an overseeing authority, tasked with verifying the authenticity of research before it is disseminated to the public. In addition, it could collaborate with UNESCO or any credible institution to perform randomised checks of already published papers, in an attempt to uncover any forms of plagiarism or AI through tools provided by universities. Supposing the panel found any plagiarised work, it would contact any and all affiliated institutions and researchers in regards to this issue, providing them with a set time period to fix the paper. If they failed to do so, they would be reported to a higher organisation or body able to withdraw the paper. As a result, it would foster accountability across institutions and researchers, ensuring that misconduct is not overlooked.

Conferences dedicated to finding new inspiration

Conferences dedicated to fostering originality in academic research can serve as a medium for researchers to come together and find new inspiration. In those conferences, the minds of the scientific community would come together, combine their abilities and come up with new and novel ideas. Often, independent researchers may find it difficult to develop new research ideas, especially in heavily researched fields. However, through these conferences, such obstacles can be overcome, thus ensuring that originality will not stagnate. These conferences can also act as methods to exchange opinions, ideas and knowledge, fostering an environment of collaboration between scholars. Moreover, young researchers, in particular, can benefit from this exposure to pioneering work, motivating them to push boundaries in their own studies.

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<https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/berne/index.html>. Accessed 25 Jun. 2025.
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<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/magazine/diederik-stapels-audacious-academic-fraud.html>.
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