

Handout for the introduction of Turnitin Similarity

Past experience at the University of Heidelberg and other universities indicates an increase of plagiarism in examination papers (such as seminar papers, Magister and Diplom papers, as well as Bachelor and Master theses, dissertations, and habilitation treatises). This is evidently due to the wide range of information available on the internet. In order to maintain good scientific practice at Heidelberg University, the Rector's office recommends the following:

1. Written work of students, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral students are required to meet the standards of good scientific practice. Plagiarised texts are not one's own scientific achievement and thus violate this principle. Furthermore, unauthorized or inappropriately labeled use of intellectual property that is not one's own is an offence against copyright law, which not only serves as a legal basis for injunction or compensation claims of copyright holders, but may also entail criminal prosecution. Lecturers at Heidelberg University are therefore asked to apply all available means at their disposal and to impart the principles of proper scientific conduct to their students at an early stage.
2. In order to identify plagiarism more effectively, faculties and schools of the University have been provided with the plagiarism detection software Turnitin similarity. Personnel authorized for examination will receive log-in details upon request to the e-mail address nissen@ub.uni-heidelberg.de. Each text concerned is uploaded to the server of the service operator for analysis and deleted immediately after having been checked.
3. Students should be made aware (e. g. in seminar sessions) that their work may be analysed by this software.
4. For reasons of data privacy, papers are to be fed into the data base without any personal details, such as name or matriculation number. It is the responsibility of the supervisor who handed in the paper to re-match the respective text and its author; possible means include pseudonyms or numeric codes.
5. Any plagiarism found indicates a conscious act of deception. Further measures are specified in the respective examination regulations of the university.
6. For further questions please contact:

Dr. Martin Nissen
Universitätsbibliothek
Tel.: 06221/54-2581
nissen@ub.uni-heidelberg.de
Plöck 107-109
69117 Heidelberg