



Research Integrity and Ethics: Good Practice in Research Postgraduate Researcher Development resource

Research Integrity and Ethics: Dissemination

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When you write your results (either from interviews, a survey or a literature review), you must be aware of plagiarism, an unfortunately quite common academic misconduct. A potential reason is because there are different types of plagiarism, beyond just copy and paste other's material. According to the website 'The Writer's Room', we could define, at least, 7 common ways of plagiarism, from copy and paste other author's work to change words, or re-use a previous work. You can see the types of plagiarism in the link (resource document)

Therefore, at the moment of writing, it is important to read widely, and creating a system that helps you to organise what you have read. Take the time to understand what you read and cite carefully. Find a system that fits you, either with a reference manager (Mendeley and Zotero are great free options, and you can download Endnote with your university credentials).

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After writing your results, it is time of dissemination. A key ethical aspect in this process is how to establish data ownership, publication strategy and authorship early. The website Credit shows a great example of a contribution taxonomy, where the researcher's group can decide how each author contributed to the work. Also, most of the journals ask for a contribution statement, so it is important to also look at their editorial policies and author information/guidelines

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The dissemination process faces different bias, also called bias in dissemination. This is, researchers are more likely to submit work with positive results and, also, journals are more likely to publish studies with positive results. Hence, decision-making processes based on evidence are taken using a selective range of findings. You can find more information about dissemination bias in the Youtube link included in the resource document (we took the screenshot from it).

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You finished your research -You did it? It is tricky to tell, because research is a process that not necessarily finishes when you publish your results. Ethical difficulties can arise even after you are 'finished', so it is important be prepared (for example, check the data that needs to be deleted following your ethical application). Also, aftercare may be important for participants: researchers can share their results with the participants, and some researchers from qualitative groups even ask the participants their opinions about how they are portrayed in the report, which is super interesting. Also, aftercare may be important for you. And, very important, celebrate!

References

Malnik, J. (n.d). *7 common types of plagiarism explained*. Available at <https://writer.com/blog/types-of-plagiarism/>

Song F, Hooper L, Loke Y. Publication bias: what is it? How do we measure it? How do we avoid it?. *Open Access Journal of Clinical Trials*. 2013;5:71-81 <https://doi.org/10.2147/OAJCT.S34419>