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## THE USE OF INNOVATIVE TOOLS IN THE EDITORIAL PROCESS OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS OF UKRAINE

**Abstract.** Rapid progress in the field of publishing scientific journals, on the one hand, facilitates all editorial processes, and on the other hand, increases the risks of losing the uniqueness of a scientific article. The growing need of scientific journals for supporting tools that would, on the one hand, protect journal editions from unscrupulous authors who resort to the practice of scientific plagiarism, and on the other hand, instill in authors a sense of responsibility for the texts they send. The purpose is to reveal the problems of using text similarity scanners - plagiarism checking services in the editorial process of scientific journals of Ukraine, to verify by empirical research the theoretical hypothesis about the existence of certain types of practices of academic plagiarism in the Ukrainian scientific environment. Survey of editors of professional editions of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has been conducted using the CAWI method with the help of the Google forms functionality. The sample consisted of 99 experts (editors of category “A” journals – 8%; editors of category “B” journals – 92%), who represented the general population on the basis of “journal category”, which ensured the validity of the results. The opinion of the editors of scientific journals on the use of text similarity scanners in the editorial process has been determined. The most widely used services are Unichек and Antiplagiat, which, according to respondents, most simply and concretely solve the problem of plagiarism and reuse of text. It has been identified that publishing houses that publish journals with international distribution and those indexed by the scientometric platforms Scopus and WoS (category “A” according to the national classification) mostly use similarity scanners. Publishing houses operating only within Ukraine, the journals of which are not represented in prestigious scientometric platforms, often ignore plagiarism detection software altogether and rely solely on the opinion of reviewers and editors. It is shown that the practice of using text similarity scanners, although entrenched in the Ukrainian scientific and publishing space, is still not widespread enough and does not cover the vast majority of scientific journals that rely only on traditional forms of reviewing scientific texts.

**Keywords:** scientific journals; plagiarism in scientific articles; expert research; text similarity scanners; services for checking articles for plagiarism; types of plagiarism

**Introduction.** Thanks to new technologies around the world, the number of sites where scientists can share their scientific results, express new ideas, has increased. Among these sites,

journals still occupy a leading position as a traditional form of scientific communication, but to maintain it they need to constantly introduce approaches and tools, that can attract authors by transparent and clear procedures for working with the text, and the reader – by interesting content which can be spread freely around the world, into the editorial process. Therefore, in publishing scientific journals in the last two decades, the rapid progress can be seen, in particular, due to the emergence of new technologies and programs that have facilitated all editorial processes – reviewing, editing, post-publication communications. At the same time, such openness and accessibility of content increases the risks of losing the scientific uniqueness of the article due to the fact that its authors may present someone else’s content fully or partially without proper attribution, or reuse their previously published content to improve their career positions, or with another selfish purpose. That is, to resort to plagiarism, which is generally defined as “appropriation of authorship of someone else’s work or discovery, invention or innovation proposal, as well as the use of someone else’s work in one’s works without reference to the author” (Busel, 2005).

Oana Isailă & Hostiuc Sorin (Isailă, Hostiuc, 2019), Serge Horbach та Willem Halffman (Horbach, Halffman, 2020) studied scientific journals’ editorial practice in the fight against plagiarism. In Ukraine, Ye.B. Artamonov (Artamonov, 2012); O.V. Holikova and K.A. Motuzka (Holikova, Motuzka, 2019) dedicated their publications to this topic. Researchers from both Europe and Ukraine have shown that text similarity scanners are implemented into the practice of scientific journals more than any other tool in the editorial process. Experts see several reasons for this: firstly, the use of the scanner promises a quick and guaranteed solution to the problem of plagiarism and reuse of text; secondly, it presents the editors as the owner (compiler) of unique scientific content; and thirdly, the scanner is simpler and clearer to use compared to others the latest tools of the editorial process.

As for scientific journals from Ukraine, they have recently begun the integration process towards greater openness and accessibility for users from all over the world: in the last decade, journals have begun to publish their content on open access sites, place links in major libraries around the world and integrate with various scientometric databases. Accordingly, the requirements for the quality of scientific articles and the results that are published in them are growing, because the article is the responsibility not only of the author but also of the journal that published it. Thus, the need to use supporting tools that would, on the one hand, protect journals from dishonest authors who engage in scientific plagiarism practices, and on the other hand, cultivate a sense of responsibility for the texts they send in authors, is urgent.

**Methodology.** We have tested our assumptions that certain practices of academic plagiarism existing in the Ukrainian scientific community can be detected by using text similarity scanners when conducting an empirical study, which was a survey of editors of academic journals of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine using the CAWI method using the functionality of Google Forms. The academic journals of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine include such journals that publish important research results of domestic and foreign scientists, comply with the rules of ethics of scientific publications, post their content on the Internet on a separate website integrated into the international and Ukrainian ones. scientometric databases have an authoritative international editorial board, whose members have publications on the subject of the journal published in journals indexed in Scopus or WoS. Today, this list includes 1110 scientific journals, which are divided into two categories – “A” and “B”. Category “A” journals are indexed in Scopus or WoS (at the time of writing – 98 titles in the MES register), category “B” journals are not included in these scientometric databases, but for all other characteristics they meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. At present, there are 1,012 of them: the share of category “A” magazines is 8.8%, the share of category “B” magazines is 91.2%. Thus, maintaining the proportionality of the journal categories in the sample was a key feature for us to ensure the

representativeness of our study. We assumed that this typological feature affects the attitude of the editors of scientific journals, who were asked as experts, to identify the main characteristics of academic plagiarism and share their experience in solving this problem. Manifestations of academic plagiarism. However, we took into account that when summing up the results of individual expert assessments, it is important to remember about the correct interpretation of the results. We took into account that when interviewing editors about academic plagiarism, we may have encountered the effects of “social desirability” and “attribution asymmetry” (providing answers that are common in a particular community or society; attributing more noble motives to our actions; presenting ourselves in a more favorable light). We could have faced such “increased criticality” when our experts identified the reasons and motives of social actors involved in this problem (government, Ministry of Education and Science, universities, authors, reviewers, etc.). Based on the specifics of the CAWI sampling (when each potential respondent decided whether to participate in the survey or not), the sample was formed a posteriori. Thus, the sample included 99 experts (editors of category “A” journals - 8%; editors of category “B” journals - 92%), who represented the entire population according to the principle of “journal category”, which ensures the reliability of the results. We also used this feature (the fact of “answer / no answer” to our proposed questionnaire) as a marker to determine the relevance of our research to key participants: the importance that potential respondents attach to the proposed research, interest in the survey. Terms of the field stage of the study: August 6 - September 29, 2020. Statistical processing of empirical data was carried out using the SPSS software package using correlation analysis.

**Research results.** The philosophy of the emergence of services for plagiarism check of scientific texts, described in the works of W. Broad and N. Wade (Broad, Wade, 1985), N. Martishina (Martishina, 2018) shows that the main reason for their emergence is the logic of the contemporary stage of development of science, in which there was a radical transformation of its existence and the real danger of degeneration of some of its components into another quality while maintaining the external form arose. Making such a conclusion, N. Martishina in particular points out that at the present stage of formation of post-classical science, firstly, the volume of the scientific sphere has fundamentally increased both in terms of the number of employees and the number of scientific products they produced, and secondly, the ideology of scientific activity itself has changed: instead of the practice of distributed work of scientists with a single fund of scientific data, the value is a continuous flow of individual achievements of an individual scientist (Martishina, 2018). The downside of changing scientific values has been the high probability of including very private or contrived results in this flow. Against this background, as noted by W. Broad and N. Wade (Broad, Wade, 1985), as early as the 1980s, publications on scientific ethics and the recording of cases of misuse / presentation of results appeared. Decades later, the fixation of cases of dishonesty and discussion of the causes of their occurrence in scientific articles is calculated by the hundreds, and especially this has intensified, as shown by A.I. Levin (Levin, 2018), with the development of information technology and the Internet: with the use of technical means of copying, borrowing material has become much easier, and tracking borrowing in a rapidly increasing number of scientific materials (abstracts, journal articles, dissertations), as well as the number of journal and publishing centers has become much more difficult. No matter how much we talk about the responsibility of editors, experts, supervisors – none of them could simply physically track the entire flow of publications, even on their own subject and, accordingly – to recognize reliably the dishonest use of someone else’s text in a scientific article or thesis.

Today, the professional and research community offers many services to check for plagiarism of scientific texts. Turnitin, the world’s oldest and most widely used electronic text-checking service, has proven to be the best for proofreading in English. The credo of the system developers sounds like “Creating a Culture of Academic Integrity”. This slogan is of great

importance for teachers and students. Turnitin anti-plagiarism is used in more than 150 countries by all these categories of users. The advantages and disadvantages of this program are also widely appreciated by researchers around the world. For example, Shipra Awasthi (Awasthi, 2019) presented such a detailed review of articles about Turnitin in his article. The Turnitin database contains billions of documents that have been tested in this anti-plagiarism system, there are more than 45 billion sources, including free Internet access, closed scientific journals, national libraries of different countries and cities, research databases at various universities. In 2020, Turnitin acquired Unicheck, the most widespread software service in Ukraine (Caren, 2020).

Unicheck service entered the Ukrainian market at the end of 2015. Its developer, the Phase One Karma team, aimed to improve the quality of education by integrating the principles of academic integrity into university culture and to improve the academic motivation of students and teachers. The site started as an online plagiarism search service based on a complex text analysis algorithm developed by linguists, teachers and IT professionals. The system decomposes the text into individual phrases and searches for a match in real time via the Internet or in documents from the user's library, while the program recognizes the substitution of characters in the text (a way to deceive plagiarism search systems is replacing characters with similar characters from another alphabet). Unicheck also identifies citations and footnotes, automatically excluding them from the report (Madson, 2015). In 2015, the service became cloud-based, leaving the opportunity to integrate the product into software at the local level in the educational management systems of the educational institution (LMS). The editors we interviewed recognize the following as the most important advantages of this service: the comfortable functionality; the ability to compare work with online sources, the institution's own academic base and all documents in its account; search in works written in Ukrainian, English, French and many other languages.

The ANTIPLAGIAT, StrikePlagiarism.com and PlagiarismCheck were the next popular plagiarism checking services among editors.

The ANTIPLAGIAT is one of the most common free Russian-made services. It has been developing since 2005. Search algorithms for the ANTIPLAGIAT system were specially developed by Russian scientists from the Dorodnicyn Computing Centre of RAS. With the ANTIPLAGIAT system, each user can select source collections directly to check their document. A large list of modules provides an opportunity to create your own borrowing search system. It is possible to connect RDB, eLIBRARY, Garant, LEXPRO collections, search for paraphrased and translated borrowings and even recognize text on graphic images. Borrowed text is searched in more than 50 languages. Searches for borrowings translated from another language and paraphrased text can be conducted (Avdeeva et al., 2020). A detailed checking report will help determine which text fragments in the document were formatted correctly and which were not. The service is free and allows checking up to 5,000 characters at once without registration.

StrikePlagiarism.com is a system developed by the Polish company Plagiat.pl in 2002. The principle of Strikeplagiarism is almost the same as in all similar services for checking the originality of documents. The system checks the text for plagiarism by various search modules contained in its database, and then displays the percentage of uniqueness on the screen. A significant difference of this program is that the list of sources includes libraries of the most famous universities in the world, such as Oxford, Cambridge. The company cooperates with more than 500 universities around the world, and works are checked in 200 different languages. By registering on the site you buy a check of works in the form of tokens. 1 token allows checking 20,000 characters and costs UAH 95 or the equivalent available on one's account in the system. An unlimited number of tokens can be bought. To check documents, the user needs to follow a few simple steps: upload the documents, the system will calculate how many tokens

should be bought to check all documents, the user has to buy tokens and choose which document to check. In 2018, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine signed a Memorandum with Plagiat.pl so that Ukrainian educational institutions could use StrikePlagiarism.com free of charge for 5 years to detect plagiarism, in particular in works in different languages (Hrynevych, 2018).

The PlagiarismCheck.org service was created in 2011 as a support tool designed for college students and teachers. Since its launch, PlagiarismCheck.org has served more than 77,000 users from 72 countries. The service browses all available Internet pages in search of original sources. In addition to detecting exact matches, the program also detects paraphrased text. The result of the check is a text with highlighted parts of plagiarism together with the sources of borrowings. Quotes and references are not considered plagiarism and are highlighted in a different color. After scanning the downloaded document for plagiarism, the service provides users with extended reports containing detailed information about sources that may be used or quoted incorrectly. With such reports, plagiarism can be easily removed from a document (“PlagiarismCheck.Org”, 2021).

Another service the assessing of which we suggested to our respondents during the survey was CONTENT-WATCH. This is an online service that uses its own Internet search algorithm when checking for uniqueness and finds sites that may contain full or partial copies of a given text. Based on the proposed options, the overall uniqueness of the text is calculated in percentage terms, as well as the uniqueness of each found page with matches. The advantage of this service is that you do not need to register to check something on the site. In addition, it is possible to see which parts of the text were found on each of the analyzed pages. Limitations include text lengths of up to 10,000 characters and up to 3 requests per day per user. But none of the editors of scientific journals who took part in our survey were able to assess it because they do not use it in their work.

As it can be seen from the answers of our respondents (Fig. 1), the most popular service for checking texts is Unicheck. It is used by 42.7% of category “B” journals and 25% of category “A” journals.

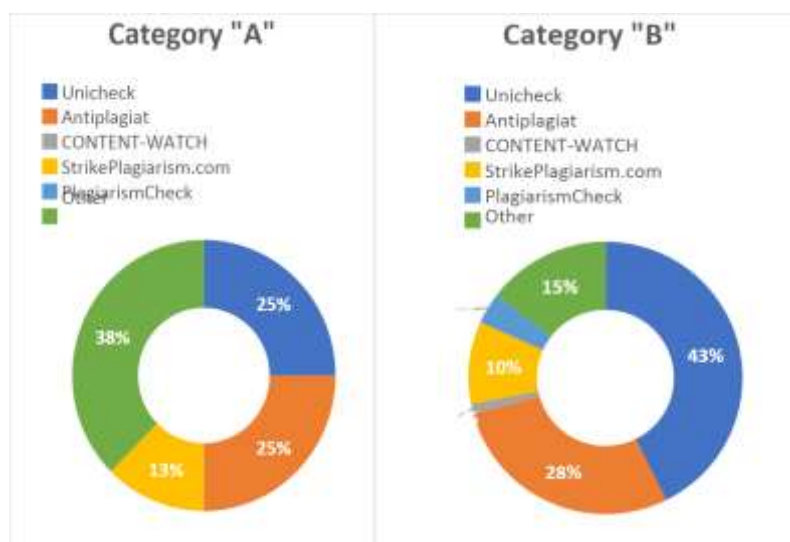


Fig. 1. Distribution of respondents' answers to the question “What service does the editorial board of your journal use to check articles for plagiarism?” depending on the category of the journal \*, %. (The amount of answers exceeds 100% for each category, as respondents had the opportunity to choose several answer options)

This, in our opinion, is due to the fact that the company representative of this service in Ukraine works (maintains and updates software content) directly with the universities, and the list of these institutions is constantly growing. Accordingly, the editors of scientific journals, the founder or co-founder of which is such university, use this service when checking the articles submitted to the journal for publication. The Antiplagiat service is the second most popular among the editions of scientific journals, it is used by 28.0% of category “B” journals and 25% of category “A” journals. Its advantage is free use, but the results of such verification should always be confirmed by the results of verification of texts using other services. If not, they may be in doubt. The third place in terms of the number of answers of our respondents is occupied by the option “Other”. It was noted by 37.5% of category “A” journals and 14.6% of category “B” journals. After receiving the initial data, we assumed that these 37.5% of editions included those who use less popular but more powerful services and one of the main criteria for choosing this service is the trust of partners from the scientometric platforms Scopus / WoS. However, a more detailed look at the answers marked “Other” does not confirm our assumption, and the answers of the editors of this category of journals are mainly that the responsibility for checking the texts of articles for plagiarism is assigned to reviewers and individual members of editorial boards. It is clear that this does not make it possible to determine what services they use for this. About 40% of answers from the category “Other” are due to the fact that editors do not use any of the known services, do not know any others, do not have time to check articles for plagiarism and rely solely on “Deep knowledge of the problem and publications by editorial board members and reviewers”. Considering the answers of respondents about the urgency of plagiarism in scientific texts (Fig. 1), it becomes clear that for such editions, these questions are still abstract in nature, they are not personally concerned, because it does not happen to them. But they nevertheless heard about the public resonance of this issue, so they did not dare to rate “1” on the urgency of the problem.

As we mentioned in the first part of the article, it is interesting to investigate which services are used by the scientific editors who participated in our survey, and whether the types of plagiarism they detect depend on the anti-plagiarism program? Thus, 85% of our respondents (editors of journals of both categories) use 5 services out of 6 offered by us in the questionnaire (see Table 1).

*Table 1.*

Dependence of types of plagiarism detected by editors of Ukrainian journals  
on the service they use (number of cases)

Types of plagiarism	Journal category	Unicheck	Antiplagiat	Strike-Plagiarism	Plagiarism-Check	Other
Direct plagiarism	A	1	1	-	-	1
	B	23	10	3	2	6
Fictional sources	A	-	1	-	-	-
	B	8	5	-	1	5
Patchwork	A	-	-	-	-	1
	B	14	14	3	2	4
Self-plagiarism	A	2	2	2	-	3
	B	32	19	6	3	8
Random plagiarism	A	1	1	-	-	-
	B	24	11	2	3	4
Other	A	1	-	-	-	1
	B	1	1	1	-	2

As our analysis has shown, the Unicheck and Antiplagiat services allow detecting the maximum number of text matches connected with such types of plagiarism as direct plagiarism,

unintentional and self-plagiarism. Moreover, with the help of these services, the editors discovered such a borrowing technique as “patchwork” – composing a text from fragments of other people’s works, which are not always creatively processed by the author of the article. At the same time, the “patchwork” technique, which the authors sometimes resort to, cannot be recognized as plagiarism only on the basis of a text verification report by the program. Only the reviewer and the professional editor can decide whether it is appropriate to use a fragment of someone else’s (or previous author’s) work in the text of the article and to what extent these fragments are critically or methodologically processed in the article. However, on the basis of the review report, the editor may indicate the need to reduce someone else’s text fragment, or to strengthen its interpretation to the author. The main thing to pay attention to is that the text similarity service points to text borrowings, not plagiarism itself. Because plagiarism, given such a variety of its types, can only be recognized by a specialist who works with the text as a reviewer.

**Conclusions.** The field of publishing scientific journals has made rapid progress in the last two decades, thanks to the emergence of new technologies and programs that facilitate all editorial processes. Ukraine is also involved in these processes, as it sees the use of new software in scientific journals as a way to increase the transparency and fairness of the editing process. In addition, it is also a way to teach authors to adhere to publishing ethics, in particular to fight against the phenomenon of academic plagiarism, which is very common in Ukraine. The methodological basis of the study was typological analysis. An important part of the study was to determine the opinion of editors on the use of innovative programs to check text for plagiarism. This refers to the use of text similarity scanners, which are quite popular in the Ukrainian scientific community. It was also found that the text similarity scanners are mostly used by publishers that publish journals with international distribution and those that are indexed by scientometric platforms Scopus and WoS (category “A” according to the national classification). Publishers working only within Ukraine and whose journals are not represented in prestigious scientometric databases often ignore plagiarism detection software and rely solely on the opinion of reviewers and editors. Quantitative analysis of such publishers led to the conclusion that although the practice of using text similarity scanners entrenched in the Ukrainian scientific and publishing space, is still not widespread enough and does not cover the vast majority of scientific journals that rely only on traditional forms of reviewing scientific texts.

According to the results of the research, it can be concluded that the problem of plagiarism in scientific articles is systemic, socially significant and has mainly axiological nature (our respondents put personal qualities of authors who resort to plagiarism in the first place). Another result of the survey was the ranking of types of plagiarism by respondents (self-plagiarism, direct copying of other people’s texts, plagiarism of ideas). Since the first two types are detected mainly through electronic services, the article discusses the practice of their use in Ukrainian scientific journals.

Thus, among the text similarity scanners, our respondents called the Unicheck and Antiplagiat services the most popular. The use of these services was identified by journal editors as the simplest and most concrete solution to the problem of plagiarism and text reuse. The choice of the Unicheck service by the editors, in our opinion, is determined by the fact that since 2014 the service has been systematically providing services to educational institutions of Ukraine to check their scientific and educational products. And the vast majority of publishers of scientific journals are educational institutions. Thus, on the one hand, there is a commercial interest of the developer of this service, and on the other hand, users of this service (the more of them, the better) allow developers to constantly improve their service as they provide feedback on its work, point out shortcomings and express wishes on how else this program can be improved. The choice of the Antiplagiat service (2nd place in the survey) by the editors is

due to its freeness, as well as the fact that this Russian-born service with a Russian-language, respectively, interface is more understandable to users-editors who do not speak English well enough. In addition, this service detects borrowings from texts in Russian, and this is one of the largest sources of copying by dishonest authors in Ukraine.

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## ВИКОРИСТАННЯ ІННОВАЦІЙНИХ ІНСТРУМЕНТІВ У РЕДАКЦІЙНОМУ ПРОЦЕСІ НАУКОВИХ ЖУРНАЛІВ УКРАЇНИ

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**Анотація.** Стрімкий прогрес у сфері видання наукових журналів, з одного боку, полегшує усі редакційні процеси, а з іншого, збільшує ризики втрати науковою статтею унікальності. Зростання потреби редакцій наукових журналів у допоміжних інструментах, які б, з одного боку, убезпечили редакції журналів від недоброчесних авторів, які вдаються до практик наукового плагіату, а з іншого, виховували у авторів почуття відповідальності за тексти, які вони надсилають. Розкрити проблеми використання в редакційному процесі наукових журналів України сканерів текстових збігів – сервісів перевірки на плагіат, верифікувати емпіричним дослідженням теоретичну гіпотезу про існування в українському науковому середовищі певних типів практик сприйняття явища академічного плагіату. Опитування редакторів фахових видань Міністерства освіти і науки України методом SAWI з використанням функціоналу Google forms. Вибіркову сукупність склали 99 експертів (редактори журналів категорії «А» – 8%; редактори журналів категорії «Б» – 92%), які репрезентували генеральну сукупність за ознакою «категорія журналу», що забезпечує валідність отриманих результатів. Визначено думку редакторів наукових журналів щодо використання сканерів текстових збігів у редакційному процесі. Найбільше використовуються сервіси Unicheck і Antiplagiat, які, на думку респондентів, найбільш просто і конкретно вирішують проблеми плагіату та повторного використання тексту. Виявлено, що більшою мірою сканерами подібності тексту користуються видавництва, які видають журнали з міжнародною сферою поширення і такі, що індексуються наукометричними платформами Scopus та Wos (категорія «А» за національною класифікацією). Видавництва, які працюють тільки в межах України і їх журнали не представлені в престижних наукометричних базах, часто взагалі ігнорують програмні засоби для виявлення плагіату і покладаються тільки на думку рецензентів та редакторів. Проблема плагіату в наукових статтях є системною, соціально значущою та має переважно аксіологічну природу. Показано, що практика використання сканерів подібності тексту хоча і закріпилася в українському науково-видавничому просторі, все ще не достатньо поширена і не охоплює переважну більшість наукових журналів, які покладаються тільки на традиційні форми рецензування наукових текстів.

**Ключові слова:** наукові журнали; плагіат у наукових статтях; експертні дослідження; сканери подібності тексту; послуги з перевірки статей на наявність плагіату; види плагіату.