Information for teaching staff

Use of PlagScan plagiarism check software at the University of Bremen

Table of contents
Table of contents..................................................................................................................................... 1
How do I create an account for the plagiarism check software? ............................................................ 1
What documents can I check? ................................................................................................................ 1
What sources are used for the scan? ...................................................................................................... 1
How should the check report be interpreted?........................................................................................ 2
What happens to the data?..................................................................................................................... 2
Where can I find more information about working with the software?................................................. 2

How do I create an account for the plagiarism check software?
In 2019, all teaching staff in the pilot faculties – Faculties 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 – will have this option.
You can log in via Shibboleth at https://plagscan.uni-bremen.de/ using your ZFN access information.

What documents can I check?
All written student work and theses may be scanned with the software – provided the author has
signed a declaration of consent to this effect. It is important that the author’s personal information
(name, address, student registration number etc.) are removed before scanning (by removing
page(s), blacking out text etc.).

All persons using the software are compelled to use it sparingly and, where possible, only scan
passages suspected of plagiarism. The software usage charges are based on the number of words
scanned.

What sources are used for the scan?
In addition to the university’s database, which we will progressively expand by using PlagScan, the
software will also use literature that is openly accessible on the Internet and indexed by the search
engines Yahoo and Bing, specially indexed academic content and open access journals. Furthermore,
the database also incorporates documents that other clients and cooperating publishers have
released for use.
How should the check report be interpreted?

In the check report, PlagScan highlights text in colour to mark the potential volume plagiarised.

- Red: exact match with another source
- Blue: matches that may have been reworded
- Green: matches that PlagScan recognises as a citation

The ‘plag level’ is a percentage indicating the amount of potential plagiarism in the document. The various levels are marked in colour using a traffic light system. The definition of each level can vary depending on the subject and can be set individually (we recommend for each faculty as a whole).

The report is only ever cause for the relevant teaching staff to examine a document more closely. For starters, text that the software has identified as plagiarised may not actually be plagiarism and, secondly, the software may not identify actual plagiarism due to not having enough sources or translations.

Information about the check report structure can also be found here: https://www.plagscan.com/de/der-plagiatbericht-im-detail

What happens to the data?

The scanned work will be stored in the database so that it is available to compare with future assessment. The server belongs to the university and cannot be accessed externally.

All matters relating to data privacy have been discussed with the University of Bremen Privacy Officer and set out in the Usage and Privacy Plan. Further information is also included in the agreement between the University of Bremen and PlagScan GmbH on privacy and data protection.

Where can I find more information about working with the software?

The website www.plagscan.com provides an overview of the various functions. Instructions: https://www.plagscan.com/en/manuals


The University of Bremen PlagScan Usage and Privacy Plan contains information in relation to privacy laws and describes processes and procedures for handling plagiarism.

If you are interested in a webinar, please register with Ms Grote, Teaching and Studies Unit. A webinar will be possible once a suitable group size has been reached.