

School E-Learning Co-ordinators Lunch and Meeting, 18 May 2012

Notes from the meeting

The Agenda contained the following items

- School use of Turnitin.
- Course content and best practice as regards inclusion of copyright material in Blackboard
- Support for using Blackboard: Demonstration of Blackboard Help Tab
- Digitally Ready Project: Update, T&L Blog launch

Plagiarism - Use of Turnitin

School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

- Use of Turnitin acts as a deterrent
- Students receive training and guidance on how to avoid plagiarism and how to interpret Turnitin originality reports – focus on good academic practice
- All students' work is submitted to Turnitin, and tutors check all originality reports, helped by manageable student numbers
- Aware of limitations – Turnitin does not necessarily identify all instances of where work has been copied
- Have shied away from formative use as there are concerns students will use access to Turnitin to try and 'beat the system'

Meteorology and Mathematics

- Formative use of Turnitin
- Students submit a draft of their essay to Turnitin via Blackboard 2 weeks prior to their deadline and originality reports are discussed with tutors as part of the feedback they receive

Statistics

- Summative use of Turnitin
- Tutors submit students' work to Turnitin via the submit.ac.uk website after submission

Systems Engineering

- Students are allowed to submit multiple times, seeing originality report for each submission before the deadline.
- Students have to print off the final originality report and attach to hard copy submission.

Law

- Provide draft and final assignment options so that students can submit a draft and see the originality report before making final amendments for a version to submit. Advice to students about how to read the report still needs developing.

- Marking the hard copy as the final assignment; electronic copy just for originality check.

Modern Languages

- English: Using it as an educational tool
- Grammar and spell marking "mission critical", i.e. perhaps more crucial than in other schools
- The current SDTL is considering of introducing a school policy for using Turnitin across all modules

Biological Sciences

- Alastair annotates and re-uploads students' work and has noted that electronic feedback takes 2 to 3 times as long as hand-annotation

FTT

- As teaching tool
- Electronic submission plus 1 hard copy.
- Have a policy that students see originality reports when submitting work

Study Advice

- Some students have voiced concerns about their work being submitted as they are unsure how the originality report will be interpreted
- Advice should come from Schools and departments and local guidance is seen as more authoritative by students than generic advice, and practice across the University differs widely
- Students are more likely to look at generic advice (such as on the Study Advice website) if recommended by a course tutor

Issues with using Turnitin

- Balance between 'policy' and local practice without creating unfair inequalities in students' treatment
- Anonymous marking
- Tie-in with administrative workflow
- Different kinds of assessment not easily covered by Turnitin: wikis, graphics, scientific formulae
- e-submission using Turnitin
- Archiving of student work
- Demand for electronic archives of coursework/Storage data protection issues
- Demand for sharing good practice among schools, staff
- Admin staff play a key role in the use of Turnitin for e-submission