Rosalind Franklin
(1920-1958)

Jewish-British Bio-Physicist and Crystallographer

Most notable work:
X-ray crystallography studies which eventually led to the discovery of the structure of DNA (by James Watson, Francis Crick & Maurice Wilkins)

“Science and everyday life cannot and should not be separated. Science…is based on fact, experience and experiment.”

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosalind_Franklin
This unit enables you to:
- define plagiarism & academic honesty
- learn how to avoid plagiarism when writing a technical report
- cite sources correctly using a consistent reference system
A. WELR (Writing Effective Lab Reports)

I. What is plagiarism and why it should be avoided?

Write down the definitions for the terms below (in pairs) and compare your answers with others.

- Intellectual property is ...
- Academic dishonesty is...
- Plagiarism is ...

When carrying out scientific research or studies including laboratory work, apart from your own findings, you may also use other people's ideas and results and incorporate them into your own writing (e.g. Introduction/ theory, methodology, comparison of results, etc).

However, you cannot simply copy other people’s work or findings without acknowledging them, otherwise, this will lead to academic dishonesty.

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit or cite whenever you’ve used

- other people’s ideas, findings, or theory
- pieces of information (facts, statistics, graphs, drawings) that are not common knowledge or have been directly obtained by yourself

II. Consequences of plagiarism in the WELR Course

According to the regulations of the City University of Hong Kong, the representation of another person’s work as the student’s own, without proper acknowledgement of the source, is a form of cheating. This is a very serious offence.

If there is clear evidence that you have plagiarized in your coursework (whether intentional or unintentional) you may fail a part or the whole course and also face further disciplinary action. Therefore,…

- if doubt, always cite the source, and
- it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism.

2 Adapted from http://www.languages.ait.ac.th/EL21REFP.HTM#which
Writing the Literature Review
What is it and why should it be part of your paper?

A literature review refers to the works and other studies you have consulted. It provides a critical look at the existing research and how they are related to your present work.

In carrying out research, apart from your own findings, you are also engaged with other people and researchers’ ideas and results and incorporate them into your own writing (in the literature review, comparison of results, evaluation of findings, etc).

Avoiding plagiarism
To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use

- other people’s ideas, findings, or theory
- pieces of information (facts, statistics, graphs, drawings) that are not common knowledge or have been directly obtained by yourself

1. Paraphrasing
   - A paraphrase is an accurate restatement of the original text in your own words. It should retain all of the original ideas.
   - Paraphrases must be cited because they are the author’s ideas from the original work, but not your own.

   **How to paraphrase:**
   - reread the sentence or section until you completely understand it
   - "translate" it into your own words, retaining ALL of the original ideas
   - rearrange sentence structure if paraphrasing word for word is problematic

2. Summarizing
   - short version (summary) of key findings based on particular source
   - may not present all the specific examples (as a paraphrase does)
   - must still be written in your own words and properly cited.

How to cite other people’s work?
In your report (primarily the introduction & literature review), whenever you refer to other sources, you must cite them properly. This is known as in-text citation. At the end of your paper, you must include a comprehensive reference list or References.
Which system should you use?

Many research papers and dissertations in science and engineering either use a number system e.g. IEEE, or the ‘Name-Year System’, e.g. CSE/CBE Style. Make sure you…

- consult your supervisor
- look at other dissertations and research papers in your field

Notes

Intellectual property is something that someone has created or invented and that no one else is legally allowed to make, copy, or sell. (Macmillian English Dictionary for Advanced Learners, 2005)

Academic dishonesty is any type of cheating that occurs in relation to a formal academic exercise. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_dishonesty)

Plagiarism is the adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of another person without due acknowledgment. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_dishonesty)

3 http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/citations/cse/NYin_text.html (CSE/CBE in-text citations)
Examples from other ELC course

1. **Current Issues**

   ![Piracy skull and crossbones]

   **Plagiarism has serious consequences!**

   According to the **regulations of City University of HK**, the representation of another person’s work as the students own, without proper acknowledgement of the source, is a **form of cheating**.

   **What is the penalty for committing plagiarism in the Current Issues Elective?**

   Plagiarism will result in a student getting **ZERO MARKS** in course work. It is **YOUR** responsibility to avoid plagiarism. Letters for Assessment 2 will be examined carefully for plagiarism.

   You **CAN** take exact words from a source — this is called a **QUOTATION** — or rewrite ideas from the source in your own word as long as you give **CREDIT TO THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR(S)**.

   If you do that, then you do not have to worry about plagiarism, and the original author’s **intellectual property** is safe!

2. **Writing Academic Essays (WAE)**

   **A note on plagiarism**

   Remember that instances of **plagiarism** in the final draft of the term paper will be **heavily penalized**. This includes both plagiarism from published sources and plagiarism from other students.

3. **Getting Critical with English**

   **Beware of Plagiarism!**

   Plagiarism is **unacceptable** as it involves claiming other people’s work as your own.

   The University takes the issue of plagiarism **very seriously**. According to University regulations, if a student is proven to have plagiarized, s/he will **automatically fail** the course. (Please refer to p. 83 of ELC Student Handbook.)