

IJOMAM ANTI-PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

What is Plagiarism? (General Meaning)

Plagiarism is a complex concept with no unanimous meaning. Similarly, law provisions applicable to plagiarism differ according to each country. Often, plagiarism is associated with copyright infringement (mainly in industrial environments) but this is not always the case.

According to dexonline.ro, plagiarism is considered to be: "The [process of] copying [and] taking over – be it in whole or in part – the ideas of others with the view to present them as personal creations". A second meaning states that plagiarism is defined as "a literary, scientific or artistic work belonging to another individual and that is taken over – be it in whole or in part – by him or her and presented as her or her own creation". Thus, plagiarism can mean both a process and its product.

Plagiarism is considered offensive because it is a form of "stealing". The main causes for concern are not only restrained to the financial losses incurred by the originator of the idea or of the work concerned but also involve the fact that he or she is prevented from getting the symbolic recognition that the merit of the idea could bring about to that person.

What is Plagiarism in the Academic Field?

Plagiarism in the academic field has no universally acknowledged meaning either. Different institutions define various level of acceptance in terms of the percent of plagiarism involved (Some define plagiarism as a case in which a paper reproduces another work with at least 15% similarity and without citation), while others commit to a zero-plagiarism policy. However, the most concise and comprehensive definition of the concept seems to be given by Princeton University, stating that plagiarism is the "deliberate use of "someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source." (*Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices*, Princeton University. 2012). It can encompass various forms (some of them more easily to detect than others), such as: *verbatim* copying of words or phrases lacking a proper citation, the rephrasing of the text involving the substitution of certain words or idioms with synonyms or just rephrasing the text by the appropriation of ideas or concepts, the preservation of text structure in a document with other changes involved as well, self-plagiarism, collusion and the method of paying other person to write a work in somebody else's name (Foltynek, Tomas; Meuschke, Norman; Gipp, Bela (2019-10-16). "Academic Plagiarism Detection: A Systematic Literature Review". ACM Computing Surveys.)

What Does IJOMAM Do to Prevent Plagiarism?

IJOMAM stands firm against any form of plagiarism. The three actors involved in the publishing process – the Editor and his Editorial Team, the Reviewers and the Authors – need to make sure that no blunt plagiarism is involved in the process of issuing IJOMAM, as ethics is a key concern for our journal. The main moral responsibility belongs – of course – to the Authors, who are made aware of the zero-tolerance policy of our journal from the very website. Also, the publication process involves a step when authors transfer the copyright to the Journal and in which there is a statement by which they take upon themselves not to breach the applicable moral publishing standards and to exclude plagiarism from their practices. However, it is up to the Editor and the Editorial Team and the Reviewers to make sure that these aspects are observed by further checking the contributions with a special software that detects plagiarism. Authors who break the ethical conduct rules can no longer submit papers for evaluation sooner than in two years' time from the date of plagiarism detected. A maximum of 5% plagiarism rate as detected by the specialized software is considered acceptable considering the complexity of plagiarism forms (apart from the strict identification of plagiarism with *verbatim* reproduction of the works of others) and the possible software errors.

What can a Contributor Do to Prevent Plagiarism?

Authors are advised by the IJOMAM Team to observe strictly the ethical rules that any scientist is to be familiar with. He or she must not engage in any form of intellectual theft, as defined before. Proper credit and citation should be given to the works used in drawing their own papers while novelty and scientific merit should be the chief concepts leading to the generation of a research paper. All authors are kindly advised to go through the definitions and examples of forms of plagiarism described above and to avoid them at all costs. Moreover, referring to additional bibliographical resources in the field of plagiarism prevention is highly advised and appreciated.