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From: ISD Public Service Announcement [mailto:isd-announce@usc.edu]
Sent: Mon 10/10/2005 11:55 PM
To: isd-announce@usc.edu
Subject: ISD Provides Turnitin on Trial Basis

Discussions in the Academic Integrity Roundtable last year led to the suggestion that USC experiment with software that helps detect unoriginal material in submitted documents and helps identify whether appropriate citations are given to referenced material.

I am writing to inform you that ISD has worked out a temporary agreement to make Turnitin- a widely used software tool that identifies documents containing unoriginal material- available to USC faculty on a trial basis.

The Turnitin software, which can be accessed through the TotalE (Blackboard) portal at totale.usc.edu or the standalone turnitin.com site, has the following features:

- * Advanced search technology that checks submitted papers against both Internet content (current and archived) and a database of previously submitted student papers;
- * Source comparison highlighting common text passages found in students' submitted papers and another original source;
- * Integration into Blackboard's existing assignment tools;
- * Originality reports that enable instructors to investigate the sources of plagiarism easily;
- * A wide range of document format options, including MS Word and PDF.

For more detailed information, easy tutorials, useful information for your students, and teaching strategies to promote academic integrity in the digital age with Turnitin and Blackboard, please go to <http://www.usc.edu/cst/turnitin/>.

At this site, you also may register for upcoming Turnitin workshops offered during the month of October.

During the fall semester trial period, ISD is seeking feedback from interested faculty to determine if the product is a useful tool and one that the university should consider adopting on a long-term basis. To provide feedback on Turnitin, please e-mail your comments to blackboard@usc.edu.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Campbell
Chief Information Officer and Dean of the University Libraries