Plagiarism-Detection Services: Promises, Perceptions, and Performance
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Promises

**Turnitin**

MyDropBox

Perceptions

Survey of Deans (n=954, 74% use services)

Which tool(s) do you use?

- Turnitin: 79.1%
- MyDropBox: 26.1%
- Other: 20.7%

What commonly triggers use?

- Routine submission of assignments: 60.4%
- Routine checks of theses or dissertations: 22.3%
- Routine self-evaluation by students: 14.1%
- Suspicion of plagiarism: 89.7%

Performance

Method

Downloaded and submitted unmodified previously published papers to each service to generate report

Research Questions

1) Will services identify plagiarized submissions?
2) Do these services have blind spots?
3) How widely used are these services?
4) What are user perceptions regarding effectiveness?

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Recommendations

1) Use anti-plagiarism strategies with students
2) Use multiple services & your skill to detect plagiarism
3) Do not have students pre-submit work to services
4) Advocate with professional societies & editors to open databases to plagiarism-detection services