

# Cut-copy-paste: understanding intellectual theft and plagiarism

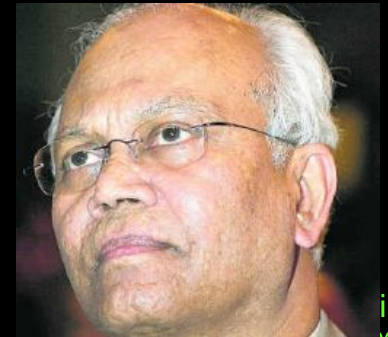


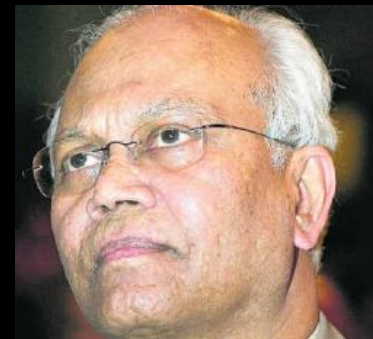
B.Gitanjali

**Saturday, March 17, 2007 - R. A. Mashelkar  
resigns from patent panel following  
plagiarism charge**

- ❖ Dr. Mashelkar confirmed to *The Hindu* that certain lines used in their report's conclusion had been taken "verbatim" from a November 2005 paper that was authored by Shamnad Basheer, a doctoral student and an Associate at the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre, University of Oxford. (Feb 22, 2007)

**Source: The Hindu**



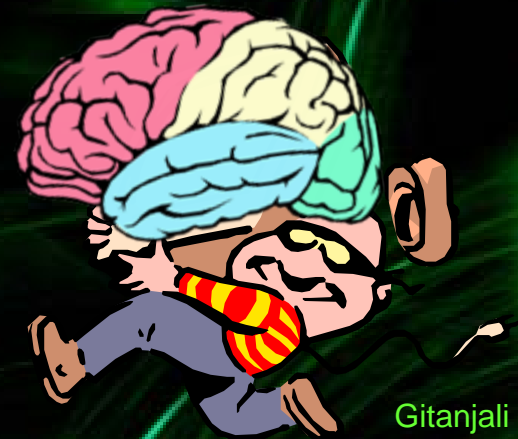


- ❖ The Times of India established that Mashelkar had plagiarised large portions of text from a 2004 book authored by British IPR expert Graham Dutfield, & Shahid Ali Khan, former Deputy Director General of WIPO. The plagiarised passages, according to the Times of India, were in the section that Mashelkar wrote.

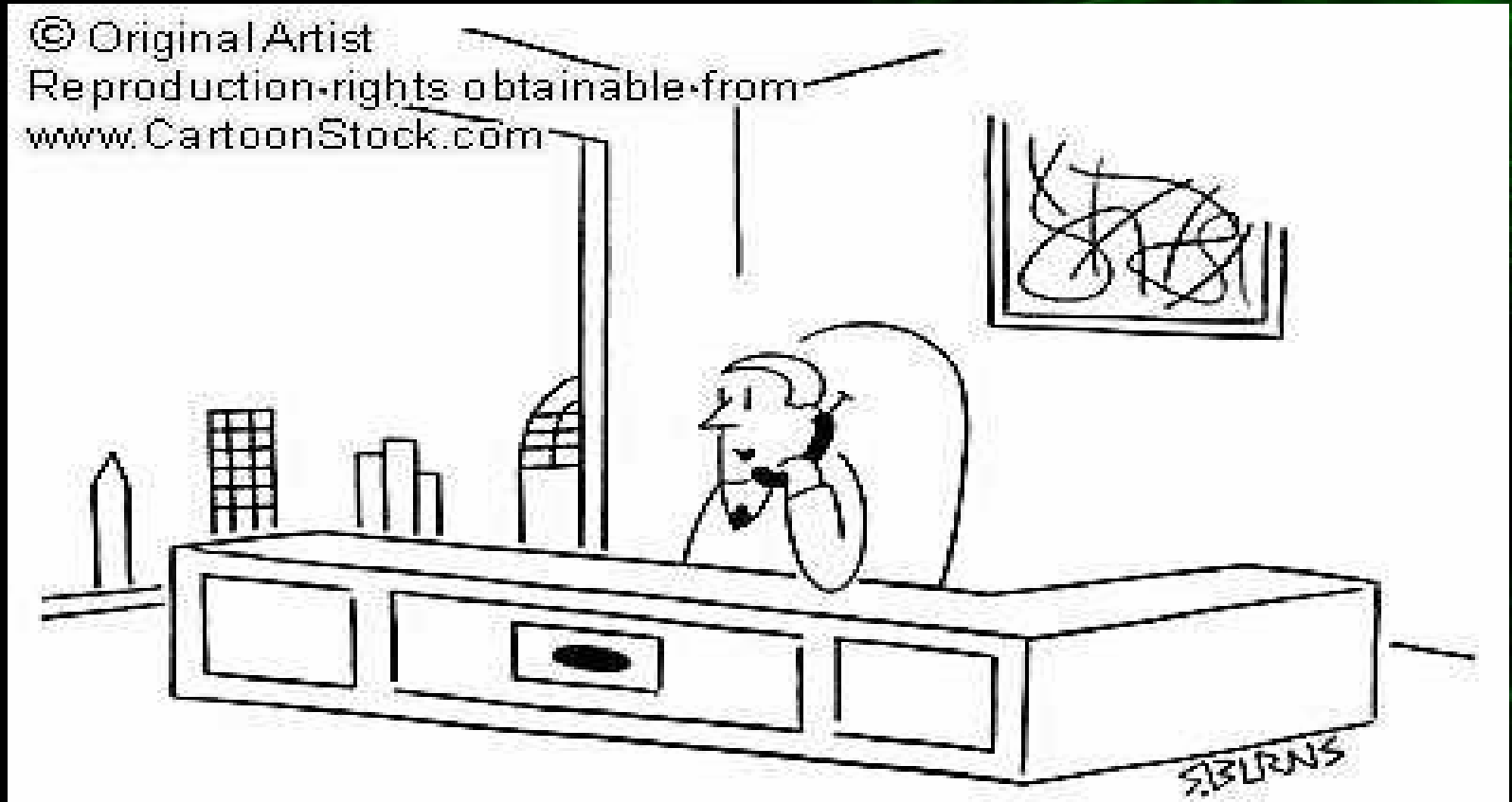
# What is plagiarism?

- ❖ Latin *plagium* - means "kidnapping"
- ❖ It is intellectual theft
- ❖ It is a *serious scientific misconduct*

(American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3rd ed., 1992)



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“Intriguing proposal!...Give me some time to mull it over and co-opt it as my own.”

# Definition of Plagiarism\*

- ❖ "Plagiarism is the use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source. The intent and effect of plagiarism is to mislead the reader as to the contributions of the plagiarizer. This applies whether the ideas or words are taken from abstracts, research grant applications, Institutional Review Board applications, or unpublished or published manuscripts in any publication format (print or electronic).

WAME Publication Ethics Policies for Medical Journals, at <http://www.wame.org/resources/publication-ethics-policies-for-medical-journals#plagiarism> :



# What is plagiarism?

- ❖ the copying from a book, article, notebook, video, or other source material, whether published or unpublished, without proper credit through the use of quotation marks, footnotes, and other customary means of identifying sources, or passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, programs, and experiments of another, **whether or not such actions are intentional or unintentional.**"

*Undergraduate catalogue, William Patterson University, 2002*

Plagiarism is  
plagiarism...  
irrespective of  
**Intent, Source,  
Quantity and  
Copyright**





# What is cyber-plagiarism?

- ❖ Copying ideas, text, material from the web without proper accreditation
- ❖ Digital plagiarism is a term used to describe copying using computers

Creativity is fine  
but plagiarism is  
faster...



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**‘You’ve copied all this off  
the internet...’**

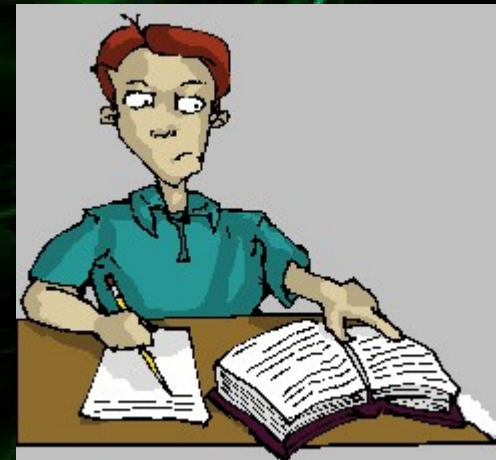
Truth is stranger than  
fiction...

❖ **17/3/2007**

**Ethics Student Plagiarizes Class  
Presentation on Plagiarism  
(downloaded the slides from internet)**

# Types of plagiarism

- ❖ **Word for word (Direct, Text)**
- ❖ **Mosaic**
- ❖ **Thesaurus (*Paraphrase*)**
- ❖ **Ideas**
- ❖ **Authorship**
- ❖ **Secondary sources**
- ❖ **Self**



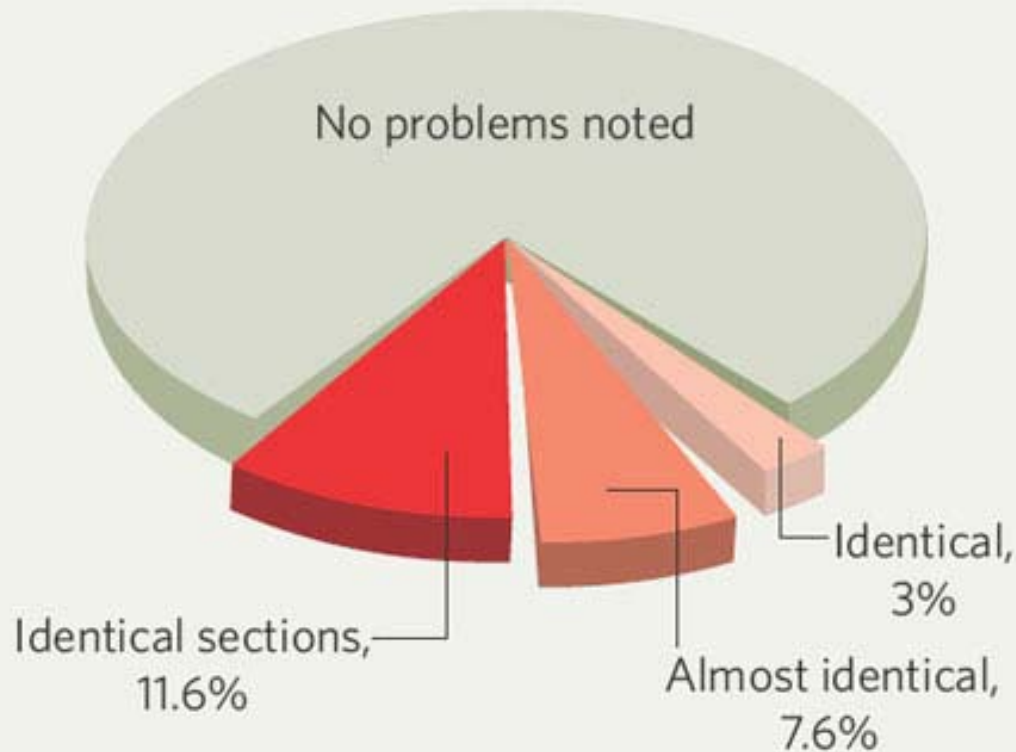
# Why do people plagiarize?

- ❖ Ignorance
- ❖ Lack of knowledge on the ethics of scholarly writing / poor writing skills
- ❖ Ambition, fierce competition
- ❖ Pressure from seniors
- ❖ Publish or perish system
- ❖ Faster
- ❖ Chances of getting caught or action being taken is slim



# Cases of plagiarism

As found in 660 articles published  
in 3 top surgery journals



Giles J. Taking on the cheats.  
Nature 435, 258-9, 19 May 2005.



# How to avoid plagiarism?

- ❖ For short quotes, use quotation marks in the sentence.
- ❖ For longer quotes indent the entire passage
- ❖ If you have used a table, chart, diagram etc., cite the source directly below with a statement that permission has been obtained.
- ❖ "All sources should be disclosed and, if large amounts of other people's written or illustrative material are to be used, permission must be sought." COPE, 1999.

**Even if you change a few words here and there it is considered plagiarism**



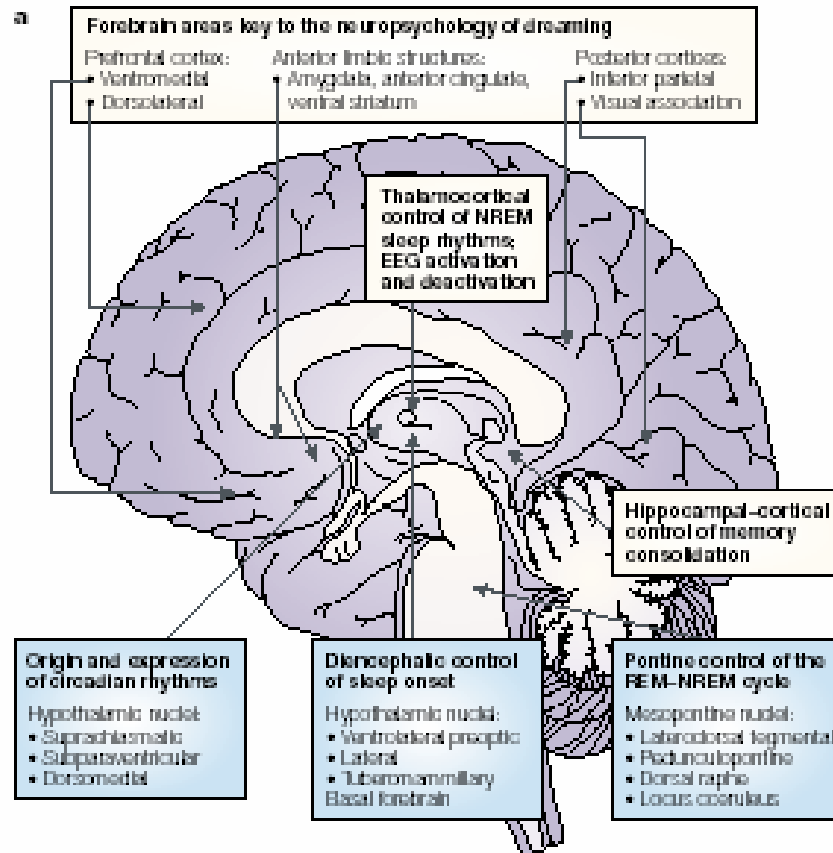


Figure 1. Brain regions of current interest to the neurobiology of sleep. (Figure reproduced with permission from: Pace-Schott EF, Hobson JA. *The neurobiology of sleep. Nature Reviews* 2002;3:697-723.)

# Fair Use of Intellectual Property

- ❖ use of a copyrighted work for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching or scholarship.
- ❖ use copyrighted materials without seeking permission from the creator or publisher and without paying copyright fees.

Does not mean that you  
can plagiarize!!!



# What is self-plagiarism?

- ❖ The practice of an author using portions of their previous writings on the same topic in another of their publications, without specifically citing it formally in quotes.
- ❖ This practice is widespread and at times unintentional
- ❖ Violates the copyright that has been assigned to the publisher
- ❖ No consensus whether this is scientific misconduct
- ❖ If journals have developed a policy on this matter, it should be clearly stated for authors.



12,500 USD

# Copyright and Plagiarism

- ❖ Plagiarism issues are not strictly related to copyright issues - though the two may overlap.
- ❖ Copyright is a legal concept; plagiarism is literary and more of an ethical issue.
- ❖ Publishers are more worried about copyright violation.

We now have a  
drug to cure  
'writer's block', but  
a common side  
effect is  
plagiarism







**Committee on  
Publication Ethics**

## **Flowchart**

**[www.publicationethics.org.uk](http://www.publicationethics.org.uk)**

### **What to do if you suspect plagiarism**

- (a) Suspected plagiarism in a submitted manuscript**
- (b) Suspected plagiarism in a published article**



# Committee on Publication Ethics Flowchart

## Suspected plagiarism in a submitted manuscript

Reviewer informs editor about suspected plagiarism

Thank reviewer and say you plan to investigate.  
Get full documentary evidence if not already provided

Check degree of copying

Clear plagiarism...

Copying of short phrases only...

Redundancy...

No problem

Contact corresponding author...

Check with reviewer

Note: The instructions to authors should contain a definition of plagiarism and state the journal's policy on it

# British Student says University was Negligent for Not Stopping his Plagiarism

<http://chronicle.com/prm/daily/2004/06/2004060404n.htm>

Are we doing  
enough?

Interesting websites:

<http://www.famousplagiarists.com/scienceandmedicine.htm>.

[www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)



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“It’s not the same. I was caught stealing office supplies. You on the other hand, got caught stealing ideas.”