

Editorial



Plagiarism issue in scientific publishing

Plagiarism is an issue that is present in many artistic and academic areas. Music plagiarism is a recurrent topic in media and news due to it is more detectable for people [1]. Unfortunately, this matter is also present in academic production from primary school to high-level research.

Plagiarism is "the process or practice of using another person's ideas for work and pretending that it is your own" [2]. This classic definition provides a general idea about what it concerns.

All Plagiarism consequences are not widely known. Authors usually think it is only a fault but it is a criminal offense in many countries. Colombia is not an exception; therefore, plagiarism has quite severe legal repercussions.

According to the Colombian Criminal Code, publishing, in whole or in part, without prior and express authorization of the rights holder, an unpublished work of an artistic, literary, scientific nature, cinematographic, audiovisual or phonogram, computer program or software is considered as a violation of moral copyrights. The Colombian Law 1032 of 2006 states eight years as a maximum penalty for someone who commits this offense [3].

Plagiarism can happen involuntarily; nevertheless, its consequences are always severe. Researchers could miss a citation or obtain an image from the internet. Even Though it usually happens, it should not be viewed as a simple issue.

Paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting are some alternatives to attenuate plagiarism. In all cases, do not forget to cite the reference. There exist many citation styles (APA, IEEE); therefore, it is necessary to manage them properly. Additionally, some journal has its own. It makes this more challenging to deal with.

Scientia et Technica journal takes plagiarism seriously. We use plagiarism detection software that scans the internet and some repositories and databases. If plagiarism is detected, it is reported to the authors, and the manuscript is rejected immediately. Due to this, it is important the authors state when the manuscript is derived from a thesis or has been previously presented in conference proceedings. It allows the editor to have more criteria to assess this issue. Unfortunately, despite this, in many cases, plagiarism is not detected by the software. In all cases, Scientia et Technica is not responsible for the author's plagiarism.

Finally, we suggest the authors use, at least, free plagiarism detection software that is widely available on the internet. After all, it is everybody's business.

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