What is Urkund?

Linköping University uses Urkund, which is a tool for detecting plagiarism. Written work, e.g. student theses, can be sent to Urkund where they are automatically checked against a large database of student reports and other sources from Swedish universities and from the internet. It is the teacher who decides if the theses has to be sent to Urkund and in the end, decides whether there are strong grounds for plagiarism suspicions.

Consequences

What happens if you plagiarize?

When there is a suspicion of plagiarism, the case is forwarded to the University Disciplinary Board. If subsequent investigation shows that the student has plagiarized, the punishment can be a warning or expulsion for up to 6 months (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 10).
Do you want to know your skills about plagiarizing and copyright? Try the self-study tutorial No Plagiarist.

noplagiat.bibl.liu.se

Plagiarism results from presenting someone else’s ideas or work (in whole or in part) as one’s own. “Work” can refer to text, figures, photographs, pictures, sounds, video, etc.

Examples:
- To use someone else’s ideas, theories, methods or data;
- To copy someone else’s figures, pictures or tables;
- To submit someone else’s work in whole or in part as one’s own;
- To submit results from presentations, research or education without clearly specifying so.

If one refers to another language, make sure to reference the source correctly. If one’s text is very similar to another’s work, and one does not state clearly which work one is referring to, one may be plagiarizing.

Throughout the entire writing process you need to reference your external sources. Citations (text included in quotation marks) must be identical to the original text. Work can also be paraphrased, i.e., rewritten in one’s own words. In both cases a full reference to the source must be given. Note that even if one references the original text, one can also be considered to be plagiarizing if one does not write the text in one’s own words.

When paraphrasing someone else’s work:
- One must be careful to truly paraphrase and not just make minor changes.
- When paraphrasing someone else’s work, one must include page numbers, the title of the work, the author’s name, and the year of publication.
- When writing references one has the choice of many systems, for example, Harvard or Oxford. In the Harvard system, one gives the authors’ names and the year of publication in brackets. In the Oxford system, one gives a number in the text, which refers to a footnote and/or a full reference in a bibliography.
- One can make minor changes when one paraphrases, but one cannot change the meaning of the text.

What is Copyright?

Copyright deals with the right to reproduce someone else’s work. Note that even if one gives credit for someone else’s work (and hence avoids plagiarizing), one is not necessarily allowed to use the work in a report due to copyright restrictions. In this case “work” incorporates text, figures, photographs etc. including material found on the internet.

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