



## What Constitutes Plagiarism?

*Note: The following information is taken from an internal UZH "Information Sheet on the Treatment of Plagiarism" (issued by the UZH's Teaching Committee on 30 April 2007).*

"Plagiarism is understood as the use or imitation of other people's work, either wholly or partially, without acknowledging the source and the author. In principle, plagiarism is an infringement of copyright law. Short passages from another author may be quoted; however, this is subject to the requirement that the quotation is marked as such and the source is cited. The following provides a further definition of what constitutes plagiarism (cf. *unijournal* 4/2006, p. 3, article by Christian Schwarzenegger and Wolfgang Wohlers):

- a) The author submits a piece of work under his or her own name that he/she commissioned another person to write (ghost writer).
- b) The author submits the work of another person under his/her own name (complete plagiarism).
- c) The author submits the same piece of work (or parts of it) for different examinations or course assignments (self-plagiarism).
- d) The author translates foreign-language texts, or parts of foreign-language texts, and submits these as his/her own work without citing of the source (translation plagiarism).
- e) The author uses extracts parts of a text from another work without citing the source. This also includes the use of parts of texts from the internet without citing the source.
- f) The author uses parts of the text from another work and makes slight changes by altering a few words or their order (paraphrasing) without citation of the source.
- g) The author uses parts of a text from another work, paraphrases them and does indeed cite the relevant source, but not in the context of the part of the text, or parts of the texts, used (for example: hiding the plagiarized source in a footnote at the end of the work).

Scientific ethics require that intellectual creations, ideas, theories of other persons be identified by a citation, even if they are merely reproduced in the text. In the individual subjects, there are special citation regulations that must be observed when writing scientific texts. As a rule, this obligation does not apply to so-called "textbook" knowledge, i.e., basic knowledge, the general knowledge of which can be assumed in the subject. However, if the presentation of this textbook knowledge is taken over from other authors (e.g., from a textbook), this must be indicated.