

# How to Avoid Plagiarism

## Office of Graduate Professional Development Workshop

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Marston Science Library

March 1, 2023

# Digital Age: Easy Access to Information



- ◆ What is plagiarism?
- ◆ Why is it a concern?
- ◆ How can we avoid it?

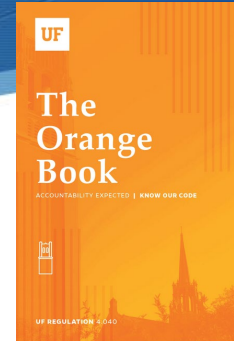
# Learning Objectives

1. Explain importance of avoiding plagiarism in academic writing
2. Describe different types of plagiarism
3. Recognize good paraphrasing
4. Identify proper use of citations
5. Discover resources to help avoid plagiarism

# What is Plagiarism?

- ◆ Misrepresenting others' work or ideas as your own
- ◆ Taking credit for someone else's work or ideas

# Plagiarism in the UF Student Honor Code



According to the code, plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

# Consequences of Plagiarism at UF

A student who has plagiarized faces consequences that range from:

- receiving a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment,
- failing the course in which they plagiarized,
- referral to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution,
- referral to the Dean of Students Office,
- expulsion from the University for repeated offenses.



# Consequences of Plagiarism

NEWS



## Plagiarist Punished at Florida

A University of Florida professor who admitted to plagiarizing has opted to retire after being issued a severe penalty.

By guest blogger, Manar Sabry, with Daniel Levy · Published January 15, 2009

A University of Florida professor who confessed this spring to committing plagiarism was suspended for five years without pay, and opted to retire shortly after the punishment was handed down, university officials confirmed Wednesday.

The professor, James Twitchell, was a longtime faculty member who was highly regarded for his writings about consumerism and popular culture. He was frequently quoted by national media organizations, including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. But when confronted with a significant body of evidence, collected by *The Gainesville Sun*, Twitchell admitted that he had "cheated by using pieces of descriptions written by others."

"It's my responsibility to make sure that the words and ideas are my own and, if not, that they are properly credited. In many cases, I have not done this," Twitchell wrote to *The Sun* in April. **"I have used the words of others and not properly attributed them. I am always in a hurry to get past descriptions to make my points, a hurry that has now rightly resulted in much shame and embarrassment. I have cheated by using pieces of descriptions written by others."**

# Consequences of Plagiarism

LOCAL

## Superintendent apologizes for 'unintentional mistakes'

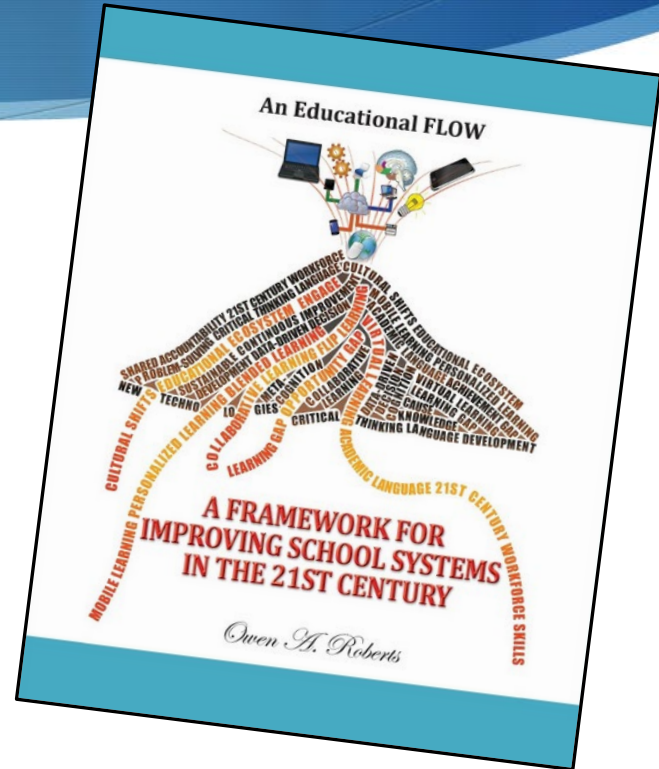
Staff Writer The Gainesville Sun

Published 11:37 p.m. ET May 3, 2016 | Updated 11:43 p.m. ET May 3, 2016

## Alachua County School Superintendent Owen Roberts Resigns

By Bria Wood and Shamarria Morrison

June 21, 2016 Education

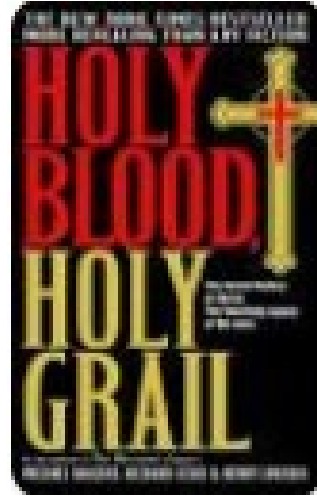




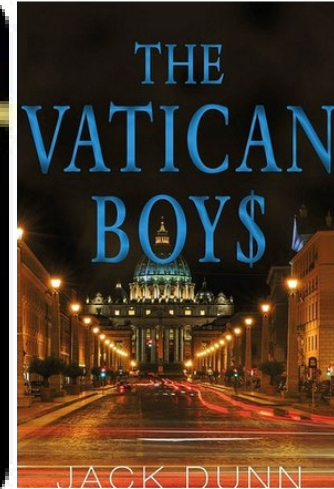
# Plagiarism goes beyond academic writing

## Dan Brown faces possible new plagiarism lawsuit over 'The Da Vinci Code'

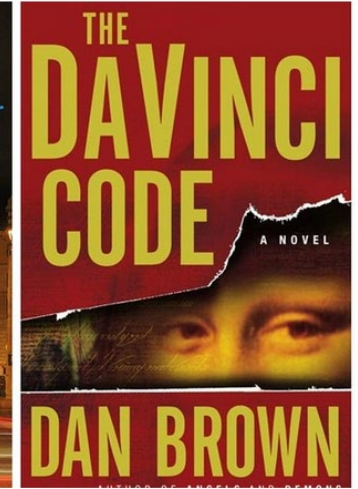
Published: Dec. 14, 2017 at 1:26 p.m. ET



1982



1997



2003

# Intentional & Accidental Plagiarism

Why do people plagiarize?



# Intentional & Accidental Plagiarism

Why do people plagiarize?

Remedies:

- Be ethical and honest.
- Stay informed.
- Acknowledge collaborative work.
- Avoid procrastination!



# Types of Plagiarism

- ◆ Verbatim stealing
- ◆ Patchwriting / Mosaic
- ◆ Insufficient Paraphrasing
- ◆ Misquoting
- ◆ Self-Plagiarism
- ◆ Improper Citation

# Verbatim Plagiarism

This the president of Jacksonville State University William Meehan's dissertation. Portions highlighted in yellow are copied verbatim from Carl Boening's dissertation.



JSU and UA say that this is not plagiarism.

If this isn't plagiarism...

**What does plagiarism look like?**

The highlighted sections of this dissertation are **word-for-word the same text** as appeared in the dissertation of Dr. Boening, who also earned the PhD degree from the same institution, three years earlier.

Orange Crate Art (6/1/2009) Accessed 7/5/2022.

<https://mledy.blogspot.com/2009/06/what-plagiarism-looks-like.html>

# Patchwriting / Mosaic Plagiarism

The image shows a comparison between original text and patchwriting. It features two columns on an orange background. The left column is titled 'Original' and contains a paragraph about upcycling. The right column is titled 'Patchwriting' and contains a version of the same paragraph with words and phrases swapped out for synonyms. At the bottom of the image, the text 'SEOBuddy.com' is visible.

Original	Patchwriting
<p>Upcycling is a relatively recent term but the concept is quite old. The process involves using low-valued foods or byproducts to generate entirely new food products.</p>	<p>Upcycling is the latest millennial trend. But if you look at it closely, the concept is age-old. It involves using low-valued food or their byproducts to generate new recipes.</p>

SEOBuddy.com

“Copying from a source text and then deleting some words, altering grammatical structures or plugging in one-for-one synonym-substitutes”

R. M. Howard, 1993

Patchwriting may result from inexperience with academic writing, rather than intent to deceive.

# Insufficient Paraphrasing

## Good Paraphrasing

- Rewrites original text in own words but keep its meaning
- Substantially changes the structure of the original text (often to improve its clarity)
- Demonstrates understanding of the ideas from the original source

## Insufficient Paraphrasing

- Words and phrases are too similar to the original text
- Rearrangement of original text

# Paraphrasing Practice

## Paraphrasing Practice Activity

**START**



# Misquoting

Misquoting is changing or misrepresenting another's work (often to make your own argument stronger).



# Tips for Quoting

## 3-Step Tactic for Quotations

- Introduce the quote with relevant context (speaker, his/her qualifications, the setting, the date, etc.)
- Give the quote
- Interpret/analyze/discuss the quote



# Self Plagiarism

To re-use your own work without attribution or permission

You may not recycle / re-use an assignment in one class for another class without permission of the instructor.



# Improper Citations

## Proper Citations

- Point readers to the *primary* source(s) for specific material.
- Include an idea, quote, opinion, methods, data, etc.
- Provide sufficient information so that readers can locate the original source.

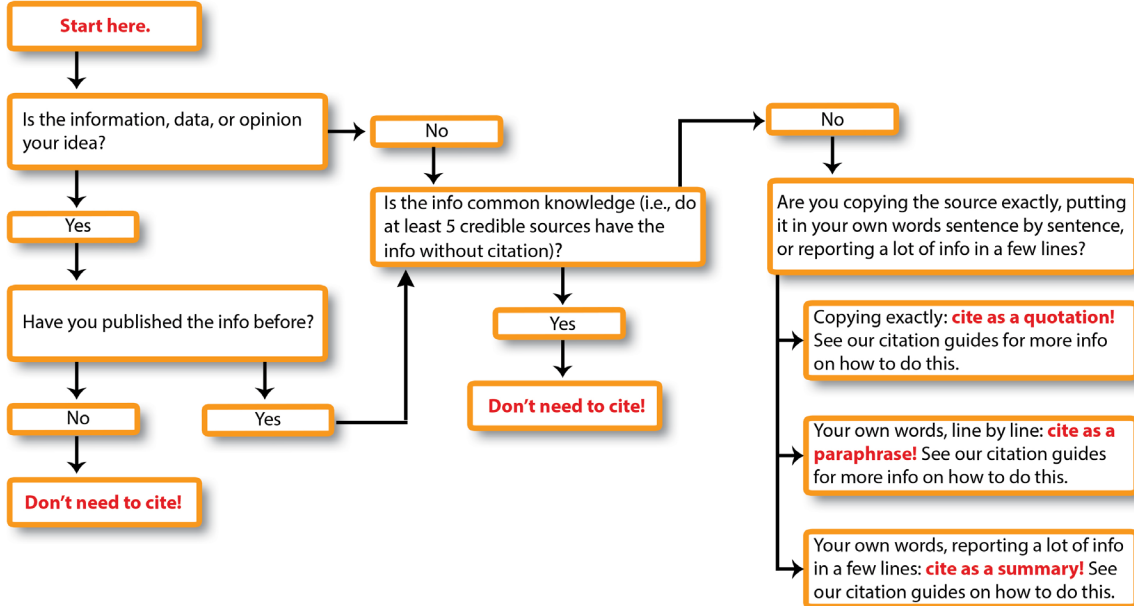
## Improper Citations

- credit is not given to the *primary* source
- incorrect or insufficient information is provided in a citation

# When should I cite?



"Should I Cite This?"  
A Visual Guide from the Purdue OWL



For more information about this and other important citation resources, visit the Purdue OWL's citation style guides.

APA: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)  
MLA: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html)  
Chicago: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/chicago\\_manual\\_17th\\_edition/chicago\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/chicago_style_introduction.html)  
...and more!

# What is common knowledge?



The Blue Marble, NASA

**Rule of Thumb:**  
Information that is not cited in at least 5 credible sources.

Purdue Online Writing Lab Avoiding Plagiarism

“Knowledge that most educated people know or can find out easily in an encyclopedia or dictionary”

Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning

**When in doubt, cite!**

# Citations: In-Text

**MLA, 9th**  
(Author page)

"According to Sable (3), the school system is in need of overhaul."

"The need to overhaul the school system is well-established (Sable 3)."

Signposting, Signal phrasing

Parenthetical

**APA, 7th**  
(Author, Publication Year)

"According to Sable (2018), the school system..."

The need to overhaul the school system is well-established (Sable, 2018).

# Citations: Bibliography or Works Cited

## MLA 9<sup>th</sup> Citation Style

Author. Source title. Container title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

General format

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical*, Day Month Year, pages.

Journal article

Author. "Title." *Title of container*, Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink).

Web resource

## APA 7<sup>th</sup> Citation Style

Author. (Publication date). Source title. *Container title*, Volume(Number),Pages. Publisher, Location (doi or url)

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages. <https://doi.org/xx.xxx/yyyy>

*Title of page*. (Year, Month Date). Site name. Retrieved Month Date, Year, from URL



# Citations: Bibliography or Works Cited

## MLA 9<sup>th</sup> Citation Style

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication\*, Publisher, Publication Date.

Book

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

Book Chapter

\*Include city of publisher if multinational or unknown publisher in No. Am. Or published before 1900.

## APA 7<sup>th</sup> Citation Style

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Publisher Name. DOI (if available)

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In E. E. Editor & F. F. Editor (Eds.), *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle* (pp. pages of chapter). Publisher. DOI (if available)

# Citation Identification Practice

- Bayne, S. (2010). *Academetrone, automaton, phantom: Uncanny digital pedagogies*. *London Review of Education*, 8, 5–13.
- Becher, T., & Trowler, P. R. (2001). *Academic tribes and territories: Intellectual enquiry and the culture of disciplines* (2nd ed.). Buckingham, UK: SRHE & Open University Press.
- Becker, H. S. (1986). *Writing for social scientists: How to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Bhatt, I. (2015). *Curation as a new direction in digital literacy theory*. Paper presented at the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) Annual Research Conference “Converging Concepts in Global Higher Education Research.” Retrieved from [http://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/76628/2/SRHE\\_2015\\_New\\_directions\\_in\\_Digital\\_Literacy\\_Theory\\_1\\_.pdf](http://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/76628/2/SRHE_2015_New_directions_in_Digital_Literacy_Theory_1_.pdf)

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- Bhatt, I. (2015). *Curation as a new direction in digital literacy theory*. Paper presented at the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) Annual Research Conference “Converging Concepts in Global Higher Education Research.” Retrieved from [http://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/76628/2/SRHE\\_2015\\_New\\_directions\\_in\\_Digital\\_Literacy\\_Theory\\_1\\_.pdf](http://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/76628/2/SRHE_2015_New_directions_in_Digital_Literacy_Theory_1_.pdf) **Conference Paper**

# Ethical Use of Citations

"Citations need to support a claim, not simply name-check a source, and the source needs to be correctly interpreted, not bent to the student's thesis (Borg p 101)."

"Sources should be the ideas that shape their discipline and their world (Borg p 102)."



# Tools & Resources for Formatting Citations

The screenshot shows a library catalog entry for the book "Most likely to succeed : preparing our kids for the innovation era" by Wagner, Tony author; Dintersmith, Ted, author. The book is from 2015 and is available at the Education Library. The page includes options to request the item, send it to a device, and generate citations in various formats (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). A citation for the book is displayed in a text box, and there is a button to copy the citation to the clipboard. A reminder at the bottom states: "Remember to check citations for accuracy before including them in your work".

Library catalog

The screenshot shows the ZoteroBib website interface. It features the "zoterobib" logo, a search input field with the placeholder text "Enter a URL, ISBN, DOI, PMID, arXiv ID, or title", and a "Cite" button. There is also a "Manual Entry" button. Links for "Help" and "Zotero" are visible in the top right corner.

<https://zbib.org/>

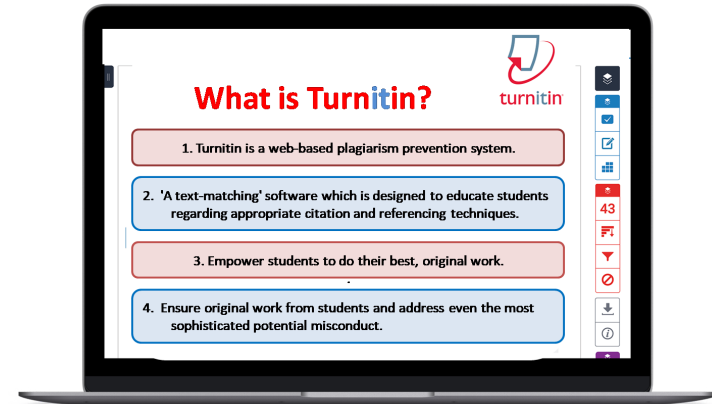
The screenshot shows the Purdue Writing Lab and Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website. It features the Purdue Writing Lab logo (a yellow pencil) and the OWL logo (a stylized owl). Below the logos are the names "The Purdue Writing Lab" and "The Purdue Online Writing Lab". The text below describes the resources available, including writing guides, research, grammar, and mechanics, and provides contact information for the Writing Lab.

<https://owl.purdue.edu/>

# Plagiarism Checker Tools



## Turnitin



# iThenticate Sample Report

Three report modes:

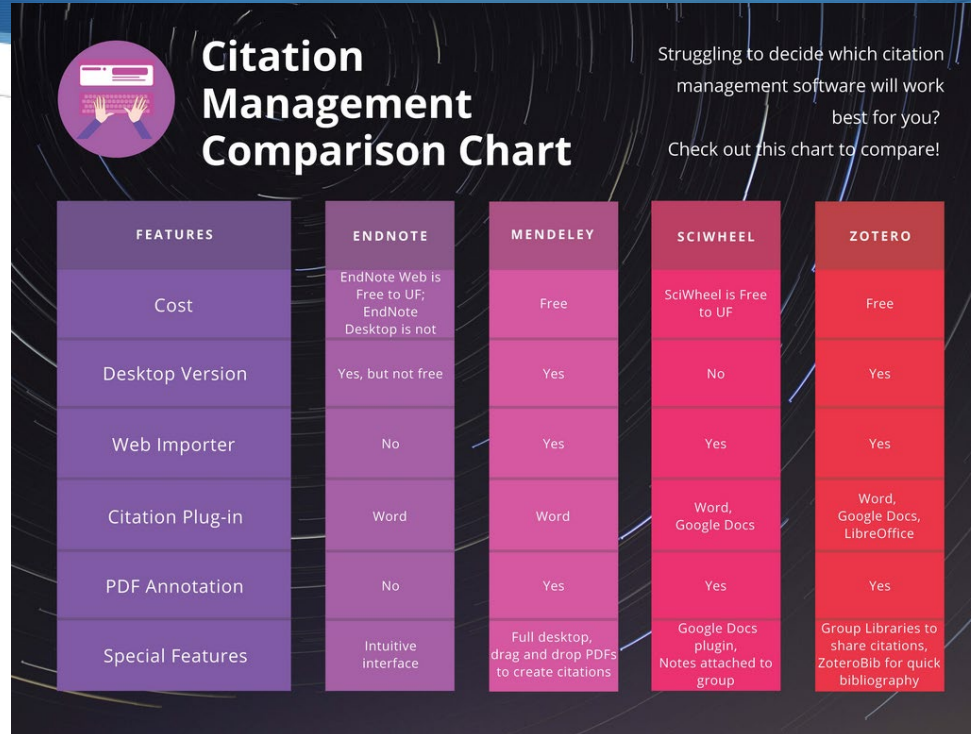
- Summary & Similarity reports
- Content tracking
- Largest matches

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an iThenticate report. The title is "The Differences Between Reporting Modes" by Mark Rickson, dated Tue May 29, 2012 03:06pm PDT. It indicates 400 words, 2 matches, and 2 sources. A "Similarity Index" of 50% is shown in a yellow box. The report is in "Similarity Report" mode. The main content explains that there are 4 modes, but only 3 are displayed. It details two sources: Source A (120 words / 30% match) and Source B (80 words / 20% match). Source B is highlighted as a better match because it contains the same 40 words as Source A's second match. The report concludes that Source A would show 160 words and 40% similarity, while Source B would show 80 words and 20% similarity. A sidebar on the right lists the sources with their respective word counts and match percentages.

Similarity Report is the default mode

# Citation Management Tools Supported by the Libraries

Take a workshop  
to get started!



**Citation Management Comparison Chart**

Struggling to decide which citation management software will work best for you? Check out this chart to compare!

FEATURES	ENDNOTE	MENDELEY	SCIWHEEL	ZOTERO
Cost	EndNote Web is Free to UF; EndNote Desktop is not	Free	SciWheel is Free to UF	Free
Desktop Version	Yes, but not free	Yes	No	Yes
Web Importer	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Citation Plug-in	Word	Word	Word, Google Docs	Word, Google Docs, LibreOffice
PDF Annotation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Special Features	Intuitive interface	Full desktop, drag and drop PDFs to create citations	Google Docs plugin, Notes attached to group	Group Libraries to share citations, ZoteroBib for quick bibliography



# Plagiarism is Only One Aspect of Research Misconduct

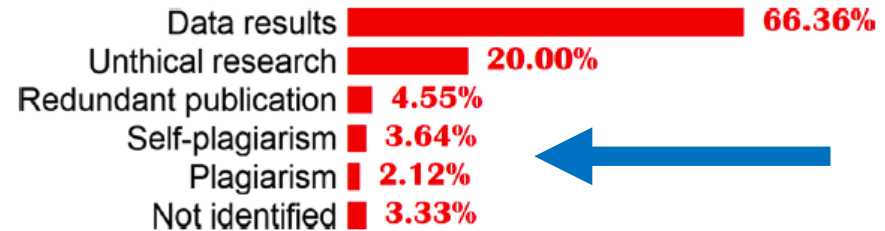
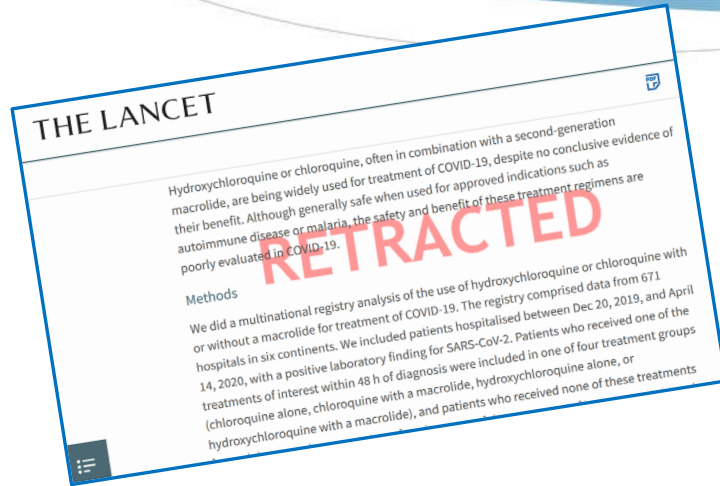


Fig. 4 Distribution by type of retraction from Lievore, Caroline, Rubbo, Priscila, dos Santos, Celso B. *et al.* “Research ethics: a profile of retractions from world class universities.” *Scientometrics* vol. 126, 2021, pp. 6871–6889, fig. 4. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-021-03987-y>

# Selected Resources to Help You Avoid Plagiarism

## Copyright, Plagiarism and Paraphrasing LibGuide

<https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=147797&p=967443>

## 28 Guidelines from US Office of Research Integrity <https://ori.hhs.gov/28-guidelines-glance-avoiding-plagiarism>

## UF Library Workshop Calendar

<https://libcal.uflib.ufl.edu/calendar/workshops/?cid=11693&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=11693,5125,8858&inc=0>

## Case Studies:

COPE, <https://publicationethics.org/>

Retraction Watch, <http://retractiondatabase.org>

## UF Writing Center

<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Plagiarism checker, e.g. iThenticate

## UF Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution's Academic Integrity Module

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/quick-links/academic-integrity/>

We hope you are now able to...

1. Explain the importance of avoiding plagiarism
2. Describe types of plagiarism
3. Recognize good paraphrasing
4. Identify proper use of citations
5. Discover resources to help avoid plagiarism



# Thank you!

**Remember when you write to take time to give credit where credit is due.**

**Suzanne C. Stapleton, M.S.**  
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My Profile:

<https://marston.uflib.ufl.edu/about/science-librarians/suzanne-cady-stapleton/>

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