

## Faculty and Student FAQ: Using iThenticate and Turnitin

### *How do Turnitin and iThenticate work?*

Turnitin and iThenticate compare text in an electronic submission to text in existing documents stored in several databases. The software generates a report that identifies and highlights material in a submitted paper that matches text from existing documents in the database. The report identifies the source document associated with each passage of highlighted text, including a link to the relevant section of the source document.

### *How do the Turnitin and iThenticate databases differ?*

The databases used for Turnitin reports include current and archived web pages, student papers submitted for review with the Turnitin software, and digital collections of published books, articles, homework helper sites ([http://turnitin.com/en\\_us/features/originalitycheck/content](http://turnitin.com/en_us/features/originalitycheck/content)).

The databases used for iThenticate reports include web pages, works published in scholarly publications (PubMed, research titles from EBSCOhost, the Gale Info Trac OneFile, ProQuest theses and dissertations, SAGE Reference, Emerald Journals, and Cengage Learning) (<http://www.ithenticate.com/content>).

### *What happens to papers submitted for review?*

**Papers submitted to Turnitin become part of the database of student papers.**

Manuscripts submitted to iThenticate do not enter the database. **The same paper (file name) can be submitted up to 5 times for evaluation.**

### *Which software should I use to review a student paper?*

The databases used for Turnitin reviews reflect the most common sources of material used in undergraduate papers: web sites, digital library materials, and student papers.

The databases used for iThenticate reviews include a broad scholarly materials published in peer-reviewed journals, collections of theses and dissertations, and web sites. Many publishers and funding agencies use iThenticate to review submissions as part of their peer evaluation.

### *The report identified a number of passages that match text in other documents? Does this mean the author has plagiarized?*

Authorship practices vary across disciplines. Use of direct quotation and close paraphrasing may be acceptable among writers in one discipline and unacceptable in other disciplines.

Direct quotations from source material produce text matches but may not violate good authorship practices if the author clearly indicates the material is a direct quote (using double indentation or quotation marks) and provided the appropriate citation for the source.

Some disciplines have standardized descriptions of methods, process, definitions of concepts, or other material. Some disciplines regard variations in language as modifications of the meaning of the concept or revisions of methods or procedures; paraphrases tend to create confusion and interfere with clear communication. For these disciplines, text matches for these descriptions may be accepted authorship practices. Other disciplines will treat these text matches as plagiarism. Be sensitive to disciplinary authorship practices when evaluating an originality report.