Introduction to TurnItIn

Reykjavík University
Hafdís Dögg Hafsteinsdóttir
information specialist
hafdisdh@ru.is
Purpose of this presentation:

- To introduce **Turnitin**
- To explain how **Turnitin** works
- To get faculty started on creating account, creating courses and assignments
- To show how to read and interpret the results of **OriginalityCheck**
In the first phase of the implementation of **Turnitin** in Icelandic universities the main emphasis is on the use of **OriginalityCheck**. **PeerMark** og **GradeMark** might come in at a later stage but are active and up to each instructor to use.
What is Turnitin?

*Turnitin’s OriginalityCheck* is a tool designed to prevent plagiarism

- *Turnitin* is not just about catching cheaters and policing plagiarizers
- *Turnitin* can be used as an instructional support tool that helps students understand how to work with source material and integrate it with their written work
OriginalityCheck compares students assignments to the Turnitin database which contains ...

- about 20 billion web pages
- more than 100 million journal articles in electronic databases
  » however Turnitin does not contain every database in the Icelandic Consortia or RU special subscriptions, f.ex. ProQuest, Britannica, Karger ... are not included
- more than 220 million student papers
  » of which about 10.000 papers the Skemman repository

More than half of students plagiarism comes from other student papers!
How does Turnitin work?

• Student‘s assignments are uploaded to Turnitin
• Turnitin creates a report which highlights the similarity between assignments and texts in the database
• The report depicts in percentages the matches between the student paper and other sources in the Turnitin database
• Turnitin creates a list with sources that match the student paper
The Originality Report shows side by side the student’s text and the source(s) which match the text.
What happens to papers uploaded to Turnitin?

You can choose to upload to ...

- ... *standard repository* – assignments are compared to papers within that institution and other institutions using Turnitin (users in other institutions can not view your institutions‘ paper without permission)

- ... *institutional repository* – assignments are only compared to papers within that institution (feature not available at the moment)

- ... *no repository* – assignment not available for comparison (feasible for trials and such)
Indications that Turnitin actually works

% of assignments with substantial matches

When **OriginalityCheck** has become a standard practice the incidents of serious plagiarism deminishes
An evergrowing group of users

1 million instructors
20 million students
10,000 institutions
126 countries
10 languages
Pop quiz!

- **OriginalityCheck** detects plagiarism
  True or false

- The matching source listed in **OriginalityCheck** is definitively the same source the student used
  True or false

- Matched text is likely to be completely coincidental or common knowledge
  True or false
Getting started as an instructor
The first steps

1. Creating an account
2. Creating a class / course
3. Adding students to class / course (2 options)
   - distributing course number and password to students
   - uploading a list of students
4. Creating an assignment
5. Navigating your TurnItIn page
Creating an account

• Contact your institution’s administrator (hafdisdh@ru.is) to get a Turnitin password

• You will get an e-mail containing a password. Click on the link in the e-mail or go to www.turnitin.com and click on „Create Account“ (top of your screen in small fonts)

• This window pops up. Choose „Instructor“

• In a new window fill in the information from your e-mail and other personal information and change your password if you want

• Accept the lot
Logging in

• You can now start using Turnitin!
• Go to www.turnitin.com and log in

![Turnitin login page]

• NB you need to log in with your xxx@hr.is or xxx@ru.is and your new password
Your home page

- To **create a class** click on
- In a new window you need to name the class and create a password for it
- You can choose „Standard class“ or „Master class“ which is designed for classes with more than one instructor or multiple phases
- You also need to specify the end date for the class
New class

• When you’ve created a new class you’ll get a notification where you see the „Class ID“ which is a random number that the system chooses - you also see the „Enrollment password“ you chose.

• This is the information your students need in order to register for the class.

• „Class ID“ is always visible on your home page by the title of the class.

• You can see the „Enrollment password“ by clicking the „Edit“ button by the class title on your home page.
New class

• After creating a class / classes your home page should look something like this:

• You can view class statistics

• You can copy a class if you want to create another one just like it

• You can edit the class settings or delete the lot
Creating an assignment within a class

• To create an assignment you need to open the appropriate class and click on + Add Assignment.

• This window pops up:

  Choose ...
  – a title for the assignment
  – start date and due date

• Fill in the rest only if you’re using “Grade Mark”

• Click on Optional settings to choose the settings for the “Originality Report”
Creating an assignment – „Optional Settings“

• In the window „Special Instructions“ you can provide your students with instructions on this assignment

• You can decide if you want to allow submissions after the due date:

  ![Allow submissions after the due date?](Yes, No)
Now define your settings for the „Originality Report“:

• Do you want an „Originality Report“ to be created when an assignment is submitted?

• When do you want the report to be created?
  – immediately, first report is final
  – immediately, but overwrites until due date if an assignment is submitted more than once
  – a report is created on due date
Defining settings for „Originality Report“ (cont.):

- Exclude bibliographic materials?
- Exclude quoted materials?
- Exclude „small“ matches? (according to instructors definitions)
  - if „yes“ this window pops up:

  ![Exclude matches by:](image)

  - Word Count: 0 words
  - Percentage: 0%

- Allow students to see the report?
Should papers be submitted to a repository or not?

- The benefits of submitting a student paper to a repository is that the paper is then checked against all papers within that repository.

What repositories and databases should the paper be matched with?

- student paper repositories?
- the internet?
- periodicals, journals and other publications in databases?
Adding students to Turnitin

To add students to a class click on the appropriate class on your homepage where you should see a command line with a number of tabs:

• There are two ways to add students to a class:
  – enter students one by one
  – uploading a student list
    » the list can be a Word, Excel or text file
    » the list needs to include first name, surname and e-mail address
  – in each case students receive an e-mail with the class ID-number and password and sign on to the class themselves
OriginalityCheck in a nutshell

1. Submitting a paper
2. Waiting for the report to be generated (1-5 min.)
3. Viewing the **Originality Report**
4. Different ways of viewing
   - an overview of matches
   - a break down of matches
   - filters and settings
   - exclusion of resources
Submitting a paper

To submit a paper to *Turnitin* you need to click on the appropriate class and choose the right assignment to submit to:

Click on „View“ which takes you into the assignment and then click the Submit Paper button.

- You can submit assignments in four ways:
  - uploading a single file
  - cut and paste your text into a special window
  - uploading multiple files (similar to attaching files to an e-mail)
  - uploading a Zip-file (up to 200 Mb or 1000 files)

- Files can be Word, WordPerfect, HTML, TXT, RTF, PDF formats
- Individual files can be 20 Mb but pure text files 2 Mb
Submitting a paper

• When a paper has been submitted you get a receipt saying the paper is being processed
  – that can take a few minutes depending on the file size

• On the assignments’ web page you have an overview of assignments that have been processed and you also see the percentages of matches with the chosen databases
• To view the „Originality Check“ you need to click on the „similarity“ percentage for each student
Deciphering „Originality Check“

The paper pops up in the „Document Viewer“ window

- on the left is the student paper where text which matches texts in the Turnitin databases is highlighted – different colors for each database
- on the right there is a list of databases which hold texts with the matched text in the student paper

In the top right hand corner is the overall match percentage:

Purdue University. Topics include fair use law, educational exceptions to copyright law, and library copyright issues. U.S. legislation noted includes the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 (DMCA), the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998 (CTEA), and the Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act of 2002 (TEACH).
Assessing „Originality Check“

Turnitin arranges percentage matches on a color scale:

- **blue** – no match
- **green** – 0-24% match
- **yellow** – 25-49% match
- **orange** – 50-74% match
- **red** – 75-100% match

It is the instructors‘ task to assess whether a match is a case of plagiarism or not!
Typical student questions

- What is **Turnitin**?
- How does **Turnitin** work?
- What if **Turnitin** finds a match in my assignment?
- Who can see or read my assignment?
- Does **Turnitin** violate students copyrights?
Instructions and tutorials

- Instructions and handbooks
- Video footage and articles
- Online walk-through sessions (6x per week)
- Turnitin Academy webinars (live or on-demand)
- Help within the program

http://www.turnitin.com/static/training
Online help

- Monday – Friday 6:00–23:00 (US PT)
- Saturdays and Sundays 14:00 – 11:00 (US PT)

ttiSupport@turnitin.com