



About Turnitin: For students

For Blackboard Vista 4.x

What is Turnitin?

Turnitin is a text matching system, which compares a submitted file with text located on “billions of internet documents, an archived copy of the internet, our local databases of submitted student papers, and a database of periodicals, journals, & publications.” (www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_guide.pdf, visited 3/8/2007).

Turnitin has been licensed by the University of Tasmania, as one part of an overall strategy to help staff and students manage issues associated with academic integrity.

Because **Turnitin** only reports the degree of text matching, lecturers review **Turnitin’s** reports to determine if plagiarism has occurred. **Turnitin** does not differentiate between correctly cited references and unacknowledged copying.

How long does it take to use?

Submitting a file to **Turnitin** takes about 3 minutes, the same time as submitting a file to the **MyLO** assignment tool.

The **Turnitin** originality report is usually produced within 10 minutes, though this occasionally takes longer if there is significant load on the servers.

What software is compatible with Turnitin?

PC (Windows XP/2000/Me/98/NT)

- Internet Explorer 5.5 and higher
- Netscape 7.0 and higher
- Mozilla Firefox.

Mac (OS X/9)

- Safari 1.0 and higher
- Netscape 7.0 and higher
- Mozilla Firefox.

What file types does Turnitin accept?

Turnitin accepts the following file types:

- MS Word (.doc)
- WordPerfect (.wpd)
- PostScript (.eps)
- Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- HTML (.htm)
- Rich Text (.rtf) and Plain Text (.txt).

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All files submitted to **Turnitin** must be text based. If a file type is not acceptable the contents of the file can be copied and pasted into **Turnitin's** "cut and paste" submission option.

For Macintosh files, check that they have the appropriate PC file suffix, such as .txt for text or .doc for Word documents.

Turnitin will accept only one file for an assignment, which can be up to 10Mb in size. If a file is larger than this, it is likely to contain images or diagrams, which **Turnitin** ignores. Remove the images etc before submitting the file to **Turnitin**.

What happens if Turnitin matches text in my paper?

It is extremely unusual for **Turnitin** not to detect some matching text in a paper. Usually sections of the reference list will match with other documents, as will common discipline specific phrases. Direct quotes will be identified as matching text by **Turnitin** if they are contained in a document in **Turnitin's** database.

Turnitin is only a text matching tool. Your lecturer reviews the **Turnitin** report to determine if quotes have been correctly sourced and whether matches identified by **Turnitin** indicate that plagiarism may have occurred.

It is also important to remember that **Turnitin** is only one tool used to manage plagiarism. Knowledge of the relevant literature by your lecturer or marker is a very important part of ensuring that plagiarism does not go undetected.

More information

- Tutorials and other support materials are available on the **Turnitin** website at www.turnitin.com/static/training.html
- Information for students on academic integrity is available at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity>
- For further information and assistance email turnitin.admin@utas.edu.au

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