



UNIVERSITY
OF TASMANIA

Turnitin Pilot - Plan

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1 Introduction

This document outlines a plan for piloting the plagiarism detection software Turnitin at the University of Tasmania, including associated staff development activities, and evaluating its use.

The intended outcome of the pilot project is that the software will be adopted across the University and that staff and students will be prepared, through staff development activities, for managing issues around academic integrity.

2 Background

In recent years universities have reviewed and extended their strategies for managing issues to do with plagiarism. The University of Tasmania is no exception, and has implemented a range of strategies as an outcome of a 2001 – 2002 Working Party on Academic Misconduct and a Plagiarism Detection Implementation Plan, approved in 2003. These can be summarized as follows:

- A statement on Plagiarism was developed and is included in all unit outlines (2001 statement revised and approved in 2003, to include reference to electronic detection software.)
- A generic University assignment cover sheet was introduced in 2001 to include an attestation that the work presented is the student's own. This was revised in 2003 to include reference to the use of plagiarism detection software.
- Resources have been developed to assist students and staff manage issues relating to academic integrity and plagiarism, both unintentional and intentional. This includes information on how to acknowledge sources. These resources can be found on the University website at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/students.html>.
- Current sanctions were reviewed and the Ordinance of Student Discipline revised. Part 3, on Academic Misconduct identifies Heads of School as responsible officers for the penalties listed in the Ordinance.

In 2003 the University decided to use Turnitin software to assist in the detection of plagiarism and this 2004 pilot is designed to evaluate implementation issues, for a full rollout of the software in second semester.

3 Pilot overview

Turnitin is a text matching system, which compares a submitted assignment with text located on internet pages and in an increasing number of electronic journals, as well as documents stored in its own database. After submission of a document for evaluation by Turnitin, it is possible for the document to be added to Turnitin's database. This enables a historical record of submitted documents to be built up and included in later checking. An additional function of collecting documents in the database is the building up of references taken from printed material. Print based material is not currently available to Turnitin through any other source.

Because Turnitin only reports on the degree of text matching, it is necessary for individual lecturers to review assignments to determine the actual level of plagiarism. Turnitin does not

differentiate between correctly cited references and unacknowledged copying. What it does provide is a ranking of assignment, according to the level of text matching with other sources, highlighting those assignments that are most likely to include plagiarism.

In this project issues related to the administration, resourcing, support and use of the software will be investigated, as well as training for staff and students in issues related to academic integrity and plagiarism.

3.1.1 What involvement in the pilot will mean for staff and students

Participation in the software pilot will be by nomination by Heads of School, with a target of 20 units, across at least 4 faculties. Units could include those offered onshore and offshore and will be limited to undergraduate units. It is hoped that as broad a range of disciplines as possible will be represented in the project.

Prerequisites for unit inclusion in the project will be:

- submission of an assessable item of work between Monday 19th April and Friday 28th May
- that students will have electronic versions of all submissions during this time, most documents are likely to be submitted to Turnitin by students.
- that staff are prepared to participate in evaluation of their experience of Turnitin through both surveys and focus groups.

3.1.1.1 How this will work for students

- Students will have access to handouts on how to submit assignments to Turnitin and how to avoid plagiarism (academic integrity). Unit coordinators may provide demonstrations of assignment submissions to Turnitin. The Service Desk will handle any student issues regarding Turnitin with 2nd tier questions being referred to the FEU help line.
- Individual assignments will generally be submitted by students to the Turnitin website. If the Unit Coordinator requires assignments to be submitted via WebCT, they will also need to make a second electronic submission of their assignment to WebCT. In general most students will only be required to submit their assignment once electronically - to Turnitin. Some Unit Coordinators may also require a paper submission of the assignment, submitted in the standard way for the School.
- Students will receive notification of the grade for their assignment in the normal way for individual units.

3.1.1.2 How this will work for staff

A high level briefing will be provided for Associate Deans Teaching and Learning and Heads of Schools, on plagiarism issues within the Australian context and details of this project.

- CAVAL will conduct training sessions for a key representative from each School, as well as appropriate FEU staff. This training will be on a train the trainer basis and include PowerPoint presentations and support handouts, which can be used for later training run by participants.

- Participants will be trained in using Turnitin, interpreting the reports produced and establishing the actual level of plagiarism in individual papers.
- Participants will also be provided with resources on university policy regarding academic integrity and how to construct assignments to deter plagiarism. As well they will be provided with resources suitable for distribution to students on how to use Turnitin for the submission of their assignments and how to avoid plagiarism (academic integrity).
- The Turnitin organisational userid and password will be available to all participants through a secure web page accessed via the University's Turnitin website.

Participants will be responsible for:

- registering themselves on the Turnitin systems
- creating their individual courses within the system
- creating the individual assignments within each course
- providing their students with the appropriate Turnitin class id and password information, so they can enroll themselves in Turnitin and submit their assignments.

Participants will have access to the Service Desk for questions about the use of Turnitin or subsequent issues regarding the interpretation of results etc.

3.1.2 Support for use of Turnitin

An FAQ sheet will be available to participants, online and in print form.

The Service Desk will provide first tier support to staff and students on Turnitin. If the enquiry is not resolved, it will be referred to the FEU support line and if it still cannot be resolved, it will be referred to the CAVAL Help Desk. FEU staff involved in providing Turnitin support will participate in the CAVAL training sessions. Service Desk staff will be trained by FEU staff and provided with procedures to handle Turnitin enquiries.

3.1.3 Reporting

The results of the trial will be reported to the Steering Committee and PVC Teaching and Learning.

3.1.4 Timeline for Turnitin trial project

Time frame	Activity
9-11 March	Notification to HOS of opportunity to nominate units to make use of the Turnitin software
18-23 March	Conduct a high level briefing for Associate Deans Teaching and Learning and Heads of Schools, on plagiarism issues within the Australian context and details of this project.
29-31 March	Finalise unit participation in the project
1-6 April	Conduct Turnitin training sessions in conjunction with sessions on university policy and procedures on academic integrity and appropriate assessment design techniques to minimise plagiarism.

1-6 April	Conduct Turnitin training sessions for appropriate FEU staff and Library Service Desk staff.
15 April – 28 May	Conduct Turnitin trial
15 April – 28 May	Collect data on support enquiries through the Service Desk, FEU Help Line and CAVAL Help Desk.
31 May – 4 June	Evaluate participants experiences during the trial
7 – 18 June	Prepare report and distribute as appropriate

3.2 Evaluation

Evaluation of the project will involve an investigation of the difficulties experienced by participants during the pilot in using Turnitin and to gain feedback on the support resources and training materials developed to prepare participants (both staff and students). Of particular interest will be problems related to administrative support, training and system support issues and workloads. Evaluation will consist of an analysis of enquiries referred to the Service Desk, FEU Help Line and the CAVAL Help Desk and feedback sheets from training courses.

If required, further follow-up on particular issues will be conducted at the conclusion of the trial using both questionnaire and/or focus groups.