**Survey of Anti-Plagiarism Software Use among Oberlin Group Libraries**

**January 2013**

Summary: 44 of the 80 Oberlin Group liberal arts colleges responded to my quick survey about their use of anti-plagiarism software and other approaches to this problem. Following the list of schools in each category, the actual responses appear since they shed light on campus approaches to combating plagiarism.

Dave Pilachowski

**Colleges using Turnitin or another software: 11**

Barnard

Bucknell

Franklin & Marshall

Furman

Kenyon

Manhattan

Rollins

Skidmore

Union

Wesleyan

Whittier

**Colleges not using Turnitin: 28**

Amherst

Bates

Beliot

Bowdoin

Connecticut College

Davidson

Denison

DePauw

Dickinson

Earlham

Eckard

Franklin & Marshall\*

Grinnell

Gustavus Adolphus

Haverford

Lawrence

Macalester

Mt. Holyoke

Oberlin

Occidental

Randolph Macon

Reed

Sarah Lawrence

Smith

St. Lawrence

St. Olaf

Whitman

Williams College

College of Wooster

**Colleges that stopped using Turnitin**: **3**

Agnes Scott

Albion

Colgate

**Colleges Blackboard’s Save Assign software: 2**

Franklin & Marshall\*

Hamilton

\* use both

**Agnes Scott**

Agnes Scott's Academic Dean's office maintained a site license to Turnitin a number of years ago, but then dropped it. Librarians do get asked by faculty about once a year to help in suspected cases (most painfully, one in the Spanish language last year).

The College has a very old Honor Code. Librarians emphasize academic honesty in research classes and it is covered in English 110 courses.

**Albion**

We had TurnItIn for several years. A few faculty used it regularly, but there wasn't enough use to justify the cost and the subscription was dropped.

**Amherst**

Amherst does not use anti-plagiarism software. So far as I know, the student handbook governs all questions surrounding plagiarism: <https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/deanstudents/handbook>

**Barnard**

Barnard does maintain a subscription to [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com/) but it is managed through the Dean of Studies Office and as far as I know has only been used systematically by one faculty member who recently retired. He taught a large lecture class and had probably not changed his assignment in years so he often encountered cases of plagiarism.

The Dean of the College and I have been having discussions on how to improve the educational efforts toward reducing incidents of plagiarism so the posts have been great. Thanks for bringing it up.

**Bates**

Here are a couple of more thoughts for consideration if you're not aware of them.

Colby Bates and Bowdoin developed an online tutorial and resource site, and though the blog is no longer active, the tutorials are, and continue to be used by some folks around the country.

<http://abacus.bates.edu/cbb/index03d2.html?q=>

This tutorial was used in a research study on effectiveness of education about plagiarism conducted by Thomas Dee of Swarthmore and and Brian Jacob of the University of Michigan. Short version: teaching students about plagiarism is a way to reduce plagiarism with significant results.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w15672>

some additional references at

<http://abacus.bates.edu/cbb/index3ac4.html?q=node/112>

At Bates the faculty is considering a revision of the code on academic honesty for the first time since 1976 and it is really interesting. The writing program has worked instruction on plagiarism into every first-year seminar, a program that every first year student is involved in.

The decentralized nature of the Bates curriculum (one that eschews the word "all" in approaches to instruction, makes systematic use of something like turnitin not really feasible at all.  So we're back to teaching and learning.

**Beloit**

We do not have plagiarism software at Beloit either: plagiarism is covered in our academic honesty policy and in our student [regulation and policy] handbook.  It is the faculty's responsibility to identify and pursue cases.  I'm not aware of much of an effort to involve the library.

The judicial process runs through our Dean of Students office.  Sanctions related to the course itself are outlined in the academic honesty policy and are imposed by the faculty member.  The Dean decides whether additional sanction is warranted, though she may delegate that to an ad hoc appeals committee comprised of faculty and student representatives.

**Bowdoin**

No, we don’t use Turnitin. In the past two years a faculty and staff working group developed an Academic Honesty and Plagiarism website: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/academic-honesty/index.shtml>. We maintain it under the guise of the Dean’s Office. The Dean for Student Affairs’ Office does outreach and publicity to students several times throughout the semester and when students sign the honor code. First Year students are required to complete a Plagiarism Tutorial during the summer before they come to campus. The tutorial was originally developed by CBB staff through a CET grant many years ago and, although it has been changed since then, is greatly in need of revision. I am glad to send you a zipped copy if you think it would be helpful. Thankfully faculty were not interested in exploring anti—plagiarism software.

**Bucknell**

We use TurnItIn. It's just available as an option in Moodle. We don't

have a ton of users but a good number of regulars.

**Colgate**

We tried Turnitin in the past but the Colgate faculty didn't like it.  However, I have always been intrigued by the practice at some institutions of promoting Turnitin to students as a resource for them to use to check if their work passes muster.  We also have an Academic Policy.

**Connecticut College**

We do not use Turnitin or anything similar.   I've made it clear to the DOF that this is an instructional issue, not a library issue.  However, we have an honor code, formally adopted by each class, that Turnitin would compromise.  So faculty have developed assignments that supposedly make plagiarism difficult.  The issue comes up every couple years anyway... when a particularly egregious violation occurs.

**Davidson**

Davidson is also deeply committed to its Honor Code, and software would be seen as antithetical to it.  As far as I can tell, plagiarism education is done by professors, with little coordination.  There may be some extra emphasis in the first-year writing courses.  The library is not involved.

Our Honor Code is here:  <http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x8918.xml>

**Denison**

Does not use any anti-plagiarism software.

**DePauw**

At DePauw we do not use the software.  Faculty tend to ask librarians for help identifying suspected cases.

The University has made a concerted effort the last few years to address the issue.  Every incoming student gets a copy of "Doing Honest Work in College."  The librarians do several academic honesty sessions in classes and for student groups throughout the year.

**Dickinson**

We don't use a package to detect plagiarism. The library was asked to develop an instructional approach, which has migrated over the last six years from an in person session for first year students to an online, self-paced, interactive tutorial with built in assessment. All first years and transfers are required to take this and cannot register for spring semester courses until they do.  By now (after the years) all students on our campus have taken this tutorial. I would be glad to share this with you.

Tutorial: please advise if you would like a copy.

**Earlham**

Not at Earlham, although some members of our academic administration are quite interested recently. Our equivalent of a student honor code is at odds with the rollout of such software.

**Eckard**

Eckerd does not use a software package although I know that some faculty members do use some software.

We have an Academic Honor Council made up of students and faculty - one of the faculty members is designated as being a librarian.  The Council is heavily weighted to student leadership.  The Council holds hearings for all allegations of academic dishonesty.  The library has contributed by preparing a tutorial on plagiarism for students.

**Franklin and Marshall**

At F&M we have both Turnitin and Blackboard's Save Assign available to faculty.

**Furman**

We use Turnitin. Our copyright officer, Caroline Mills (who is also our assistant director for collections services), will be conducting a workshop for faculty on the use of Turnitin. For more information go to:  <http://libguides.furman.edu/content.php?pid=412935&sid=3373702>

**Grinnell**

We don't use anti-plagiarism software. We have an academic honesty policy that receives a fair bit of attention in our first-year seminars. Students have to sign an acknowledgement that they've read and understand it.

Even so, faculty and administration periodically ask about software options for detecting plagiarism, so I'm interested in the experiences you all are having.

**Gustavus Adolphus**

No, we don’t use such software.

As a pedagogical issue handled by faculty, who report infractions to the Provost's office. There is a campus judicial process for adjudicating disputes, but basically a faculty member may fail a student, and a second offense could result in expulsion.

**Hamilton College**

We use the product that is integrated with our Blackboard CMS.

**Haverford**

We do not use a software package as an institution but some faculty may use it independently.

We have a Committee on Plagiarism Education which consists of several deans, two librarians (I am one of them), four students, and three faculty members.  We have an honor code and engage in programs and other mechanisms for education throughout the year with special focus at the orientation/customs week.

**Kenyon**

Kenyon is using Turnitin.  Let me know if you would like to discuss it with someone here.

**Lawrence**

Lawrence does not use anti-plagiarism software.

We do have a strong "honor code" culture, driven primarily by students. There's an honor council made up of students that does education about plagiarism and other academic integrity issues. They're also responsible for hearing complaints and dealing out punishment for infractions.

<http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/student_acad/honor_council/>

Students are required to write "I hereby reaffirm the Lawrence University Honor Code" (or IHRTLUHC) followed by their signature on every submitted piece of written work and every exam.  It keeps academic integrity in the forefront.

The library, in conjunction with our Center for Teaching and Learning, offers occasional citation workshops to help with inadvertent plagiarism...

**Macalaster**

We do not use any anti-plagiarism software.

The library works closely with the Director of Academic Programs.  We developed a program that works with students who have been accused of plagiarism by their professors.  Students are referred to the Director of Academic Programs, and she refers those students to us.  Our program will be found here -

<https://www.macalester.edu/library/instruction/academicintegrity/>

Our academic integrity module is explained here <https://www.macalester.edu/library/instruction/academicintegrity/>

and includes a tutorial developed by our consortium = <http://www.clic.edu/plagiarism/index.shtml>

The Director of Academic Programs maintains a page on Academic Integrity which also refers to the library program - h[ttp://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/](http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/)

**Manhattan College**

Manhattan uses Turnitin, and we are working toward an online tutorial.

**Mt. Holyoke**

At Mount Hoyloke we do not use anti-plagiarism software. We've discussed it several times at our LITS Advisory Committee meetings based on inquires from 1-2 faculty members. But a strong majority of faculty here believe that philosophically an automated plagiarism detection tool isn't the way to go. Instead, greater reliance and education about our honor code, faculty heightening use of our homemade interactive citing sources tutorial (developed by a team from the Dean of College area, LITS, and faculty: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/lits/ris/Plagiarism/>), and when needed, cutting/pasting questionable passages from a student's work into a web search engine is sufficient.

Let me know if you want more information.

**Oberlin College**

No use of Turnitin at Oberlin.

We have an honor committee.  It is a student committee.  See;

<http://new.oberlin.edu/office/dean-of-students/honor/students.dot>

We basically try to do plagiarism education through courses.  Students routinely have to write and sign an honor pledge when they complete academic tasks -- papers, tests, etc.

Our reference librarians hold occasional workshops for faculty on plagiarism issues and they also stay in touch with the honor committee and the dean of students office, as you can see from the webpage.

**Occidental**

No, we don’t use anti-plagiarism software

Our approach is to use a website maintained by writing program; discussion in first -yr. seminars.

**Randolph Macon**

We’re similar to Megan @ Beloit, but the judicial process runs through the Academic Provost and is slightly different.  I’ve always tried to distance the library from paying for or being responsible for any anti-plagiarism programs.

**Reed College**

Reed does not use anti-plagiarism software. In discussions of Turnitin that I've been privy to, faculty have shown some interest in the existence of the software but ultimately chose to focus on what we might call plagiarism out of ignorance and hence we have the educational, preventative response described below.

Plagiarism is regarded as "academic dishonesty" as described in Reed's honor principle, <http://web.reed.edu/honor_principle/> and in the Guidebook to Reed, which is available to all students and faculty, <http://www.reed.edu/academic/gbook/index.html>.  Our first assumption is usually that students don't understand appropriate citation practices and that's where the library is involved.  There is an introduction to appropriate citation practice in student orientation and that's reiterated in library instruction for many (not all) departments.  Librarians are frequently asked to work individually with students who have trouble distinguishing when to cite paraphrases, in particular.

**Rollins**

We have Turnitin. IT pays for and administers the software, which is integrated with Blackboard. Use by the faculty is voluntary. My impression is that it is usually used in constructive rather than gotcha mode with students able to see their 'originality scores', revise, and resubmit.

We also have an honor code <http://r-net.rollins.edu/academichonorcode/index.html> which is mandatory.

**Sarah Lawrence**

We do not use this software

**Skidmore**

Through Blackboard, Skidmore faculty have access to Turnitin.

Librarians have been (and still are) active in helping faculty in cases of suspected plagiarism. Skidmore does have an Honor Code. Skidmore does have an Honor Code.

**Smith**

Smith does not use anti-plagiarism software.  Last year a committee on educational technology proposed that the college pilot Turnitin, but the committee governing the curriculum turned the proposal down.

All students are required to take a Research Skills Quiz in their first semester; they can not register for the second semester until they take the quiz. Of 17 questions in the quiz 12 are related to plagiarism and citing sources.

**St. Lawrence**

Campus anti-plagiarism software :  None in use, though individual professors make be using such a product.

Addressing plagiarism:  Students sign an “Academic Honor Code” statement.  If a student is charged with plagiarism, he/she goes before the Academic Honors Council.

**St Olaf**

We do not use software to monitor plagiarism.

Suspected violations are handled by the faculty member who can choose to talk directly to the student or turn the matter to the Dean of Students Office.  Details can be found at the site listed below.  Students are informed about academic integrity, plagiarism, etc., at orientation, and through educational workshops, etc., sponsored by the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/integrity.html>

**Union**

Yes, we use Turnitin and we are paying for the add on so it is integrated

with our CMS (Moodle).

**Wesleyan**

We've used Turnitin for several years; occasionally faculty express concern about it but it does get used from time to time.

**Whitman**

Not at Whitman.  Faculty who teach in the first year core program are responsible for teaching about plagiarism and academic integrity.  The library provides basic copyright information in various venues and forms.

**Whittier**

Whittier has used Turnitin for a number of years and it's endorsed by our Writing Program folks.  The Library was paying for it when I arrived in 2010 but we got that switched over to academic affairs last year.

**Williams College**

We do not use anti-plagiarism software. We have an Honors Code that is taken very seriously and a faculty/student Honor System - Discipline Committee that is co-chaired by a member of each group. The libraries maintain heavily used citation web pages, include discussion of attribution in many instruction sessions, and assist faculty members who seek assistance in tracking down text of dubious origins used in papers.

**College of Wooster**

I am not aware of any current use of anti-plagiarism software on campus.

The process at The College of Wooster is nearly identical to Beloit's.  Academic integrity issues are first handled by the faculty member and may then be referred to our judicial system run by our Dean of Students office.  All instances of plagiarism are also reported to a dean in our Provost's office, who notifies the faculty member and the judicial system if a student has been found guilty of prior violations of the Code of Academic Integrity.