Academic writing and the internet: cyber-plagiarism amongst university students


Introduction

Focus of analysis

Participants

1,150 students (University of Lleida)

Copying and pasting

60.8% consider that taking fragments from web sources is plagiarism.

Paraphrasing

39.2% believe that they can take information from the internet in order to prepare their tasks.

Translating

82.1% of students believe that translating an text and using it as one’s own is plagiarism.

Citing

86.4% of learners say that the author must be cited if the information is drawn from the internet.

Material and methods

Instruments

Questionnaire

83 copies distributed into six sections.

Participants

1,150 students (University of Lleida)

Copying and pasting

60.8% consider that taking fragments from web sources is plagiarism.

Paraphrasing

39.2% believe that they can take information from the internet in order to prepare their tasks.

Translating

82.1% of students believe that translating a text and using it as one’s own is plagiarism.

Citing

86.4% of learners say that the author must be cited if the information is drawn from the internet.

Results

(SPSS v.20)

Conclusions

Specific training implemented in degree curricular subjects and linked to academic tasks.

Causes of plagiarism

Lack of students' skills in locating, managing, and citing digital resources.

Solution

Specific training implemented in degree curricular subjects and linked to academic tasks.