RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND THE ISSUE OF PLAGIARISM

JESS O’TOOLE, RESEARCH & INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN, GRADUATE OUTREACH
RESEARCH INTEGRITY

• HONEST AND RESPONSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP
• ETHICAL USE OF INFORMATION
• DIFFERING TERMINOLOGY
  • RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH MISCONDUCT
  • WPI:
    • FOR TEACHERS, RESEARCHERS, ADVISORS: RESEARCH INTEGRITY/RESEARCH MISCONDUCT
    • FOR STUDENTS SPECIFICALLY: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
CATEGORIES OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

• *DATA FABRICATION/FALSIFICATION

• *PLAGIARISM

• ISSUES INVOLVING HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECT RESEARCH; FALSE STATEMENTS AND INACCURACIES CONTAINED WITHIN RESEARCH PROPOSALS UNAUTHORIZED DATA SHARING; BIOHAZARDS

• ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AT WPI ALSO COVERS CHEATING, FACILITATION
WHERE DO YOU SEE IT?

- Funding Requirements
- Professional Codes of Conduct
- Journal Publishing Requirements

WPI

- WPI Policy on Research Conduct
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) – Deals with Ethical Guidelines and Regulatory Requirements
- Funding Offices: Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP); Institutional Advancement (IA)
- Class Syllabi
- WPI Academic Honesty Policy
PLAGIARISM

• PLAGIARISM: ATTEMPTING TO PASS OFF SOMEONE ELSE’S WORK AS YOUR OWN; NOT PROPERLY CREDITING SOURCES

• PLAGIARISM IS NOT A CRIME BUT IF MONEY IS INVOLVED, PLAGIARISM CAN TURN INTO FRAUD

• PLAGIARISM CAN BE INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL

• SELF-PLAGIARISM: FAILING TO PROPERLY CREDIT ANOTHER WORK YOU HAVE COMPLETED; DUPLICATE PUBLICATION
HOW IS RESEARCH MISCONDUCT MONITORED?

• REPORTED BY INSTITUTION OR BY PEER-REVIEW PROCESS FOR GRANT OR FOR JOURNAL INQUIRY FROM INSTITUTION/FUNDING AGENCY/JOURNAL

• PLAGIARISM:
  • PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOLS
  • THE DISNEY PRINCIPLE (IT'S A SMALL WORLD)

  • AT WPI:
    • SAFEASSIGN (BLACKBOARD)
    • VERICITE (CANVAS)
CONSEQUENCES OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

FROM JOURNALS: REJECTION; RETRACTION; PUBLIC STATEMENT; CONTACT AUTHOR’S INSTITUTE AND FUNDING AGENCIES

FROM FUNDING AGENCIES:
• LETTER OF REPRIMAND
• REQUIREMENT OF CERTIFICATION AND/OR ASSURANCES ON RESEARCH PROPOSALS
• POSSIBLE DEBARMENT: EXCLUSION FROM RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR A SPECIFIED TIME

WPI
• LOWER GRADE/INCOMPLETE -------------------------------→ EXPULSION
• JUDICIAL PROCESS & JUDICIAL RECORDS
HOW TO MAINTAIN RESEARCH INTEGRITY

• LEARN HOW TO CITE, AND WHEN/WHEN NOT TO CITE
• TRAINING (OFTEN REQUIRED FOR GRANT/TYPFE OF RESEARCH)
• CLEAR COMMUNICATION WITH PROFESSORS AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
REFERENCES


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CONTACT

- JESS O’TOOLE
  - JROTOOLE@WPI.EDU
  - OFFICE 202A, MAIN FLOOR OF GORDON LIBRARY