PLAGIARISM! your one way ticket out of here
What this talk will cover

- What is plagiarism?
- Why some students do it
- College policy
- Horror stories
- How to avoid it
- Links
Plagiarism is...

• The presentation of another person’s thoughts or words as though they were your own.

• Direct quotations from published or unpublished works of others (including lecture hand-outs) without proper citation.

• Paraphrasing—expressing another person’s ideas of judgements in other words without proper acknowledgement.
This is…

- Cheating
- Academic dishonesty
- Outright intention to deceive
- And a one way ticket out of Imperial College
Is this plagiarism?

From: http://mapage.noos.fr/Joelapompe2/

Buenos Aires Zoo "the kangaroos have arrived" - 2005
Agency: Del Campo Nazca Saatchi & Saatchi (Argentina)

Campaign for an allied martial arts gym - 2006
Agency: Crush Communications (Malaysia)
Why students do it?

- Laziness
- Deadlines/Time pressure
- Poor English skills/Poor note taking
- Lack of subject knowledge
- Means justify the ends/Criminal intent
- Ignorance of citation rules
College Policy—see the web pages

- **Minor offence**
  - Recorded on your department file

- **Major offence**
  - Recorded on Dept. file and Registry file
  - Lose all marks
  - Lose a year
  - Expulsion
Imperial College London, Academic Regulations 2012/13

- Cheating Offences Policy and Procedures
- http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/procedureandsandregulations/regulations
And now for the horror stories…

- PhD student
- Final year UG
How to avoid plagiarism…

• Take the test—free online tutorial with lots of examples

• **How to recognize plagiarism**
  - http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/

• **Know how to reference**
  - Double quotes/paraphrasing
  - Reference Management Software—use it
You must learn how to reference properly:

- TO AVOID PLAGIARISM
- To get credit for what you have done
- To substantiate what you have written
- To enable others to follow up your research
- To give others credit for their work
- To enable you to go back and check information
Because...

- Your reader must be able to check your sources, methods, findings you have used.
- You need to distinguish your own work from others (and this includes graphs, pictures, data).
- Proves you are well read and know your subject.
- DON’T JUST USE A URL—CITE PROPERLY.
What should I reference/cite? Other people’s work…and these can be

• Photos
• Pictures
• Graphs
• Statistics
• Ideas
• Computer code
• Equations
• Sentences/paragraphs…
References/citations—when?

• **When** you use any source of information for:
  - Your inspiration
  - Particular facts, theories, findings or ideas in an author’s work
  - Specific data or statistics or a picture
  - A direct quotation
  - **Paraphrasing an author's words**
Follow these steps to avoid plagiarism…

• EXTRACT the text you want*
• QUOTE or PARAPHRASE the text*
• CREDIT the source*
• ADD the source to your list of references*

So follow a style guide…

- Follow the *Vancouver or Harvard style*
  Accepted formats for the College
- Library web site has the guides
  
  http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/library/subjects
  andsupport/referencemanagement
Now what? Reference management software

- Organize yourself
- So…. use a reference management s/w
- [http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/library/subjectsandsupport/referencemanagement](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/library/subjectsandsupport/referencemanagement)
- Pick your software
- Then you can download relevant primary sources (articles, conference papers…) and manage your references
Plagiarism – a BIG warning!

• If you pass off other people’s work as your own, even when *unintentional*…this is plagiarism

• Students are caught every year

• Self-plagiarism – what’s this?
  ▪ Another horror story

• Plagiarism = academic dishonesty = cheating = expulsion
And a final word of warning…

• Don’t use free plagiarism checking sites

• Use Turnitin ONLY

• Open University regulation
Warning word continued....

• Why?
  ▪ Hidden viruses
  ▪ Sell/upload to other sites
    • Encourages/enables plagiarism
Example of one web checker (free)

- Viper

“When you scan a document, you agree that 9 months after completion of your scan, we may upload your essay to our student essays database so that other students may use it to help them write their own essays.* You agree that any right you may have to remuneration for such use of documents is waived.”


*These words were put in bold for emphasis by me and not by the web site.
And here’s some help…

- Academic skills workshops at the Central Library
- Book Online
  - Key Resources for Engineering
  - Academic Writing Skills
  - Writing a Literature review
  - RefWorks and more…..
  - www.imperial.ac.uk/library/subjectsand support/workshops
And books to borrow (or buy)…

• PEARLS, R. Cite them right (8th edition)
• NEVILLE, C. The complete guide to referencing and avoiding plagiarism (2nd ed.)
• Shelved at Level 5 at 808.027
Conclusion

• Don’t plagiarize
• Be methodical/correct/complete/consistent
• Use Harvard/Vancouver and RMS
• Make an appointment for an hour’s help with me to find QUALITY information
My contact details:

- My contact details:
- Ellen Haigh, Subject Librarian Bioengineering, Computing & EEE
- Email: e.haigh@imperial.ac.uk
- Office: Level 6, Room 601 at E&EE
- Telephone: ext. 46334
And now for the video...

- *A Plagiarism Carol – University Library of Bergen, Norway*
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwbw9KF-ACY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwbw9KF-ACY)