



Plagiarism – what do we know? Results from a survey at UU

15 december 2008

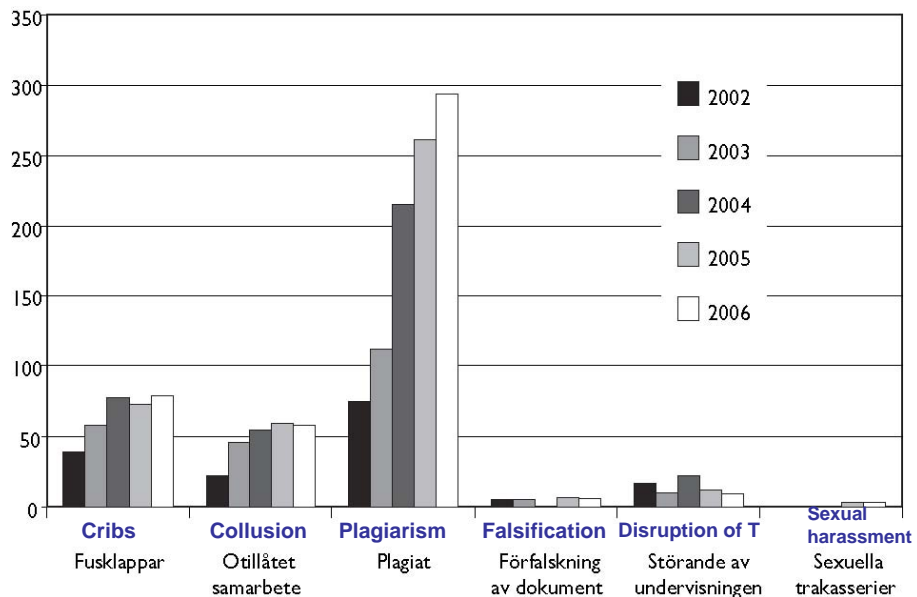
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Three main themes in the report*

- Increased awareness
- Prevention
- Detection

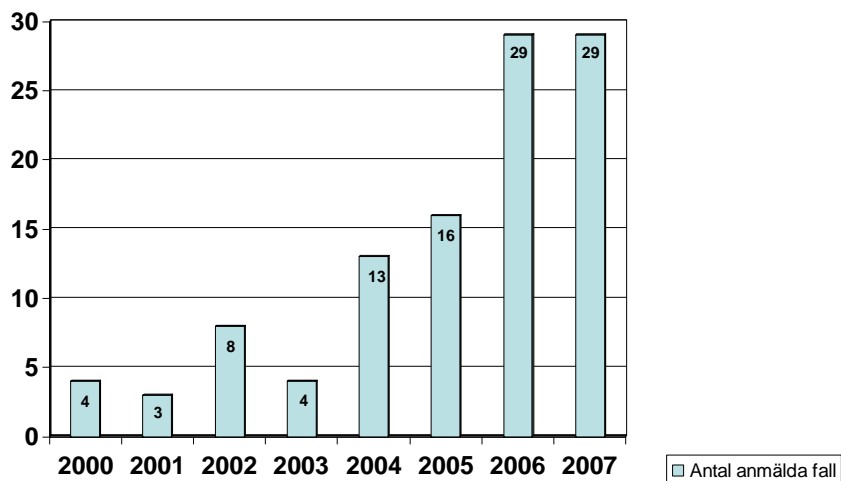
*Henriksson, Ann-Sofie, Att förebygga plagiat i studentarbeten – en pedagogisk utvecklingsmöjlighet, 2008

Högskoleverket – statistics for HE in Sweden



Plagiarism – a growing problem?

Cases reported to the UU disciplinary board



Survey

239 students (decline 4%)

118 teachers (decline 2%)

Department	Teachers	Students
Medicine	42	50
Humanities/social science	38	135
Technology/natural sciences	38	54
	118	239

What is plagiarism? Two examples where certain disagreement appeared

Q: What is, according to your opinion, plagiarism/cheating of the following?

Copying a paragraph from a work, making small linguistic changes. Listing the original source in the list of references only, no in-text acknowledgement?

Plagiarism: 45 % of students / 58% of teachers

Not plagiarism: 25% of students / 4% of teachers

Unsure: 22,5% of students / 24% of teachers

What is plagiarism? Two examples where certain disagreement appeared

What is, according to your opinion, plagiarism/cheating of the following?

Constructing a paragraph by using most sentences from someone elses original work but the sentences in a different order. There is an in-text acknowledgement at the end, t.ex. Sjögren (1999), plus the original source included in the reference list?

Plagiarizm: 31 % of students / 26% of teachers
 Not plagiarizm: 43% of students / 39% of teachers
 Unsure: 20% of students / 28% of teachers

Students plagiarize because... top 5 reasons

1	Students	want to pass at any prize	69%
	Teachers		66%
2	Students	student has lack of time	64%
	Teachers		64%
3	Students	student is lazy	63%
	Teachers	student has not understood that education aims at independence and critical thinking	63%
4	Students	an easy way out nowadays -> computers and Internet	62%
	Teachers		57%
5	Students	student thinks he/she cannot express sth as good in his/her own words	52%
	Teachers	unawareness/ignorance of what is permitted	59%

Figure 1:4. Students and teachers conceptions on whether or not they've plagiarized themselves, %

	Teachers	Students
Yes	13,6	9,6
Unsure	22,9	16,7
No	62,7	72,4
Missing	0,8	1,3

What not to do – i.e. what makes teachers suspicious?

- the stylistic level varies, 79%
- this seems familiar..., 59%
- level of work too high compared to S previous work, 52%
- remainders of e.g. Internet-formatting, 46%
- dated references, 33%
- level of work too high compared to course level, 32%
- electronic detection tools alerts, 27%
- anachronisms, 25%
- S delivers completed paper without having asked for any supervision, 13%