What Should be done to Avoid Plagiarism among University Students?

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ABSTRACT Plagiarism has become a serious concern for university administrator, lecturer, and course coordinator. With rapid development of the Web, more opportunities are presented for the student to commit such infringements. This widespread situation poses variety of threats especially for the academic institutions. This paper investigates this issue and proposes a holistic mean of addressing this concern. As a university lecturer, knowing how to educate your student to stop plagiarism from the start is crucial. This paper examines how to fight plagiarism of written assignment among university students.

1. INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism (Latin: Plagiarius) is a major challenge that is epidemic among many institutions in recent years [6]. Overall trend of published academic papers on plagiarism start by mentioning that this issue is serious, rising, prevalent and chronic [2]. The availability of enormous quantity of electronic text existing on the Internet has made plagiarism much easier for the students.

Recently, university authorities have become gradually more responsive to the matter of plagiarism and other forms of misconduct and unethical academic behaviors. However, identifying plagiarism is a tedious and demanding task for university lecturers and instructors.

Briefly, plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another person's ideas and then using them as one's own. For instance, plagiarism of text is an act of copying some portion of text from the source without giving due credit to the original author. The definition may vary but, at the very least, includes the stealing or unethical use of other's published work without the appropriate credit or acknowledgement of resource. It is a form of cheating by stealing another person's ideas.

Ronald Boisvert and Mary Irwin from the Publication Board of Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) defined plagiarism as "the verbatim copying, near-verbatim copying, or purposely paraphrasing portions of another author's paper" [1]. Plagiarism practice can happen purposely or unconsciously.

Most institutions have a guiding principle declaring that plagiarism among students is improper. For example, School of Computer Science and Information Technology, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University Australia is well known as taking this issue really serious [3].

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the issue on fighting plagiarism among university students. Section 3 lists out several tips and techniques on how to stop this issue from prevailing. We conclude with some discussion and future works in section 4.