



Report of "IQAC-SXC Ranchi is organising one-day workshop on

"Research Ethics" in collaboration with **Turnitin**.

Date: 19-12-2024 Time: 11:30 am Venue: Fr. Proost Hall, SXC, Ranchi

Report

Fr. Dr. Nabor Lakra, Principal, St. Xavier's College(Autonomous), Ranchi was the chief guest and inaugurated the One-day Workshop on "Research Ethics" in collaboration with **Turnitin**. In his opening speech Fr. Nabor welcomed all the faculty members present to attend the Workshop. He thanked Mr. Milan Mandal, Eastern Head of **Turnitin**.

Fr. Nabor explained what is **Research Ethics**: He broadly said the principles that guide researchers to conduct studies responsibly and in a way that respects the rights, dignity, and welfare of participants. It emphasizes values such as **honesty, integrity, confidentiality, and accountability**. Researchers must ensure that their work is carried out with transparency, that participants provide **informed consent**, and that any risks to them are minimized. Research ethics include the need to report findings truthfully, avoid **fabrication** (creating false data), and ensure fairness in research methods and conclusions. Fr. Nabor very nicely informed the members what is **Plagiarism**: He explained that **Plagiarism** is the act of using someone else's work, ideas, or intellectual property without proper acknowledgment, presenting it as your own. This is a serious ethical violation in academia and research. Plagiarism can include copying text, data, images, or even ideas without citation. Researchers and students must always give credit to the original authors and sources. Not only does plagiarism compromise the integrity of research, but it also undermines the credibility of academic institutions. Avoiding plagiarism requires proper citation, referencing, and a commitment to originality in one's work. Fr. Nabor then invited the guest from Kolkata Mr. Milan Mandal, Eastern Head of Turnitin to preside over the Workshop. There were about 46 Faculty members and research scholars attended the Workshop.

Mr. Milan Mandal, Eastern Head of Turnitin thanked Fr. Nabor and the faculty members of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi for having a collaboration with Turnitin. He then began the Workshop and explained at length the various unique features of the cloud based software "Trunitin". He used PPT to explain the feature unique to this particular software Turitin. The salient features are:

Turnitin is a widely used cloud-based software primarily designed to help educators, researchers, and students detect and prevent plagiarism in written work. Its unique features go beyond simple plagiarism detection, offering a suite of tools that enhance academic integrity and improve the writing process. The key features of Turnitin, explained in detail:

1. Plagiarism Detection

- **Similarity Check:** Turnitin compares submitted documents against an extensive database, which includes student papers, academic journals, books, websites, and other online content. It detects similarities in the text and highlights them for review. This helps identify any instances of potential plagiarism.
- **Database Coverage:** Turnitin has one of the largest repositories for plagiarism detection, including billions of web pages, published papers, and a large archive of student papers from various educational institutions. This vast database makes it highly effective at identifying even subtle instances of copying.



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2. Originality Report

- After processing the document, Turnitin generates a detailed **Originality Report** that displays the percentage of matching content found in the submission. It provides a side-by-side comparison of the document and the sources from which text may have been copied.
- The report is color-coded, with different shades indicating varying levels of similarity. This makes it easier to spot areas that may require attention. However, it is important to note that Turnitin does not automatically classify content as plagiarized — it simply identifies matches, leaving the final judgment to the instructor or researcher.

3. Citation and Reference Checking

- Turnitin's **Citation and Referencing Tools** help users identify missing or incorrectly formatted citations. It can check if the sources referenced in a paper match those cited in the bibliography or works cited section.
- This feature aids in ensuring that all sources are properly acknowledged, preventing unintentional plagiarism and helping students learn proper citation practices.

4. GradeMark

- **GradeMark** is Turnitin's integrated grading tool that allows instructors to leave comments, provide feedback, and mark up papers electronically. It simplifies the grading process by allowing instructors to highlight portions of the text and add quick feedback or custom comments.
- Teachers can also use pre-set rubrics or create their own grading criteria. This tool streamlines the feedback process and ensures that comments are organized, making it easier for students to understand their areas of improvement.

5. Peer Review

- Turnitin provides a **Peer Review** feature, which allows students to review and give feedback on each other's work. This encourages collaboration and helps students learn to critically evaluate written content.
- Peer review tools help instructors facilitate the peer feedback process, making it an integrated part of the learning experience.

6. Integration with Learning Management Systems (LMS)

- Turnitin integrates seamlessly with popular Learning Management Systems (LMS) like **Moodle, Blackboard, Canvas, and Google Classroom**. This integration allows instructors to easily access Turnitin's features directly from within their LMS, without requiring separate logins or systems.
- This ensures that plagiarism detection, grading, and feedback processes are streamlined within the platform that teachers and students already use.

7. WriteCheck (For Students)



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- **WriteCheck** is a service provided by Turnitin for students to check their work for plagiarism and grammar issues before submitting it to their instructors. It is essentially a self-checking tool that helps students refine their work, ensuring it meets academic standards.
- WriteCheck generates a plagiarism report similar to Turnitin's Originality Report and also provides grammar checks, enhancing the writing quality before submission.

8. Grammar and Writing Style Feedback

- Turnitin offers **Grammarly-like tools** through its **Revision Assistant** and **Feedback Studio**, which analyze students' writing for grammar, spelling, and syntax issues.
- It also provides writing style suggestions and helps students understand how to improve sentence structure, tone, and overall writing clarity.

9. CrossCheck (For Journal Publishers)

- Turnitin's **CrossCheck** is a specialized tool for academic publishers to ensure that submitted manuscripts are original. It compares journal submissions against the Turnitin database to check for similarity and potential plagiarism before they are published.
- This helps academic publishers and journals maintain a high standard of academic integrity.

10. Feedback Studio

- **Feedback Studio** is an innovative feature in Turnitin that helps instructors leave detailed feedback and track students' progress over time. It provides a comprehensive set of tools for marking assignments, such as text annotations, voice comments, and grading rubrics.
- This allows for more personalized and targeted feedback, which students can use to improve their writing.

11. Customizable Settings and Reports

- Turnitin offers customizable settings, allowing institutions and instructors to tailor plagiarism detection criteria according to their specific needs. For example, instructors can set thresholds for similarity percentages, adjust the sensitivity of matches, or exclude certain types of sources (such as references or quotes).
- This flexibility ensures that the tool can be adapted to different disciplines, institutions, and research practices.

12. Real-time Feedback and Revision Tracking

- **Real-time feedback** allows instructors and students to receive instant updates and suggestions as documents are being submitted and revised. This promotes a continuous learning process, where students can improve their writing based on iterative feedback.



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- Turnitin also allows for **revision tracking**, so instructors can view how a student's document evolves over time, helping them assess both the writing process and final submission.

13. Institution-wide Usage and Analytics

- Turnitin offers **institution-wide licenses**, which means it can be used by all faculty and students across a campus or academic institution. It also provides analytics tools that help institutions track the effectiveness of their plagiarism prevention efforts, identifying trends in student submissions and potential areas of concern.
- This feature helps administrators monitor academic integrity on a large scale.

Summary of Key Unique Features of Turnitin:

- **Plagiarism detection** with an extensive and constantly updated database.
- **Originality Reports** that highlight matching text from multiple sources.
- **GradeMark** for digital grading and feedback.
- **Peer Review** feature for collaborative learning.
- **Seamless LMS integration** with systems like Blackboard, Moodle, and Canvas.
- **WriteCheck** for student self-checks on plagiarism and grammar before submission.
- **Grammar and style feedback** to help improve writing quality.
- **CrossCheck** for publishers to ensure manuscript originality.
- **Customizable settings** to fit the needs of different institutions or instructors.
- **Analytics tools** to monitor trends and academic integrity at the institutional level.

Overall, Turnitin is more than just a plagiarism checker; it is an all-in-one tool for enhancing academic integrity, improving writing quality, and streamlining the feedback process. It helps institutions maintain high standards of academic honesty while supporting students in developing their writing skills.



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Photographs of the Workshop





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