
Fighting

plagiarism and

IPR violation:

why is it so

important?

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ABSTRACT. Plagiarism and intellectual property rights (IPR) violations have become a serious concern for many institutions and organizations. The revolutionary development of the Web presents numerous opportunities for such infringements to become even more widespread. This situation creates the risk of introducing a 'culture of mediocrity'. This paper discusses these issues and proposes means of addressing the concerns by applying viable technological solutions.



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Introduction

The Web is currently expanding so rapidly that it is becoming a challenge to establish whether something is really new. Web content is being created, exchanged, and transferred at lightning speed, making it extremely difficult to work out the degree of originality. Plagiarism and intellectual property rights (IPR) violations are thus concerns that plague many institutions and organizations. For example, educational institutions need to evaluate the calibre of their students by assessing their academic or literary contributions. Organizations need to ascertain the novelty of their own IPR creations. And in both environments, the publication or production of original works is rewarded.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of another author's work which is represented as one's own original work.¹ Plagiarism can thus be seen as the theft or 'borrowing' of published work without proper attribution or acknowledgement of its source. We define plagiarism as the use of others' material (text, pictures, movies, etc.) without exact specification of its source, whether the material is unchanged or in some kind of derivative form. IPR violation, on the other hand, involves the use or exploitation of works which transgresses the boundaries of its legal protection. IPR violation is the unauthorized use of material protected by IPR law, in a manner that violates the original copyright owner's exclusive rights to reproduce or build upon the copyright work.² IPR violations are thus uses of material, in original or derivative form, which go beyond what is permitted under legal exceptions to copyright (such as 'criticism and review'), whether or not the original source is referenced.

We consider both to be violations of any code of acceptable conduct and professional