Traversing the Landscape of Plagiarism-Detecting Software Tools: A Faculty-Driven Comparison Review

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Methods

- Literature Review
- Comparable Institutions
- Faculty Survey
- Comparison Committee
Turnitin and SafeAssign Comparison Committee (TASCC)

- Recent users with over 100 submissions (2017-2018)
- Each College represented
- Diversity of tool feature experience
Web Research & Literature Review

- Faculty recognized pros and cons for both programs
- No compelling evidence for a fast and easy decision

Hill and Page (2009)
- Regardless of any plagiarism-detection software used, it is essential to teach students (and instructors) how to properly interpret and use a plagiarism report.

- “The decision as to whether a text is plagiarism or not must solely rest with the educator using the software: It is only a tool, not an absolute test.”
UNI Turnitin and Bb SafeAssign Instructor & Course Data

UNI Instructor and Bb SafeAssign Instructor & Course Data

# Unique Instructors Who Used - Spring 2018
# Unique Courses w/ Assignments - Spring 2018

SafeAssign  Turnitin

59 99 93 184

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Survey of UNI Turnitin Users

114 Instructors

45% Response rate

67% Used for almost all assignments

Usage Habits Analysis of Unique Features

Over 60% identified desire for hands-on training

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Survey of UNI Turnitin Users

How often do you use plagiarism-checking software?

51 responses

- 35.3% Four or more times each semester
- 9.8% Two to three times each semester
- 51% One time each semester
- 4.9% Less than once per semester
- 3.9% I don't use plagiarism-checking software.

The number of faculty/instructor respondents who use plagiarism-checking software two or more times a semester is significant at 86%.
Review Structure by the Numbers

15 sample papers run through TI & SA

3 paper review meetings with faculty committee

5 discipline areas represented
Analyzing Report Results

**False Positive**
no real plagiarism, yet tool identifies a match

**False Negative**
software misses plagiarism that is present
Analyzing Report Results

Total Number of False Positives & False Negatives in the Sixteen UNI Samples

- SafeAssign: 187
- Turnitin: 194

Total False Positives: 303
Total False Negatives: 12
Analyzing Report Results

Total of Each Type of Actual Plagiarism Match Identified

- Internet Source: SafeAssign = 0, Turnitin = 11
- Publication: SafeAssign = 0, Turnitin = 1
- Student Paper: SafeAssign = 27, Turnitin = 12

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But wait, there’s more!

![Graph showing Turnitin Usage at UNI by Unique Features for Fall 2017 & Spring 2018 Semesters. The bars represent different Turnitin features: QuickMarks (30%), Inline Text Comments (22.3%), Strikethrough Marks (44.6%), Peer Reviews Created (20.8%), and ETS e-rater Marks (3.8%). The total number of unique instructor users is 130.](image-url)
Key Takeaways

- Tools, not solutions
- Find primary source matches
- Analyze reports carefully
- Hands-on training need
- Faculty like grading features

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Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Download and open OLC Conferences mobile app
- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen (located under session type and track)
- Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

**Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded to five (5) individuals
Must submit evals using the OLC Conferences mobile app or website