

Announcing New Features for 2009!



Greetings,

In addition to two new features to be launched on June 30, 2009 -- and seven new features to be launched July 30, 2009 -- Turnitin's award-winning Originality Checking and GradeMark services will now also be available in eight languages! These include: French, German, Japanese, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean, Bahasa Malaysia and Thai. Worldwide, Turnitin and GradeMark are used in over 108 countries.

These new productivity and efficiency enhancements have been frequently requested by users and we believe they'll be a substantial improvement to the way Turnitin and GradeMark work.

Descriptions of 2 New Features Launching June 30, 2009

1. Default setting for all new assignments to exclude bibliographic and quoted material from the Similarity Index

Users Affected: All instructors.

Description: Currently, within an individual originality report, instructors must choose to exclude bibliographic and quoted material. When this new feature launches, instructors will be able to indicate their preferences at the assignment level. The default for all newly created assignments will be for this content to be excluded. (Originality reports generated prior to the feature's launch will remain unaffected; whatever exclusion preference was set for each individual original report pre-launch will remain post-launch). This assignment-level preference can be changed up until the first paper has been submitted. In all instances, as currently, an instructor can view an originality report and change the individual paper's settings to include or exclude bibliographic and quoted material.

What's New:

- This is an assignment-level setting rather than just an individual paper setting
- This is now the DEFAULT setting
- Similarity Index scores may seem lower than previously observed.

Benefit: This feature will save instructors considerable time, allowing them to more quickly determine how much of a paper's content has not been properly cited.

2. GradeMark: Flexible access to QuickMarks & rubrics for integration users

Users Affected: Instructors accessing GradeMark through an integration.

Description: Instructors accessing GradeMark through an integration with a learning management system (LMS) will have much easier access to their library of QuickMarks and rubrics. Now, whenever an instructor creates a new Quickmarks or rubrics for a class's assignment, they will be easily accessible through the GradeMark QuickMark and rubric libraries, for use in all future assignments in all of the instructor's classes. (A convenient link to the Help Center provides easy-to-follow instructions for how to import into the library the QuickMarks and rubrics created prior to this feature, so that, going forward, they can be easily accessible for use in all future assignments for all of an instructor's classes.)

What's New:

- For integration users, there is now a "master" library of rubrics and QuickMarks that is accessible across all classes and assignments not just at the class level
- Instructors will need to migrate any previous assignments into the new master library.

Benefit: This convenient access saves instructors significant time in locating previous QuickMarks and rubrics and they can now easily see the entire set in a single master library.

Descriptions of 7 New Features Launching August 1, 2009

1. Optional exclusion of small matches in the Originality Report

Users Affected: Instructors and their students who are permitted to view their Originality Reports.

Description & What's New: Instructors may choose to indicate that the similarity index for every originality report for an assignment should exclude matches equal to

or less than a certain percent (1% - 100%). The default setting is that ALL matches are shown.

The size of matches that have been excluded (if any) is clearly indicated on each originality report. Instructors can adjust the size of matches to exclude while viewing each originality report and those adjustments are immediately reflected in the originality report.

Benefit: Instructors may sometimes find limited value in seeing large numbers of small percentage matches for an assignment. Now instructors have the flexibility to choose what level matches should be included in the computation of the similarity index and highlighted in the originality report. This flexibility provides instructors with an additional degree of control in evaluating student assignments.

2. Expanded Similarity Index shows sources of matches

Users Affected: Instructors and their students who are permitted to view their Originality Reports.

Description & What's New: In addition to the overall similarity index (defined as the percentage of words in a paper that match sources in the Turnitin databases), each originality report will display the percentage of the paper's content that matches each of the following: (1) other student papers, (2) the web, and (3) periodicals, journals and publications.

Benefits: Instructors receive richer information to help them determine if a paper contains potentially problematic matches due to copying, collusion, citation oversights, or other issues. This expanded similarity index can save instructors significant time in evaluating each batch of student work.

3. Auto-check of user's system capabilities with Turnitin system requirements

Users Affected: All.

Description & What's New: Upon login, Turnitin will compare a user's system capabilities to the minimum system requirements (e.g. operating system versions, supported browser versions, settings for cookies and enabling Javascript), and provide information on how to address any issues to meet the requirements.

Currently, information on minimum system requirements is not highly visible and users have no easy way to determine if their set-up meets these requirements. Now, minimum system requirements will be prominently displayed and users will be assisted with making sure their system meets these requirements.

Benefit: This auto-check reduces user frustration and requests for support –

especially for new users. Users are encouraged to proactively address issues with their system's set-up rather than requiring them to react to problems that occur.

4. Improved handling of document submissions and multiple file uploads

Users Affected: Students and instructors, especially those that submit large documents or large batches of papers to Turnitin.

Description & What's New: New productivity and usability enhancements for submissions that:

- Double the size limits for individual file submissions (from 10MB to 20MB) as well as zip file (batch) uploads (from 100MB to 200MB)
- Improve user notification for submissions that exceed the maximum sizes (and guidance to help fix the issue)
- Streamline the process for uploading zipped files of multiple documents
- Currently, instructors must repetitively select and tag each document (author name, email, paper title) for upload. Now instructors will select multiple files and conveniently enter document information into a table.
- Show a progress bar indicating the status of uploads.

Benefits: This improved process for submissions gives users with a more transparent user experience, more convenience and time-savings because they...

- Reduce the need to break large documents into smaller ones or to create smaller zip files
- Provide immediate and actionable feedback when a user tries to submit a file that is too large
- Reduce repetitive, multi-step tasks associated with file uploads and clearly indicate when an upload is in progress.

5. Systemwide font upgrade

Users Affected: All.

Description and What's New: All Turnitin, GradeMark, Peer Review and WriteCycle features will now use Arial as the default screen display font (instead of Verdana).

Benefit: The use of Arial will improve the legibility of the site and reduce layout issues.

We hope you find all these changes helpful! Please contact your sales rep if you have any questions.

Best regards,

The Turnitin Team!

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