

Chapter 42

Citation Essentials in Scholarly Communication

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ABSTRACT

This Chapter defines Citations, Citation Standards/Style Manuals and Scholarly Communication. It explains the importance of Scholarly Communication, and use of Citations in meeting the objectives of Scholarly Communication, especially in avoiding the accidental danger of plagiarism. It also explains how Bibliographic Management Systems (software)—both open/free and proprietary—have been helpful to the academics and researchers in providing standard methods of citations that is, both in-text citations and references list at the end of the text of the document while writing documents. It concludes by emphasizing the need for use of standard citation or style manual for proper dissemination of scholarly communications. There is a need for gaining adequate knowledge on how to cite and provide references in correct form in the publications to make them quality and scholarly works and also to avoid from the accidental danger of plagiarism.

INTRODUCTION

Scholarly communication, Intellectual property rights / copyrights, plagiarism and citations are the buzz words in the today's world of information proliferation and they are of great interest as well as of concern to the academics and scholarly / research communities in all the disciplines such as, Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, Science and Technology. Scholarly communications in the form of journals have made initiations with the two simultaneously brought out journals in the same period, i.e., in 1665, called *Journal Des Scavans* and the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, London. Since then, there has been a proliferation of different channels or media in which the scholarly communications appeared. Print media with Journals, books/ monographs reports, conference proceedings, patents, and standards are the strong and well established means / channels of scholarly communication, even today. With the onslaught and rapid growth of digital information resources, networked and distributed availability of digital resources and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and web technolo-

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-8057-7.ch042

gies, a lot of transformation in easy and fast communication of scholarly publications among different user communities is taking place, essentially because of the use of social media or social networks, such as, Academic.edu, Linked in, Twitter, ResearchGate, YouTube, etc. Whatever may be the channel of scholarly communication, whether print or non-print, scholarly publications are required to follow certain ethical norms and standards in publishing. Honouring Intellectual Property Rights or Copyrights, acknowledging the others works when they are used in ones assignments, papers, reports, journal articles, books, etc. are some such ethical norms.

Citations are the means of acknowledging the intellectual debit by the scholars and researchers when they borrow / use others concepts, ideas, theories, etc. Therefore, citations or references to the others works is of great importance in scholarly communications, which is in fact, the minimum etiquette and responsibility of authors in scholarly publishing. Otherwise, there is every possibility of landing in the problem of plagiarism that invites penalties and disrepute to the authors.

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

The dictionary meaning of the term ‘scholarly’ means ‘Academic’ or ‘having lot of knowledge’, and scholarly communication means systematic, honest, understandable, reachable and shareable knowledge communication to the intended people with the same spirit and emphasis as desired by the authors or creators of such information.

Association of Research Libraries (ARL), USA defines Scholarly communication as ‘the system through which research and other scholarly writings are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved for future use.’ It includes both formal means of communication, such as publication in peer-reviewed journals, and informal channels, such as electronic listservs. Scholarly communication, therefore, includes discovery and creation of knowledge, dissemination, preservation, and its re-use. All these aspects of scholarly communication are the concerns of today’s libraries for their success.

Importance of Scholarly Communication

Scholarly communication is meant for quality in scholarly publications. Further, “Scholarly communication is seen as a crucial part of research, and researchers - many of whom are lecturers and academics at universities - are often judged by their academic output and list of publications. Promotions will normally take into account the number of publications and how prestigious the journals they were published in (e.g. *Nature* and *The Lancet* are seen as very prestigious journals within the sciences). A researcher’s publication list will help create them a reputation within their discipline” (Wikipedia)

CITATIONS

A citation or bibliographic citation is a reference to a book, or part of a book, an article, a web page or other published item, with sufficient details to allow a reader to locate it. In economics parlance, citation is a ‘formal acknowledgement of intellectual debit to earlier sources of information’ (Merton, 1983;

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