

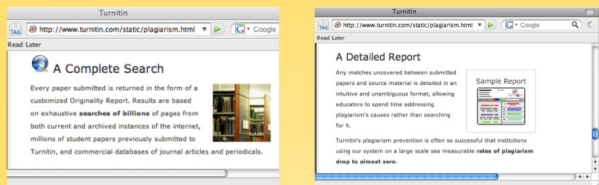
Plagiarism-Detection Services: Promises, Perceptions, and Performance

Rebecca L. Fiedler and Cem Kaner

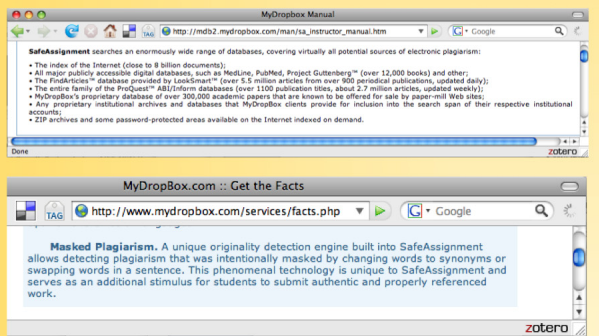
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and Florida Institute of Technology

Promises

Turnitin



MyDropBox



Research Questions

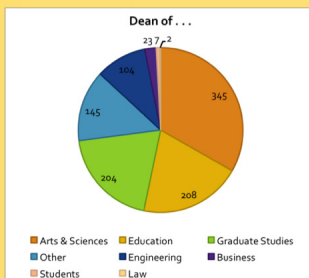
- 1) Will services identify plagiarized submissions?
- 2) Do these services have blind spots?
- 3) How widely used are these services?
- 4) What are user perceptions regarding effectiveness?

Acknowledgement

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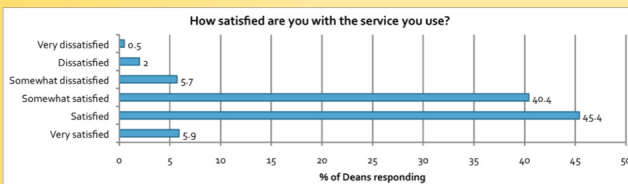
Perceptions

Survey of Deans (n=954, 74% use services)



Which tool(s) do you use?	%
Turnitin	79.1
MyDropBox	26.1
Other	20.7

What commonly triggers use?	%
Routine submission of assignments	60.4
Routine checks of theses or dissertations	22.3
Routine self-evaluation by students	14.1
Suspicion of plagiarism	89.7

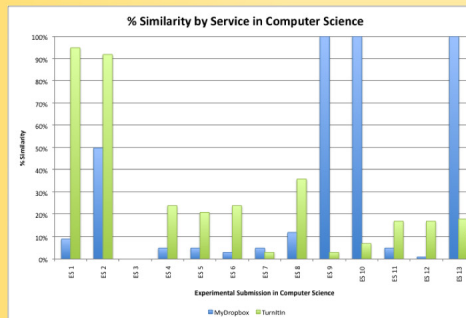
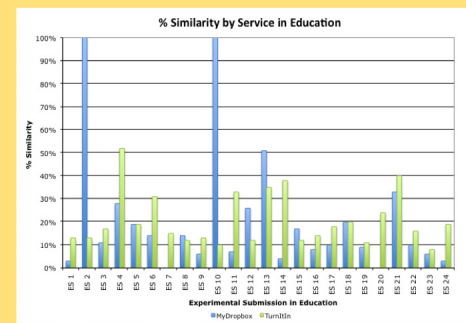


How well or poorly does the service you use cover ...	Very Well	Moderately Well	Somewhat Well	Somewhat Poorly	Moderately Poorly	Very Poorly
Popular sources?	14.1%	35.7%	34.3%	11.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Internet?	23.4%	38.2%	26.9%	7.4%	2.9%	1.2%
Academic literature from professional societies?	11.4%	44.0%	28.8%	11.2%	3.4%	1.2%
Academic literature from commercial publishers?	12.7%	43.8%	30.4%	9.3%	3.0%	0.8%
Dissertations & theses?	16.8%	38.0%	29.7%	9.6%	3.4%	2.5%

Performance

Method

Downloaded and submitted unmodified previously published papers to each service to generate report



Recommendations

- 1) Use anti-plagiarism strategies with students
- 2) Use multiple services & your skill to detect plagiarism
- 3) Do not have students pre-submit work to services
- 4) Advocate with professional societies & editors to open databases to plagiarism-detection services