

Trial of SafeAssignment: - a Plagiarism Prevention System

The trial will take place at Griffith University from November 2006 till March 2007. It will be coordinated by Information Services (INS) and organised by Flexible Learning and Access Services (FLAS).

If the trial is successful, we are likely to recommend the integration of the system within Learning@Griffith in 2007.

This trial is intended primarily to evaluate the technical capabilities of the software, though we are also interested in evaluating matters such as ease of use and integration within assessment. Hence we will be seeking information from trial users for consideration in supporting the evolution of Griffith University policies in respect of plagiarism.

What is a Plagiarism Prevention System?

A plagiarism prevention system is an online tool capable of comparing every sentence in students' assignments with written research publications, online books, paper-mill web sites and other students' assignments as well as a multitude of other resources available on the Internet. After an assignment has been 'processed' by the system, it will produce a report outlining which part(s) of the assignment contain 'suspect material' and list the sources where similar or identical sentences have been found.

What is an online marking tool?

With the online marking tool 'Re:Mark', you can mark papers electronically by highlighting sentences, make in-line comments and give marks similarly to how you might mark a paper-based assignment.

Additionally, you can use a preset library of editing marks, mistake types, comments and instructions/tips to students as to how to find the correct answer or more information; it is also possible to provide feedback via recorded voice comments. The reporting and archiving functionalities of the tool also give access to statistical information about commonly-made student mistakes.

'Re:Mark' is an ergonomically designed system that is intended to reduce eye fatigue from staring at the computer screen for extended periods of time. This is achieved by the use of large interface elements, adjustable text sizes and ergonomically optimised colours.

How do I find out more about MyDropBox and SafeAssignment?

More information can be obtained about this product at the vendor's web site (www.mydropbox.com) for more information about the MyDropBox suite as well as support material. Training material is available from: www.mydropbox.com/training

FLAS are able to provide additional information about plagiarism prevention systems and issues related to plagiarism, you can contact us to receive some material we have collected over the last couple of months.

**For more information about the trial contact Kevin Ashford-Rowe or Bjorn Lie,
Flexible Learning & Access Services.**