Plagiarism Again...

Plagiarism issues never disappear. Whether caused by student lack of understanding of how to integrate researched material responsibly, or the deliberate dishonesty of a student submitting a paper he/she did not write, we all struggle with the frustration and disillusionment such experiences cause.

We are not alone. The Center for Academic Integrity\(^1\) database of over 700 articles illustrates that the issue is international. A 2007 study at the University of Michigan\(^2\) reports that cheating rates overall even fall into patterns; they are highest for “vocationally-oriented majors such as business and engineering”; business (91%), engineering (82%), social sciences (73%), and natural sciences (71%). But the SVSU Student Conduct Officer can tell you that no instructor or program is immune.

There is no foolproof solution. But well-chosen teaching strategies can make it less likely that students will plagiarize in our classes, whatever the reason.

A place to begin is the Code of Student Conduct passed by the Student Association in 2005-2006\(^3\). Student leaders care a great deal about academic integrity—they work hard and don’t want the value of their degree compromised by students who plagiarized or cheated their way to a degree. We can remind students that this Code was written by their peers! It’s also strategic, especially in upper level classes, to introduce students to the codes of ethics in their field that will govern their professional lives. When students see how ethical behavior is defined in their chosen profession, suddenly the message becomes real.

For students who plagiarize through careless use of sources, several strategies can be used. SVSU students who enter as freshmen are taught in First Year Writing (FYW) how to use sources responsibly. But not all students take FYW here—and some still maintain the high school mentality that responsible use of sources matters only in English classes. Thus it is essential in our assignment guidelines, our feedback on student papers, and the rubrics we use for evaluation that we clearly signal the importance of this aspect of academic writing and refer students to resources.

Many resources are available. All FYW students purchase a writing handbook (we are using Keys for Writers) that provides extensive information and examples on how to integrate source materials; refer students to it. The Writing Center has a handout, “Writing from Sources,” that we can post to your VSspace site or that you might wish to refer to in class; the web version includes a video that explains the process\(^4\). The Purdue OWL webpage on Avoiding Plagiarism\(^5\) even discusses how international students can learn to cite sources according to the requirements of American universities. Turnitin\(^6\) can also help—especially if students submit their own papers and are allowed to submit more than one draft if their early draft indicates a high match against sources or other papers in its database. SVSU has this year expanded its site license to include GradeMark, a feature that makes it possible for a faculty member to give feedback right in the document submitted to Turnitin. For faculty who give electronic feedback, this is a real timesaver.

For the second type of plagiarism, students who submit papers they did not write, the problem is more complex. Instructors need to strategize from the outset. It’s wise to have students complete an in-class writing task at the beginning of the semester, so you can identify and speak with students who clearly struggle with writing. A second essential strategy is to create unique assignments, papers that cannot be found on Evil House of Cheats, schoolsucks.com, or the hundreds of similar term paper sites, or from subscription sites such as CourseHero.com. Suggestions for creating unique assignments can be found on the SVSU Academic Integrity website\(^7\).

A third strategy is to monitor students’ writing processes. This can be as simple as requiring the student to submit the paper topic along with his/her rationale for choosing it early in the semester. This can be followed by requiring a working bibliography, followed by an outline, and perhaps a first draft. These may or may not be graded. In either case, they send the message that you care about the quality of the students’ papers and thus are monitoring their writing processes and are available to help if they need it. This process makes it less likely that procrastinators will end up purchasing a paper in desperation because they’ve run out of time. And for students who deliberately dodge writing assignments, or for some non-native speakers of English who lack confidence or competence to write effectively in English, this process makes it more likely that you can spot problems early, rather than when the papers are submitted and you have no track record of the students’ work.

Not all strategies are appropriate for all classes, but even a small amount of attention to students’ writing processes sends the message that we care about their ability to be able to write competently in their future professions—and will work with them to make it happen.

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1. [http://www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)
2. [http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027/42/55274?mode=full&submit_simple=Show+full+item+record](http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027/42/55274?mode=full&submit_simple=Show+full+item+record)
4. [http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter/writing-from-sources.html](http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter/writing-from-sources.html)
5. [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/)
6. [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
7. [http://www.svsu.edu/academicintegrity](http://www.svsu.edu/academicintegrity)
Getting Acquainted with IRIS

Saginaw Valley State University belongs to the Illinois Researcher Information Service (IRIS), a fee-based service of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign available to academic institutions for an annual subscription fee.

IRIS offers three Web-based funding and research services:
- the IRIS Database of federal and private funding opportunities in all disciplines
- the IRIS Alert Service
- the IRIS Expertise Service.

The IRIS Database currently contains over 9,000 active federal and private funding opportunities in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. In addition to funding opportunities for faculty, the IRIS Database also contains fellowships and scholarships for graduate students and undergrads. Users can search IRIS by sponsor, deadline date, keyword, and other criteria. Most IRIS records contain live links to sponsor Web sites, electronic forms, or Electronic Research Administration (eRA) portals. The IRIS Database is updated daily.

The IRIS Alert Service enables students, staff, and researchers at subscribing institutions to create their own IRIS search profiles. Users can select their preferred search frequency, delivery method (e-mail or Web), and keywords. The program runs the user’s profile against the IRIS database and delivers the search results automatically via e-mail or the Web.

The IRIS Expertise Service enables researchers at subscribing institutions to create detailed electronic CVs ("biosketches") and post them to a Web-accessible database for viewing by colleagues at other institutions, program officers at federal and private funding agencies, and private companies. The biosketches can also be used in the electronic submission of grant proposals. There are no copyright or ownership restrictions on IRIS Expertise Service biosketches. Subscribing institutions can download their faculty members' biosketches at any time and use them to populate a local database—or even another online service.

For more on these three services and how to use them, see the IRIS Short Course. Like other fee-based online services, IRIS is designed to be used from or through computers at subscribing institutions.

U of I does enable commercial Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for IRIS access. This means that you cannot use IRIS directly through your personal Internet Service Provider (you can, however, access IRIS through a proxy server at a subscribing institution; see below). Attempts to search IRIS through your personal Internet account will almost certainly result in an "access denied..." message.

There are two ways to access IRIS from off site:
1. Dial into your institution's server computer. Your computing or network services office can provide the server computer's telephone number. Once you have connected to the Internet through your institution's server computer, you should be able to use IRIS normally.
2. Point your Web browser to a proxy Web server at your institution. The proxy server will ask you for your personal network ID and password that have been assigned to you by your institution. Once you provide these, the server will enable you to connect to IRIS (and other proprietary online resources) just as if you were working from an on-site computer. Many colleges and universities have proxy servers for precisely this reason, but some don't.

Please take advantage of this customizable tool to help you find research partners and funding opportunities.

Thank you, Janet Rentsch, Director - Sponsored Programs and IRB Research Compliance

Library Journal Evaluation Project:
New Titles Recommended for Addition

Last academic year, Zahnow Library staff conducted a journal evaluation project and kept faculty up to date at key intervals with progress reports in this newsletter. In addition to evaluating current holdings, the project also provided faculty the opportunity to recommend new titles for addition. And they did: 57 journal titles and 2 databases were requested, ranging in cost from $18 to $5,500 for an annual subscription. Of these suggestions, 22 titles are already held in the library collection. The remaining titles, however, add up to $20,000-25,000 in annual subscription costs.

As this year's budget for journal subscriptions is finalized, library liaisons are working with their departments to come up with a prioritized list of titles to add. With the cost savings realized from the evaluation project, funds have been set aside to start subscriptions to as many of the recommended titles as possible in 2011.

If you have questions about this project, please contact Jennifer Dean, Head of Collection Development & Acquisitions, or Linda Farynk, Library Director.
Faculty Feedback Invited on Potential New Library Databases

Adding new online databases represents an on-going and, in some cases, substantial commitment of funds from the library's acquisitions budget. For this reason, all potentially new databases recommended by faculty are given a thorough review by providing access on a trial basis. Database vendors will typically provide access for 30 days, sometimes more, sometimes less. During the trial period, it is critical to get feedback from faculty about a recommended database.

All faculty are invited to try out and evaluate new databases recommended for addition by their colleagues. From the library's homepage, click on the Databases link from the list on the left side of the page. The Zahnow Library Databases page will appear, with separate tabs across the top, including a tab for Trial Databases. Clicking on that tab brings up a web page that lists the databases currently on trial.

At the present time, we would like faculty feedback on three full-text online reference sources: Cambridge Histories Online, Credo Reference, and LexisNexis. A brief online evaluation form is included on the Trial Databases page. There is also a separate box on this page to suggest other resources to review on a trial basis.

Faculty members are encouraged to check the library's Trial Databases page once or twice a month to try out the databases under review. Faculty input is one of the library's primary considerations in determining whether or not to add a new database. Your input helps ensure that the library's acquisitions budget is invested in those resources that best support your teaching and research needs.

Announcements

SE & T Colloquium Series

Lectures will take place from 4:10-5:00 p.m. in room 240 of Pioneer Hall. Refreshments will be served at 4:00 p.m., prior to each lecture.

Tuesday, November 9
Dr. Kenneth Kearns, Department of Chemistry
Leveraging Enhanced Surface Dynamics to Prepare Stable Organic Glasses

Tuesday, November 16
Dr. Stephanie Brouet, Department of Chemistry
The Diversity of Nucleophilic Carbenes: Accessing Multiple Alkaloid Core Structures

Executive Speaker Series

On Tuesday, November 19, Bill Vititoe, past President of Ameritech Enterprise Group and former CEO and president of Washington Energy Company will present a lecture titled Changing Careers: Life after AT&T, Employee Loyalty vs. Company Loyalty, Retirement/Career Expectations at 2:00 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. Guest lecturer presented by the College of Business and Management.

Sims Public Speaking Competition

The 21st Annual Sims Public Speaking Competition will take place on Friday, November 5. Preliminary rounds will begin at noon. The Final Round, featuring the top six speakers, will take place in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall and begin at 4 p.m.

Eighth Annual Hoffman/Willertz Lecture

On Wednesday, November 17, Dr. Kenneth Jolly will present the Eighth Annual Hoffman/Willertz Lecture. His lecture, titled By Our Own Strength: William Sherrill and the Policies of Black Self-Determination, will take place from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.
Events & Schedules

Faculty & Staff Development Workshops

Tools for Online & Distance Education
"VSpace Advanced Course Development"
Friday, November 19, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Z-302 x2730

"VSpace Gradebook 2"
Tuesday, November 9, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Z-302 x2730
Thursday, November 11, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Z-302 x2730

"VSpace Test Center"
Tuesday, November 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Z-302 x2730

"Social Media and Web 2.0"
Friday, November 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ES-220 x7471

Office Productivity
"Typo3 With the Experts"
Tuesday, November 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Z-302 x7471

Faculty Association
"PPC Files Workshop"
Thursday, November 4, 4:00-5:00 p.m. C-100 x4366

Online Instructional Design
"Create Active & Engaging Learning Activities for OL, Hybrid or Web-Enhanced Courses"
Thursday, November 11, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Z-302 x2025

Academic Affairs
"Infusing Sustainability into Your Course"
Friday, November 12, Noon-1:30 p.m. SE-221 x2130

"Course Design: From Course Description to Assessment"
Saturday, November 20, 9:00-3:00 p.m. Emeriti Room x2130

Library
"Cafe Conversations"
Thursday, November 18, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Cafe 3rd Floor x7054

Sponsored Programs
"Helpful Hints to Manage Grants"
Tuesday, November 9, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Z-235 x4295
Wednesday, November 10, 1:00-2:00 p.m. SE-213 x4295

"IRB Research Compliance Audit"
Wednesday, November 17, 11:00-Noon SE-213 x4295
Tuesday, November 18, 1:00-2:00 p.m. SE-213 x4295

Lunches - Teaching Tables & New Faculty
"Teaching Table: Developing Student Writers"
Wednesday, November 17, Noon-1:00 p.m. Emeriti Room x4387

"New Faculty Lunch: CAPC, GEC, GC, HUH?"
Friday, November 12, Noon-1:00 p.m. Emeriti Room x4387

Visual Arts

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

University Gallery
Fall Gallery Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:30-3:30 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday Noon-3:00 p.m.

"Excavating Land & Memory" Works by Judy Baca
October 25 - November 23. Join us for the artist reception, hosted at the Gallery on Thursday, November 11, from 3:00-5:00 p.m., followed by the artist lecture at 7:00 p.m. in Rhea Miller Recital Hall. This lecture is part of the Dow Visiting Artist series at SVSU and is open to the public.

Student of Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibit, featuring senior BFA majors Peter Clouse, Jacob Johnson, Sarah Masters, Zack Lietaert, Derek Rudel, Stacy Wilson from November 29 through December 18. Artist Reception will be held Thursday, December 2, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

For more information on either exhibit, please visit: www.svsu.edu/artgallery.

Performing Arts

Music
Artist in Residence: Jeff Hall, Jazz Concert, Music of Miles Davis
Saturday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall, $12 general; $5 students & seniors

Rhea Miller Concert Series: Axiom Brass
Saturday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.
Rhea Miller Recital Hall, No admission charge

SVSU MUSE & Brunch:
with Artist in Residence: Julie Meyer, soprano A La Carte!
Sunday, November 21, Noon & 2:30 p.m.
Arbury Commons, No admission charge, but tickets required.
Reserve tickets by contacting the Box Office at (989) 964-4261.

Marching Band Concert
Monday, November 29, 7:30 p.m.
Malcolm Field Theatre, No admission charge

Theatre Production
A Streetcar Named Desire
Thursday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 21, 3:00 p.m.
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

For ticket information, please contact the Box Office at (989) 964-4261