Quick Start CourseLink Dropbox Plagiarism Detection Setup

For Course Instructors

When Plagiarism Detection is activated for a course there are two main additions to the options when creating/editing CourseLink Dropbox Folders:

1. Activating Plagiarism Detection: Click on “Enable for this folder”.

2. When you select Plagiarism Detection for your Dropbox folder, the Plagiarism Detection Options section becomes available at the bottom of the page. “Generate Originality Reports” will be selected for you.

To change the options for the OriginalityCheck click on “Show Advanced Originality Checking Options”; see below for how it will appear in the Create Dropbox screen:

- a. allow students to see the Originality Report or not. By default students can’t see the Originality Reports, you will need to select this option to allow students to see the report.
- b. change the frequency of plagiarism detection from Automatic to Identifying individual submissions
- c. determine the databases that are used; by default, all 3 are selected. See Appendix B: (page 16 of the D2L Dropbox User Guide) for more information.
- d. also have the current paper available to be checked against by other submitters.

Once you create the Dropbox, students are now able to submit papers, based on any restrictions you may have created. See the D2L Dropbox User Guide for complete instructions.

Quick-Start Interpretation of Originality Reports
The originality report will categorize a submission into one of 5 categories based on the percent of non-originality. The colour coding used in CourseLink is given below:

- Blue: under 20% matches
- Green: from 20% to under 40% matches
- Yellow: from 40% to under 60% matches
- Orange: from 60% to under 80% matches
- Red: from 80% to 100% matches

While a higher percent might indicate a higher chance that plagiarism has occurred in a paper, it will still require careful examination of the submission to determine if plagiarism has occurred. Conversely, while a low percent here might indicate there is a smaller chance of plagiarism, it does not preclude the possibility, and again careful examination of the submission is needed. There are many reasons for matches in the student submission to other sources. Some may be valid, while others may involve plagiarism. Bases for similarity can be categorized as: Quotation and Referencing, Common Words and Phrases, Student Reusing Work, Paraphrasing and, of course, outright Plagiarism.

It is important to remember that the particular type of assignment may result in the creation of relatively high similarity percentages if these assignments make a lot of use one or more of the bases for similarity just described.