The Use of Information and Communication Technology in Academic Research: Is it possible to Realize Academic Integrity?

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Abstract

Realizing academic integrity in the digital age becomes a nightmare for universities and educational institutions in the entire globe. After the spread of Information and Communication Technology, dishonesty has replaced ethical considerations in research. The focal reasons behind this increasing dilemma are the researchers' attitudes and their different cultural perspectives. The spread of Information and Communication Technology provides avenues for academic dishonesty since detecting software products do not offer a real solution. As such, the incentive of this study is to scrutinize how Information and Communication Technology can help in attaining academic integrity. It also intends to see what is behind the backdrop of the academic misconduct, i.e., the motives that lead researchers to switch to e-dishonesty. The present survey seeks to bring the issue of Information and Communication Technology and academic integrity into the light to ensure honesty among the Algerian researchers. The researcher collected data through a questionnaire addressed to four Masterclasses in English studies at Mascara and Saida Universities supported by an interview with teachers. The findings revealed that most students used technology in cheating and plagiarism. The findings also revealed that universities and institutions can achieve integrity if the learners are aware of the positive side of Information and Communication Technology in academic research.

Keywords: Academic integrity, dishonesty in research, Information and Communication Technology, students' perception

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