Using plagiarism detection in assignments

Introduction

It's possible to apply plagiarism detection to the documents that students submit to Canvas. The plagiarism detection tool that the University of Twente has integrated in Canvas is called 'SimCheck' (this is the same product as 'Turnitin Similarity'). The use of plagiarism detection is an optional setting in a regular Canvas assignment. If you activate the plagiarism detection for any assignment, you can still use all other available functionality for an assignment, such as the SpeedGrader, annotations, rubrics and peer review. In the SimCheck software plagiarism check is called 'similarity check'. This is because of the fact that it only compares text, and reports this. The determination whether plagiarism is detected has to be determined by the reviewer of the work.

SimCheck compares the students' work to text in:

- The public Internet
- Scientific publications via Crossref (a platform facilitating the direct links to scientific publications by use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)).
- Publications from other sources
- The UT database, which consists of documents that:
    - were submitted for Canvas or Blackboard assignments in which plagiarism detection was activated.
    - were submitted for Remindo tests in which plagiarism detection was activated.
    - were uploaded in the stand alone SimCheck or Ephorus application.
      Excluded from the search are documents that were only checked for plagiarism and have not been indexed in the database.

Requirements for file type and size:

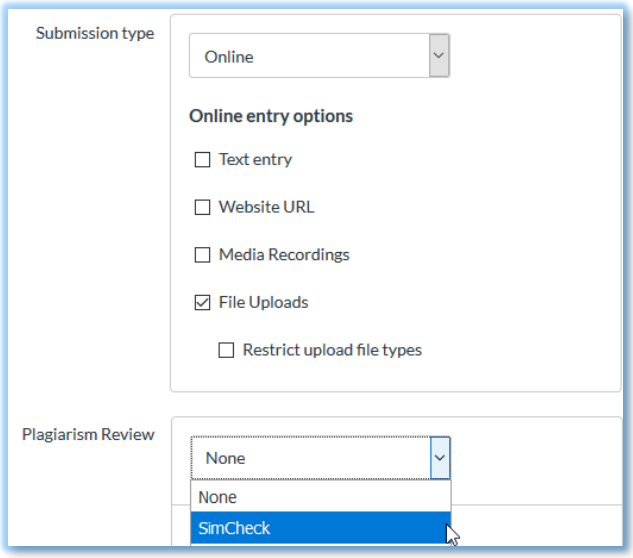
- Supported file types included: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PostScript, PDF, HTML, RTF, OpenOffice(ODT), WordPerfect, and plain text. Zip files can not be checked via a Canvas submission!
  Note: Images within the supported file types can't be checked for plagiarism.
- A file can be up to 100 MB and must contain at least 20 words of text
- The maximum paper length permitted is 800 pages.

The process outlined

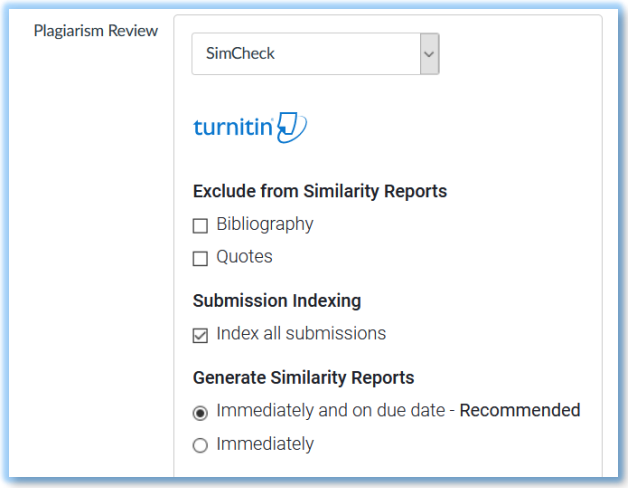
1. You activate the plagiarism detection for an assignment.
2. When the result of the check is available, you will see a coloured flag in the Gradebook, and a similarity percentage in the SpeedGrader.
3. Click on the percentage in the SpeedGrader to see the similarity report.
4. Carefully analyse the report yourself.

Step by step instruction

1. If you have already created the assignment, go to the assignment and click [Edit]. Otherwise, create the assignment first and fill in the assignment details as normal.
2. Make sure that Submission Type is “Online”.
3. Select “File Uploads”.
4. (If necessary) Choose “Restrict Upload File Types” and include the file types that the students are allowed to use and that SimCheck supports (.doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, .pdf, .txt, .rtf, .html, .htm, .ps, .wpd, .odt).
5. The option “Plagiarism Review” will now appear. Select “SimCheck”:



6. Some optional settings will appear after selecting SimCheck:



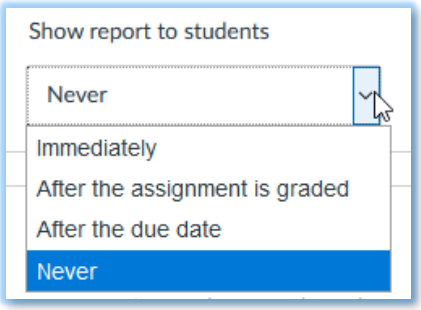
   - **Bibliography**: exclude text appearing in the bibliography, works cited, or references sections of student papers from being checked for matches.
   - **Quotes**: exclude text appearing in the quotes from being checked for matches. Quoted text can only be excluded if supported quotation marks are used.

   You can also (un)select these settings in individual similarity reports.

- Submission **indexing**: when a submission is indexed by SimCheck, it is made available as comparison material for future plagiarism checks (only for users within the University of Twente). We advise not to index confidential student work such as self-reflection papers.
  Note:
  - changing this setting after students have submitted the assignment will have no effect for previously submitted documents. So if you unselect the checkbox, the already submitted documents will remain indexed and be used for future plagiarism checks.
  - Even when submission indexing is enabled, self-matches *within the same course* will be ignored in the plagiarism check (a self-match is a match with an earlier submitted document of the same student).

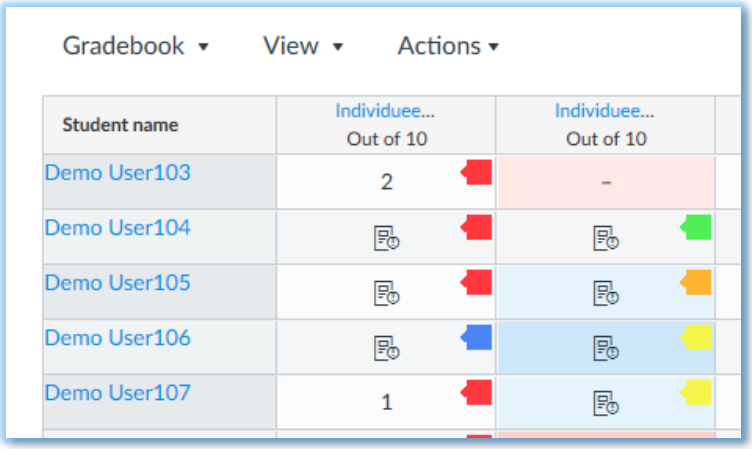
- **Generate Similarity reports**. The benefit of regenerating reports on the due date is that the student work will be compared again with the submissions of other students for the assignment.

7. Choose if and when the similarity percentage and report should be visible to the student as well (options: Never, Immediately, After the due date, After the assignment is graded). The default setting is "Never".



8. Click [Save & Publish], or [Save].

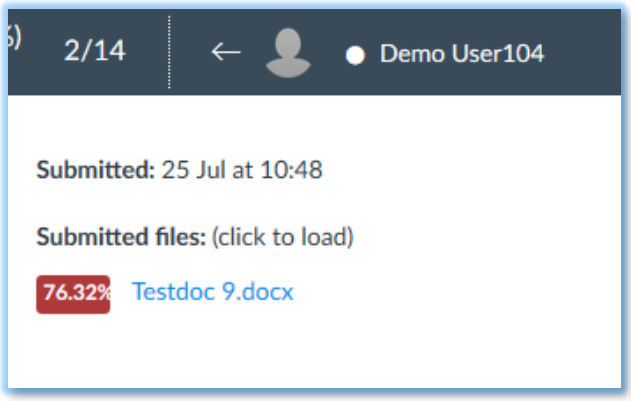
9. If students have submitted the assignment and the result of the plagiarism detection is available, you will see a coloured flag in the Gradebook cells (click **Grades** in the course menu). This gives a quick overview of the result of the plagiarism detection.



The colours indicate the percentage of text in the student's work that has been found in other sources:

Colour	Percentage
Blue	0%
Green	1% to < 25%
Yellow	25 % to < 50%
Orange	50 % to < 75%
Red	≥ 75%

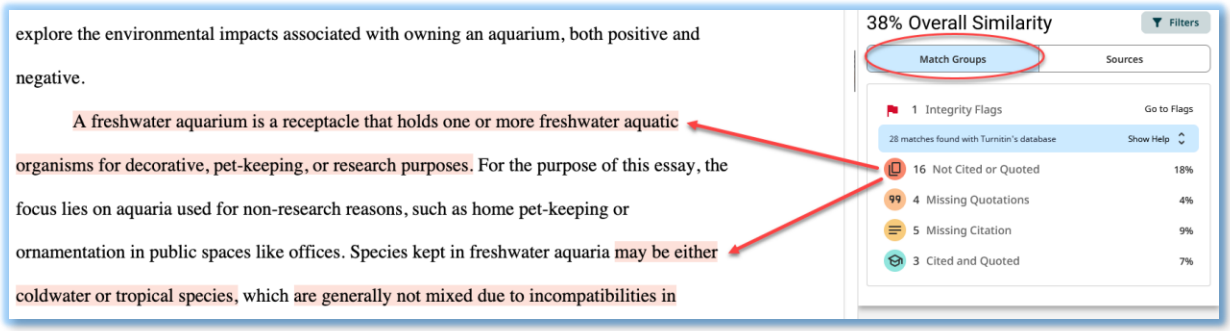
10. To see the exact percentages and the similarity reports, go to the assignment and click "SpeedGrader". The percentage is shown next to the document name:



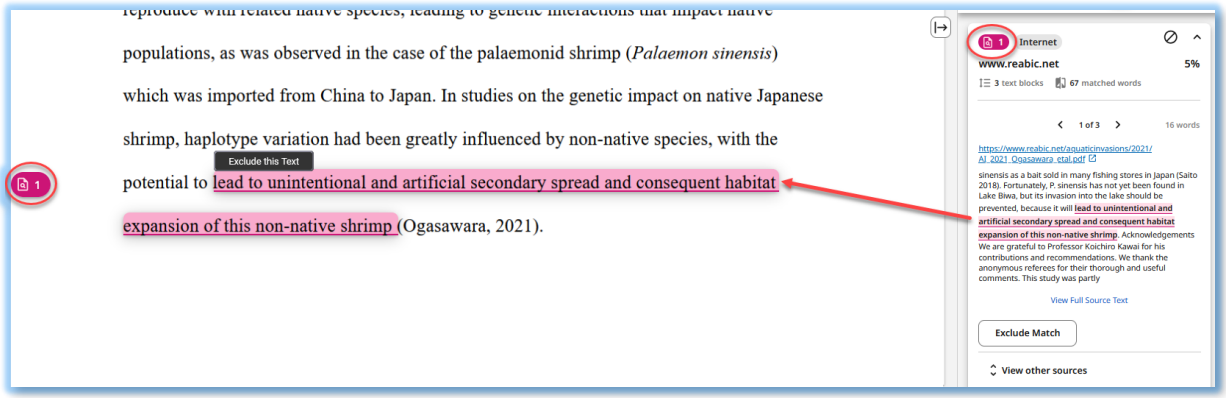
If you see an error icon instead of a percentage, click on the icon to get more information. If there is no apparent reason for the missing similarity percentage, you can use the button [Resubmit for plagiarism review]

11. Click on the percentage to see the similarity report (in the instruction below we describe the functionality in the 'new similarity report'). The Match Groups tab categorizes matches into groups based on the usage of in-text citations and quotation marks (note: the Match groups are only available in English texts):
    a. Not Cited or Quoted: the number of text matches that are not written as a quotation or has no citation to its original source.
    b. Missing Quotations - This text is cited, but the match is so exact that it may also require quotation marks.
    c. Missing Citation - This text is written as a quote, but lacks a citation to its original source.
    d. Cited and Quoted - This text contains a quotation and is cited to a source.

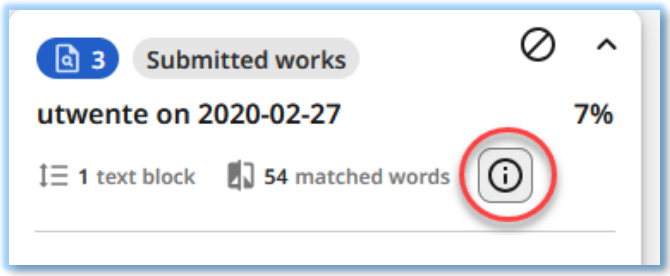
    Each match, or instance of text found similar to a source, is highlighted in its corresponding match group color. To review matches of a particular group, select one of the four match groups to bring matches with that criteria into focus in the right-side panel.



12. The sources tab shows a list of sources organized in descending order by highest total similarity percentage. Overlapping sources will not be displayed by default. Each highlight in the document has a source number appended to it, which is indicated in the top row of its corresponding source card. Selecting a highlight in the document will bring its corresponding source card into focus in the right-side panel.



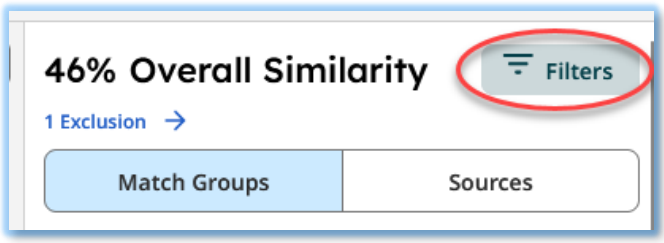
13. If a source is a 'paper match', you can click on the (i) icon for more information about the source.



Note: when you enable students to see their own similarity reports, they don't have the option to see these source details.

14. It may happen that you see sources listed that should be ignored, for example previous versions of the document from the same student. In that case, you can exclude that source. The similarity score will be updated to reflect the exclusion you have just made.

15. Other exclusion options are available under the Filters button:



Compare submissions against:

- Submitted works: indexed documents from the UT database.
- Internet content: the public Internet.
- Publications: publications that are not from Crossref.
- Crossref: a platform facilitating the direct links to scientific publications by use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs).
- Crossref Posted Content: consists of preprints, eprints, working papers, reports, dissertations, and many other types of content that publications that are posted but not formally published. To qualify as posted content, an item must be posted to a host platform where it will receive some level of stewardship.

Exclusion filters:

- Bibliography: see step 6 for explanation.
- Quotes: see step 6 for explanation.
- Citations: remove in-line citations (the quoted part of the citation can be removed using Exclude Quotes).
- Small Matches: remove all matches that are less than or equal to the length of the number of words supplied.

Note: Exclusion settings will be saved and the recalculated similarity percentage will be transferred back to Canvas.

For detailed information about the similarity report, see the Turnitin guides:

- the new (enhanced) similarity report.
- the classic report.

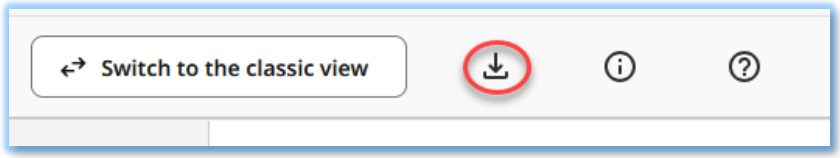
What if students have already submitted the assignment and you forgot to activate plagiarism detection in the assignment?

If the assignment submission type is 'Online' with 'File upload' selected, it is still possible to have the submissions checked.

1. Edit the assignment and activate the plagiarism detection (see step 5 -8).
2. Wait a few minutes to make sure there is a connection established between Canvas and SimCheck.
3. Go to Speedgrader and click the button [Resubmit for Plagiarism review] for each submission. Within the normal processing time, the results of the plagiarism check will become visible.

Printing or downloading the report

You can use the Download button in the top right corner to download or print a similarity report.



The first section is the Cover Page. This contains document details of the submission.
The second section is the Integrity Overview. Split over multiple pages, the first page contains the overall similarity of the submission along with details of the match groups, a breakdown of the types of source making up the top sources, and any integrity flags found. The pages beyond that contain a list of all the top sources and the % of similarity found for them in the submission.

The rest of the PDF contains the submission. The similarity highlighting will be present on the submission text and can be cross referenced to the sources in the Integrity Overview section.

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