

# **An Online Learning Module to Teach Academic Honesty to Computing Students**

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# Presentation Outline

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# Background

- Universities aim to offer complete education plans including not only lectures and studies but also education on correct behaviours
- Universities want their graduates
  - To be capable of independent thought
  - Be able to do their own work
  - Know how to acknowledge the work of others
- All the above are part of Academic Honesty

# The Problem

- Academic Honesty is well understood by universities but often not clear for the students
  - Students are not well informed on what exactly is Academic Honesty
  - Students often are not aware that they have plagiarised
- Universities often can not explicitly provide the resources or tools to help students distinguish between correct or incorrect academic behaviour

# Project Aim

- Create an online tool offering information and relevant material on correct Academic Behaviour
- Help students raise their awareness on plagiarism
- Help students increase their self-learning capabilities via interactivity and feedback

# Project Outcomes

- A fully working website including
  - Information on plagiarism (description, types & levels )
  - Macquarie University Policy on Academic Honesty
  - A case study of examples
  - Quizzes
  - Help Tips on correct reference of work of others
  - Links to other relevant sources including books, other websites and useful relevant tools

# Defining Plagiarism

- The most common form of Academic Dishonesty
- Copying word-for-word from a book, article, or webpage without placing the copied material in quotation marks and acknowledging the source in a footnote or list of references
- Paraphrasing of material without acknowledging the original source

# Plagiarism and the Internet

- Easy to search for information from a huge database of online resources
- With a simple click writers can copy paste data
- Known as Internet plagiarism or e-cheating
- Surveys have shown that the Internet has increased the cases of plagiarism all around the world
  - 40% of students at Northumbria University attributed plagiarism to the ease of copying material from the Internet (Dordoy, 2002)



# Coping with Plagiarism

- Use strict controls
- Make the rules clear and have known penalties
- Design assessment instruments that make cheating difficult
- Develop a climate that will reduce the likelihood of cheating.

This project focuses on strategies to encourage honesty versus strategies to discourage dishonesty/plagiarism.

# Similar Tools

## You Quote It, You Note It

The screenshot shows the 'You Quote It, You Note It' website interface. At the top, it says 'You Quote It, You Note It!' and has navigation links for 'Home', 'About', 'Help', and 'Contact'. Below this, there are four cartoon characters representing different authors: Dylan Wolf, Elena Gomez, Tyler Hoffmann, and Mike Johnson. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section is titled 'Quote It, You Note It' and contains a text box with a magnifying glass icon and a list of instructions: '1. Find the quote', '2. Write down the author's name', '3. Write down the page number', and '4. Write down the title of the book'. The bottom section is titled 'How to reference' and contains a list of instructions: '1. Find the book', '2. Search smarter, search faster', '3. Find that book!', and '4. Find items on your reading list'.

## iResearch

iResearch: information skills for life

Learn Play More Print



How to reference

Search smarter, search faster

Find that book!

Find items on your reading list

This screenshot shows the 'NESTING' activity. It features a search engine interface with a search bar and a list of results. The text next to it says 'Search smarter, search faster - NESTING' and 'Test your skills in the best formula for building your search.' Below the search interface, there are four cartoon characters representing different authors.

This screenshot shows the 'BOOKSHOOT!' activity. It features a search engine interface with a search bar and a list of results. The text next to it says 'Find that book! - BOOKSHOOT!' and 'Play against other students to shoot the books in the correct order in the shortest time!' Below the search interface, there are four cartoon characters representing different authors.

This screenshot shows the 'FIND THAT CHEESE!' activity. It features a search engine interface with a search bar and a list of results. The text next to it says 'Find items on your reading list - FIND THAT CHEESE!' and 'Play against other students in identifying the citation type in the shortest time!' Below the search interface, there are four cartoon characters representing different authors.

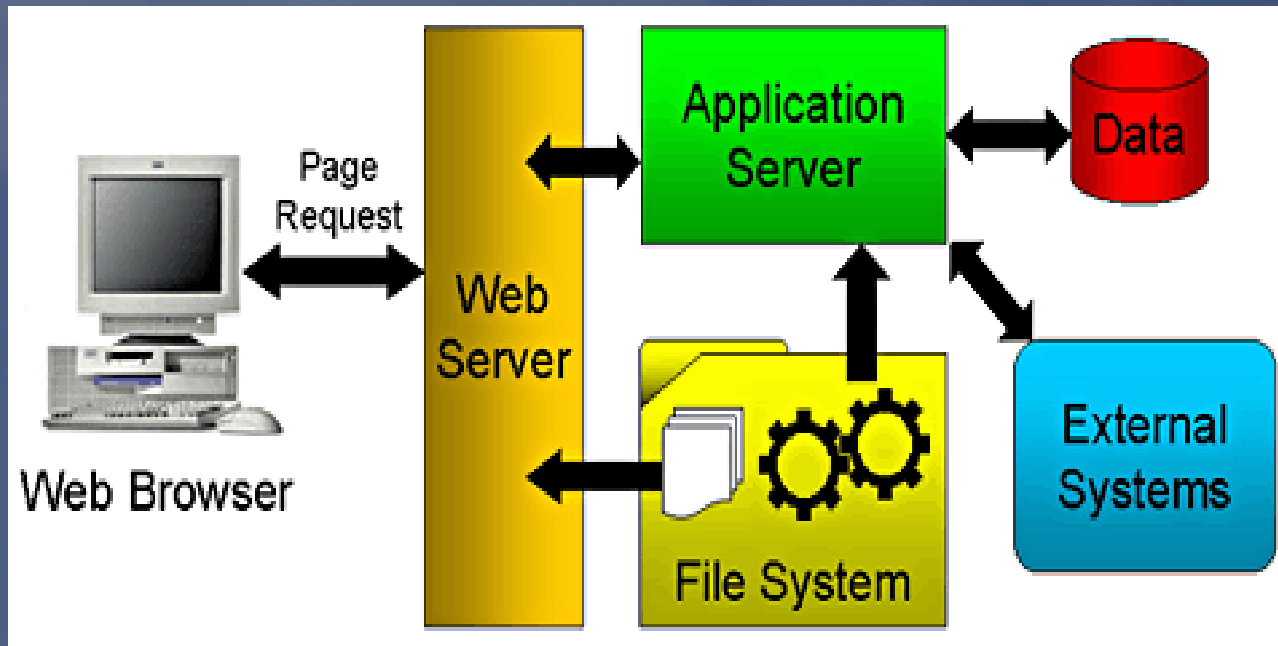
This screenshot shows the 'REFERENCING ACTIVITIES!' activity. It features a search engine interface with a search bar and a list of results. The text next to it says 'How to reference - REFERENCING ACTIVITIES!' and 'Try out your referencing skills with the easy to follow series of fun and short activities.' Below the search interface, there are four cartoon characters representing different authors.

# System Requirements

- Users shall be able to view information on plagiarism and correct Academic Behaviour
- Users shall be able to access and answer quizzes on plagiarism
- Users shall be able to access information on how to correct reference the work of others
- Lecturers shall be able to add new examples of cases of plagiarism

# Design

## System Architecture



HTML, CSS

VB.NET

Microsoft Visual Studio 2008

# The System

## PlagiarismOnline

### HOME

### HOME PAGE

### PLAGIARISM

What is Plagiarism?

Types of Plagiarism

Examples

How to Avoid Plagiarism?

Quizzes

### HELP

Quoting

Referencing

### MACQUARIE UNI

Academic Honesty Policy

## Welcome

PlagiarimOnline is an online tool offering information and relevant material on plagiarism and on correct Academic Behaviour for students and other users that are interested to learn more on this subject.

This website offers to the users all they need to know on Correct Academic Honesty and plagiarism. Material on how to correct reference work of others and on correct citation is also available for your help and self-learning.

For any questions or messages you would like to send to the website please contact the [administrator](#).

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# Testing

- Unit Testing
- Cross-Browser Testing
- Usability testing
  - Questionnaires to computing students to test functionalities

Sections	Average Rating
<b>Overall Rating of the Website</b>	
Homepage is clear	4.5
What is plagiarism page is clear	4.88
Types of plagiarism page is clear	4.75
How to avoid plagiarism page is clear	4.63
Procedures and Policies page is clear	4
Using sources page is clear	4.38
Referencing page is clear	4.75
Academic Honesty Policy page is clear	4.5
Examples of Academic Dishonesty page is clear	4.25
<b>Web Page Rating</b>	
Ease of use	4.38
Sequence of pages is clear	4.25
Able to read text on each page	3.88
Choice of colours is appropriate	3.75
The overall site is attractive	4
<b>Terminology and Website Information</b>	
Use of terms is consistent	4.38
Position of messages on screen is consistent	4.5
Purpose of the website is clear	4.88
Screens have the right amount of information	4
<b>General Comments</b>	
I found the tool useful for understanding plagiarism	4.25
I learnt something about plagiarism I did not know	4.25
I found the quiz helpful to test out the knowledge	4.13
I think the tool would be useful for computing students	4.5

# Demonstration

# Future Work

- Advanced content management for lecturers and administrators
- Plagiarism detection tool
- Personalised account for students
- Forums, wikis, live chat