Plagiarism Policy

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AUP defines plagiarism as the appropriation of another author’s text or ideas and presentation of that appropriated material as one’s own, regardless of intent. Generally, this means the use of another author’s words and ideas without explicitly communicating to the reader that they are not original. Identifying the text and ideas of other authors normally involves the use of quotation marks and proper citation, either by notes or parenthetical references.

While AUP conducts checks on manuscripts using plagiarism detection software, authors retain the responsibility for ensuring their manuscripts are not plagiarized. To reiterate the AUP definition, author intent is not taken into account. AUP will not publish any manuscript that contains plagiarism and reserves the right to reject any manuscript submission or retract any published work in which plagiarism is detected.

Types of Plagiarism

Direct plagiarism
The most common form of plagiarism is the direct use of another author’s words without placing those words in quotation marks and properly citing the original source. Guidelines for AUP books and journals explain the proper method for citation.

Mosaic plagiarism
A form of plagiarism closely related to direct plagiarism is the borrowing of sentences or phrases from a source without using quotation marks. In its most common form, mosaic plagiarism is practiced by writers who copy text from electronic sources and paste that text into their own document without placing the copied text in quotation marks. Even if the writer cites the original source, the borrowed text must be explicitly identified by using quotation marks. Further, a writer who changes several words in an original text but otherwise copies that original sentence or phrase has still plagiarized, unless the copied material is placed in quotation marks and cited correctly. (See the example of mosaic plagiarism.)

Example of Mosaic Plagiarism


In the example on the next page, the author of the plagiarized version copied phrases verbatim (highlighted in yellow) from the original Montcalm and Wolfe text. The plagiarized version also contains phrases that too closely follow the original text (highlighted in green). The overall result is a passage that cannot be considered original work because in both language and structure, it too closely resembles another source, without explicitly attributing the copied text to that source. The fact that the author of the plagiarized version placed one direct quotation from the original text in quotes and properly cited the source does not absolve that author of plagiarism.
All, and more than all, that France had lost, England had won. Now, for the first time, she was beyond dispute the greatest of maritime and colonial Powers. Portugal and Holland, her precursors in ocean enterprise, had long ago fallen hopelessly behind. Two great rivals remained, and she had humbled the one and swept the other from her path. Spain, with vast American possessions, was sinking into the decay which is one of the phenomena of modern history; while France, of late a most formidable competitor, had abandoned the contest in despair. England was mistress of the seas.