

Plagiarism (a helpful reminder)

The ACM defines plagiarism as follows:

1. Definition and Context

Respecting intellectual property rights is a foundational principle of the ACM's Codes of Ethics^[1]. Plagiarism, in which one misrepresents ideas, words, computer codes or other creative expression as one's own, is a clear violation of such ethical principles. Plagiarism can also represent a violation of copyright law, punishable by statute. Plagiarism manifests itself in a variety of forms, including

- Verbatim copying, near-verbatim copying, or purposely paraphrasing portions of another author's paper;
- Copying elements of another author's paper, such as equations or illustrations that are not common knowledge, or copying or purposely paraphrasing sentences without citing the source; and
- Verbatim copying of portions of another author's paper with citing but not clearly differentiating what text has been copied (e.g., not applying quotation marks correctly) and/or not citing the source correctly.

Self-plagiarism is a related issue. In this document we define self-plagiarism as the verbatim or near-verbatim reuse of significant portions of one's own copyrighted work without citing the original source^[2]. Note that self-plagiarism does not apply to publications based on the author's own previously copyrighted work (e.g., appearing in a conference proceedings) where an explicit reference is made to the prior publication^[3]. Such reuse does not require quotation marks to delineate the reused text but does require that the source be cited.

All authors are deemed to be individually and collectively responsible for the content of papers published by ACM. Hence, it is the responsibility of each author to ensure that papers submitted to ACM attain the highest ethical standards with respect to plagiarism.

ACM and the ACM Publications Board place the investigation of each claim of plagiarism at the highest priority for resolution and action.

(taken from: http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/plagiarism_policy)

Note that copying of figures (e.g., cut-and-paste of images from the Web) is plagiarism. Unfortunately, intent or lack-of-intent does not count here. The act is what matters. Walking out of a store with an item not paid for is theft whether done on purpose or by accident. Develop good habits of attributing everything and applying quotation marks (or other clear quotation delimiters) correctly.