

# Plagiarism

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of another person's ideas as you own. The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as:

*"The action or practice of plagiarizing; the wrongful appropriation or purloining, and publication as one's own, of the ideas, or the expression of the ideas (literary, artistic, musical, mechanical, etc.) of another."*

UK and US research shows that students plagiarise through:

- ignorance
- poor academic skills
- and a small number through choice, in other words deliberately.

Students are more likely to plagiarise if they have poor academic skills such as: *time management, reading & note taking, citation skills and the ability to understand a question.*

Librarians can and should take an active role in educating others on the causes of plagiarism and how to avoid being a plagiarist. This should include advice on how to ethically communicate ideas and knowledge to others, as well as the mechanics of citation and the creation of bibliographies.

## Plagiarism guides from Ofqual

(Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations)

Ofqual, [www.ofqual.gov.uk/](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/) , in association with [PlagiarismAdvice.org](http://PlagiarismAdvice.org) produce a number of guides to plagiarism; please see links:

[Authenticity: a guide for teachers](#)

[Avoiding plagiarism: a guide for parents and carers](#)

[Using sources, a guide for students: Find it - Check it - Credit it](#)