TURN-IT-IN: TURNING OFF HUMAN JUDGMENT IN DETECTING STUDENT PLAGIARISM?

Glen Finau, Jale Samuwai, Rashika Kumar and Joycelyn Devi
School of Accounting and Finance

Abstract

Does zero percent similarity index in Turn-it-in indicate nil plagiarism? One would think so but our collective experience last semester with Turn-it-in indicates otherwise. While a useful tool in detecting plagiarism, solely relying on Turn-it-in can in fact increase of risk of undetected plagiarism and breed academic dishonesty. Turn-it-in is not perfect, it has its limitations, and with the number of IT savvy students we are dealing with today, they will find and exploit those limitations. This presentation will illustrate the dangers of over relying on Turn-it-in as the sole assessor for students' submissions. Actual examples of methods used by students to "beat" Turn-it-in will be demonstrated. These methods will surprise many as these methods can generate a 0% similarity index for any document, even a document that is completely plagiarised. The presentation also provides recommendations and shares strategies and interventions developed to reduce student plagiarism.