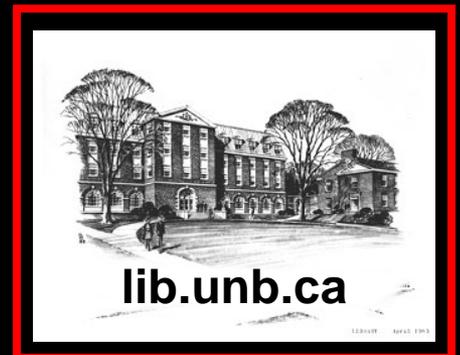


# *A Student's Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism*

*...with some help from APA*

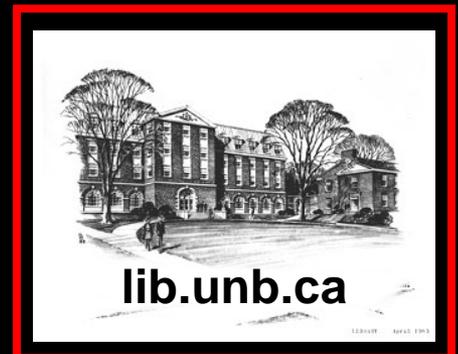
Barry Cull, *Information Services Librarian*

October 2011



*At the end of this workshop  
you should be able to:*

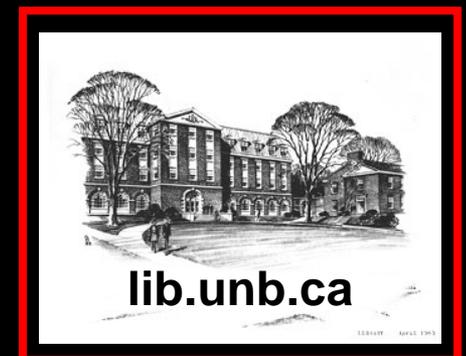
- Generally know how to avoid plagiarism in **writing** assignments.
- Understand the **general** conventions of academic citation.
- Know the basics of the **APA** citation style.
- Understand how to automatically format citations using UNB WorldCat and article database **Cite** options, as well as **RefWorks**.
- Know where to go for more help.



Plagiarism happens at university and beyond.

Sometimes with disastrous results. [\(.docx\)](#) [\(.jpg\)](#)

Doesn't everybody do it?



***“If I have seen further  
it is by standing on the  
shoulders of giants.”***

**- Isaac Newton, letter to Robert Hooke,  
5 February 1676**

Source: Turnbull, H. W. (Ed.). (1959). *The Correspondence of Isaac Newton: Volume 1, 1661–1675*. Cambridge University Press, p. 416.

As cited in *The Oxford Dictionary of Scientific Quotations*  
<http://www.oxfordreference.com>



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**New discoveries are usually built upon  
the work of previous researchers.**



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***“If you steal from one author, it’s plagiarism; if you steal from many, it’s research.”***

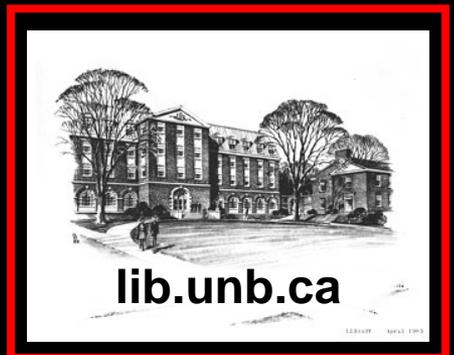
- Wilson Mizner (1876–1933), U.S. dramatist

Source: As cited in *The Oxford Dictionary of Scientific Quotations*  
<http://www.oxfordreference.com>



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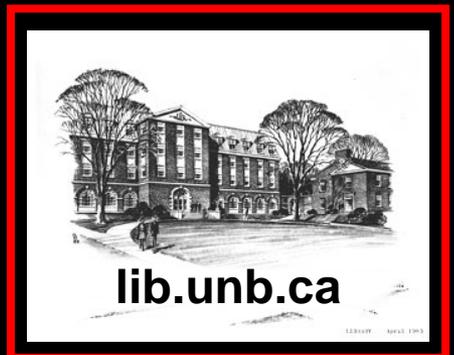
*But is it really “stealing” when  
you are doing research?*



**Yes, it is theft.**

**It is also academic fraud.**

**Specifically, it is plagiarism, unless you give credit to those authors whose works you use.**



*“If you steal from one author, it’s plagiarism; if you ~~steal from~~ [refer to] many, it’s research.”*

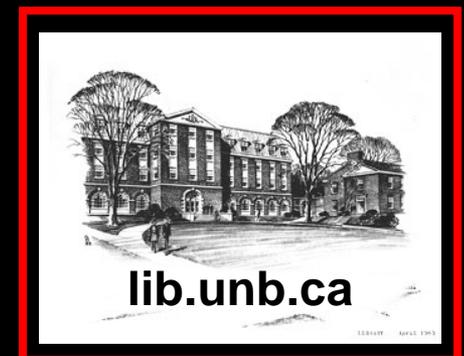


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## Definitions of Plagiarism: #1

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, to plagiarize is "to take and use as one's own (the thoughts, writings, or inventions of another person)."

Source: OED Online  
<http://dictionary.oed.com>



## Definitions of Plagiarism: #2

The *UNB Undergraduate Calendar* defines it as including the following:

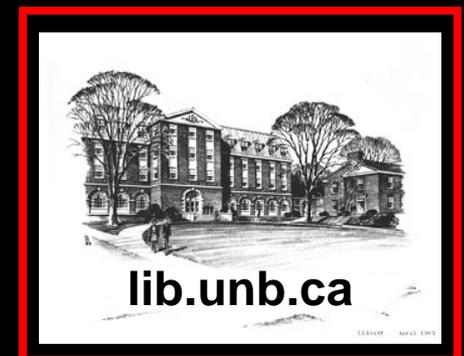
*“1. Quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from a source (such as copyrighted material, notes, letters, business entries, computer materials, etc.) without acknowledgment;*

*2. Adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, arrangement, or supporting evidence (such as, for example, statistics, bibliographies, etc.) without indicating such dependence;*

*3. Submitting someone else's work, in whatever form (film, workbook, artwork, computer materials, etc.) without acknowledgment;*

*4. Knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.”*

Source: <http://eservices.unb.ca/calendar/undergraduate>

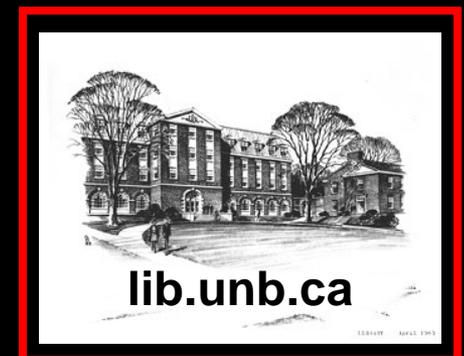


## Definitions of Plagiarism: #3

The *St. Thomas University Calendar* provides the following examples of plagiarism:

- “1. Presenting another person's ideas, words, or other intellectual property, including material found on the Internet, as one's own;*
- 2. Writing an essay, report or assignment, or a portion thereof, for someone else to submit as their own work;*
- 3. Submitting an essay, report, or assignment when a major portion has been previously submitted or is being submitted for another course at St. Thomas or any other university without the express permission of both instructors.”*

Source: <http://w3.stu.ca/stu/administrative/registrar/services/calendar.aspx>

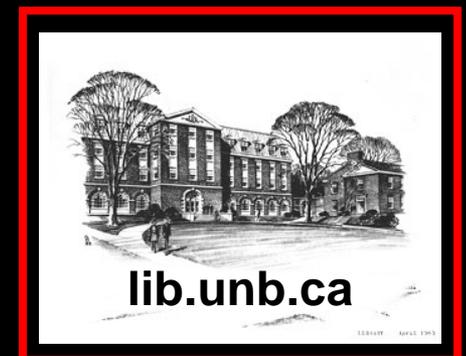


**To summarize, in academic writing, if you:**

- (1.) copy or paraphrase another person's words, or**
- (2.) adopt their ideas or data,**

**without giving credit by citing the source,**

**then you are plagiarizing  
—whether you had intended  
to cheat or not.**



**There are four major standard citation styles:**

**APA: social sciences, and beyond**

**MLA: humanities**

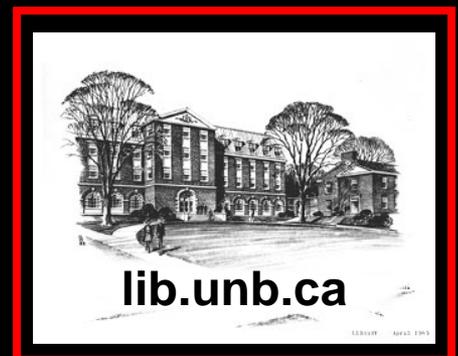
**Chicago: humanities, especially history**

**CSE: sciences**

**Other styles are common in specific disciplines, such as**

**CJCHE and AICHE**

**in chemical engineering.**



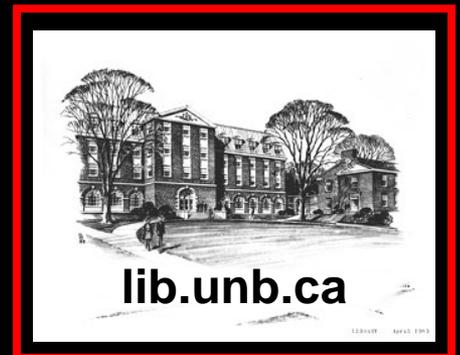
*Is avoiding plagiarism the only reason  
why you need to cite sources?*



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**There are three other inter-related reasons why academic authors use citations:**

- 1. Further reading**
- 2. Provide evidence**
- 3. Demonstrate knowledge of the literature**



*Why are there **standard** citation styles?*



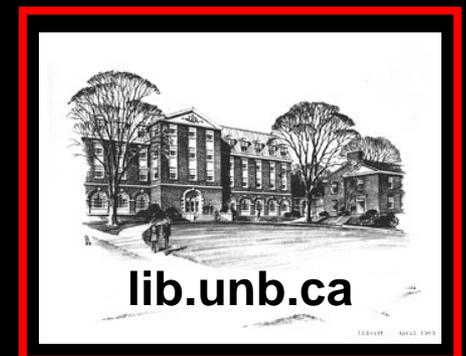
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**To allow another person to  
quickly locate your sources.**

**And to indicate:**

**1 – *Type* of source**

**2 – *Point in time* accessed**



**APA** uses the author-date in-text citation method (**Kirsh, 2006, p.550**). An alphabetical reference list appears at the end of your paper:

### References

**Kirsh, S. J. (2006). Cartoon violence and aggression in youth. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 11(6)*, 547-557. doi:10.1016/j.avb.2005.10.002**



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## Avoiding Plagiarism Exercise:

### APA In-Text Citations

[\(.doc\)](#) [\(.jpg\)](#)

The paragraph below is a direct quote from the following article:

Sacco, V. F. (2000). News that counts: Newspaper images of crime and victimization statistics. *Criminologie*, 33(1), 203-223.

*"However, important news is not always bad news and it is striking how many articles over the period in question [1993-1994] spoke of crime rates in decline at both local and national levels. For example, out of 62 headlines which described a temporal trend in crime levels, only 29 % unambiguously described increases. In 55 % of the cases, rates were portrayed as stable or falling and in the remaining cases, the messages regarding the temporal trend were mixed or unclear. It would appear, contrary to many simple-minded interpretations of media treatment of crime, that news about falling crime rates was likely to receive extensive attention."*

Max, Naomi, and Marshall are students who have used Sacco's article in their research papers. Decide whether each student's paragraph below is a case of plagiarism or an example of appropriate use of the article.

MAX: ... *However, bad news is not the only important news. In one Canadian study, less than one-third of the newspaper headlines examined described increasing crime rates, while just over 50% described stable or falling rates. Contrary to popular thought on the media's treatment of crime, falling crime rates do make the headlines. ....*

Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

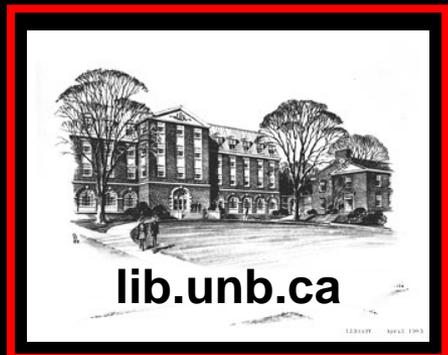
NAOMI: ... *According to Sacco, significant news does not have to be bad news and it is noteworthy how many newspaper articles published in Canada between 1993 and 1994 mentioned declining crime rates at both national and local levels. For example, out of 62 headlines which described a temporal trend in crime levels, only 29 % unambiguously described increases. In 55 % of the cases, rates were portrayed as stable or falling and in the remaining cases, the messages regarding the temporal trend were mixed or unclear (2000). Contrary to popular opinion, news about decreasing crime rates did receive considerable attention. ....*

Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

MARSHALL: ... *Sacco (2000) found that 55% of Canadian newspaper headlines between 1993 and 1994 described stable or falling crime rates, and concluded that "it would appear, contrary to many simple-minded interpretations of media treatment of crime, that news about falling crime rates was likely to receive extensive attention" (p. 216). ....*

Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Ouel, 2011



# Answers

The paragraph below is a direct quote from the following article:

Sacco, V. F. (2000). News that counts: Newspaper images of crime and victimization statistics. *Criminologie*, 33(1), 203-223.

"However, **important news is not always bad news and it is striking** how many articles over the period in question [1993-1994] spoke of crime rates **unambiguously** described increases. For example, out of 62 headlines which described a temporal trend in crime levels, only 29 % unambiguously described increases. In 55 % of the cases, rates were portrayed as stable or falling, and in the remaining cases, the messages regarding the temporal trend were mixed or unclear. It would appear, contrary to many single-minded interpretations of media treatment of crime, that news about falling crime rates was likely to receive extensive attention."

Max, Naomi, and Marshall are students who have used Sacco's article in their research papers. Decide whether each student's paragraph below is a case of plagiarism or an example of appropriate use of the article.

MAX: ... However, bad news is not the only important news. In one Canadian study, less than one-third of the newspaper headlines examined described increasing crime rates, while just over 50% described stable or falling rates. Contrary to popular thought on the media's treatment of crime, falling crime rates do make the headlines. ...

**Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? Cesare is clearly using the source text, but he provides no citation at all.**

NAOMI: ... According to Sacco, **significant news does not have to be bad news and it is noteworthy** how many newspaper articles published in Canada between 1993 and 1994 mentioned declining crime rates at both national and local levels (2000, p. 210). "For example, out of 62 headlines which described a temporal trend in crime levels, only 29 % unambiguously described increases. In 55 % of the cases, rates were portrayed as stable or falling and in the remaining cases, the messages regarding the temporal trend were mixed or unclear" (Sacco, 2000, p.216). Contrary to popular opinion, news about decreasing crime rates did receive considerable attention.

**Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? I. Jane attempts to use the APA citation method, but she improperly paraphrases some of the text. Instead of summarizing briefly in her own words, she merely changes around a few words and inserts synonyms (e.g., "significant" for "important"), and she does not cite the paraphrase. (See pp. 170-174 of the APA *Publication Manual*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.)**  
**2. She does not use any quotation marks, even though part of the text is a verbatim (word-for-word) quote ("For example...unclear").**

MARSHALL: ... Sacco (2000) found that 55% of Canadian newspaper headlines between 1993 and 1994 described stable or falling crime rates, and concluded that "it would appear, contrary to many single-minded interpretations of media treatment of crime, that news about falling crime rates was likely to receive extensive attention" (p. 216).

**Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? I. Erving is properly citing using APA in-text citation style, providing the author, year, and specific page (see p.170 of the *Publication Manual*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.)**  
**2. His paraphrase is a brief summary in his own words.**  
**3. He uses quotation marks for the portion of text which is quoted verbatim.**  
**4. Note that the APA citation method is called "author-date" and only requires a page number when referring to a specific portion of a source, not when referring to the source in a general way.**

#### TIPS to REMEMBER:

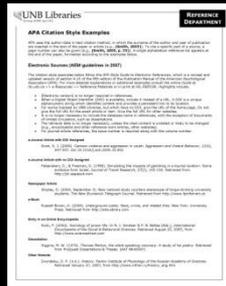
1. If you paraphrase, briefly summarize the source text, using your own words. (HINT: Do not look at the source text as you type your paraphrase.) Cite the source.
2. If you use a verbatim quote, always use quotation marks.
3. If uncertain about whether or not to cite a portion of text or a paraphrase, err on the side of caution, and cite the source. However, a research paper normally includes your own arguments, and should not be composed mainly of quotes and paraphrases (as Jane did above). Avoid citing secondary sources that do not add weight to your own argument.
4. Consult the library's APA manual: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th ed.*: HLL-REFDSK/SCI-REF/ENG-REF BF76.7 .P83 2010b, or another citation style manual.

B. OUL, 2011



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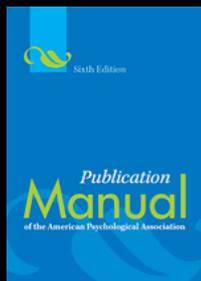
***For standard styles, the library provides:***



**Websites/handouts on  
reference lists & in-text  
citations, with examples**

**Copies of the citation manuals for reference:**

***APA Publication Manual (6th Edition)***

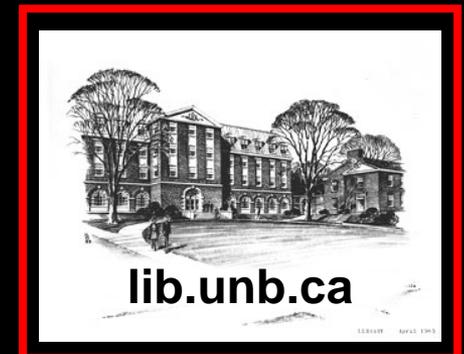


**HIL-REFDSK**

**ENG-REF**

**SCI-REF**

**BF76.7 .P83 2010b**



***“If we want to understand how it is that people design skyscrapers, or write music, or write a New York Times best seller, I think we need to acknowledge that nothing we design is ever truly novel—every creative effort contains vestiges of what we have experienced in the past.”***

***- Richard L. Marsh, University of Georgia***

Source: As cited in Carpenter, S. (2002). Plagiarism or memory glitch? *Monitor on Psychology*, 33(2).  
<http://www.apa.org/monitor/feb02/glitch.html>



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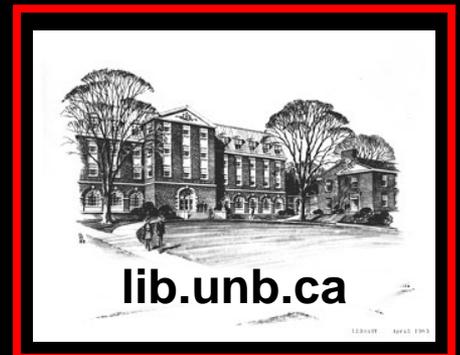
*Are there no **original** thoughts?*



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**Yes, but your thoughts are often influenced  
by ideas you have previously encountered.**

**“cryptomnesia”**

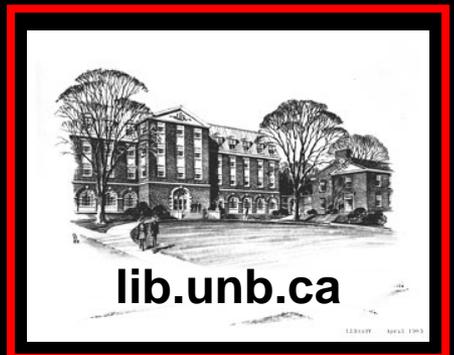


*So do we need to worry about things we previously read, but that we **forgot** we read?*



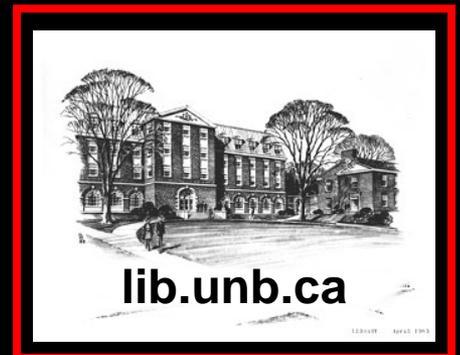
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**No, just keep track of sources  
during your research.**

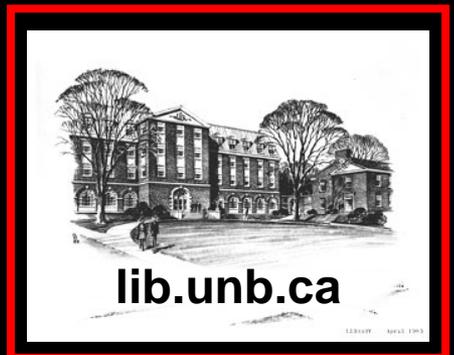


Tools to keep track of sources, and automatically create standard citations:

- RefWorks
- Zotero (Firefox browser extension)
- MS Word's Citations & Bibliography feature
- Cite option via ProQuest and EBSCO article databases and UNB WorldCat



**Always double-check automatically-generated bibliographies using an examples website or style manual!**

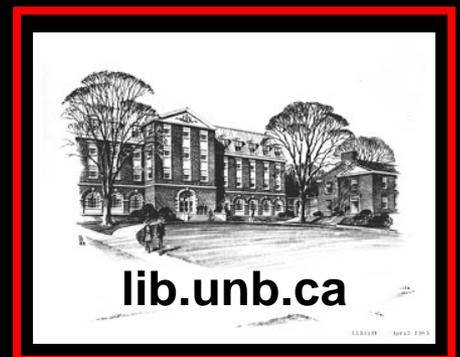


# *Some Final Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism...*

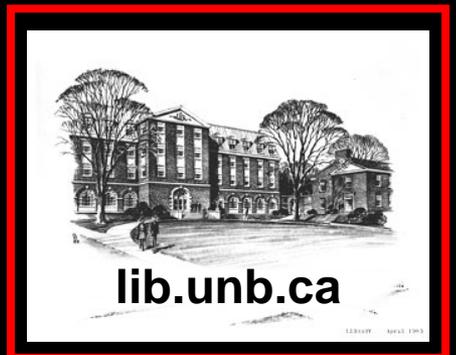


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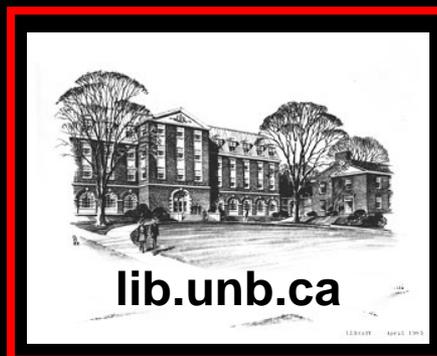
**1: Start your research early.**



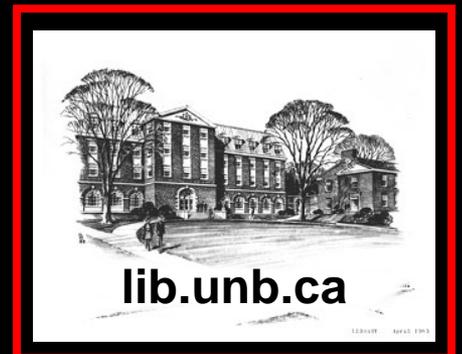
**2: Get full citations when doing research.**



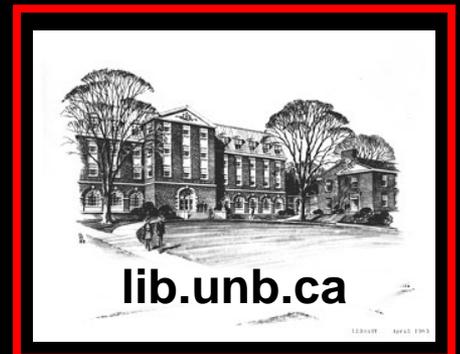
### 3: Paraphrase properly.



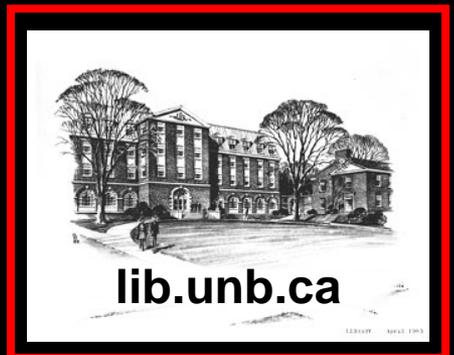
**4: Cite any text copied word-for-word,  
and use quotation marks.**



**5: You also need to cite images  
(photos, illustrations, graphs, etc.),  
statistics and other data,  
computer code,  
and music or video clips.**



**6: Free internet sources (as well as library internet sources) are NOT *free* to copy without acknowledgement.**



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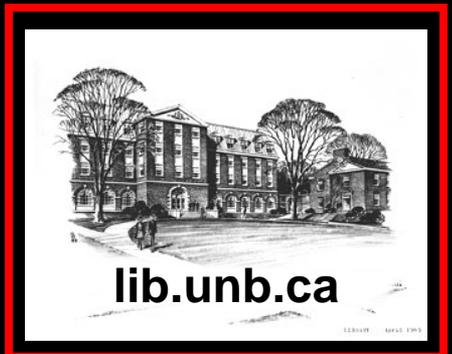
**HOWEVER....**



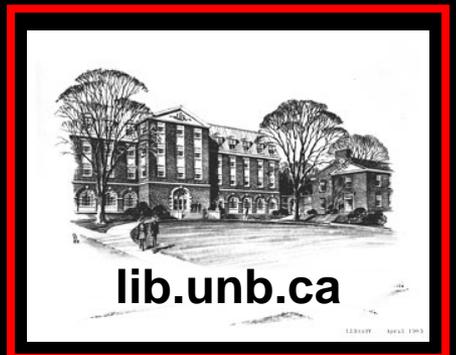
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**7: Use paraphrases and quotes sparingly.**



## 8: Do not cite “common knowledge”.

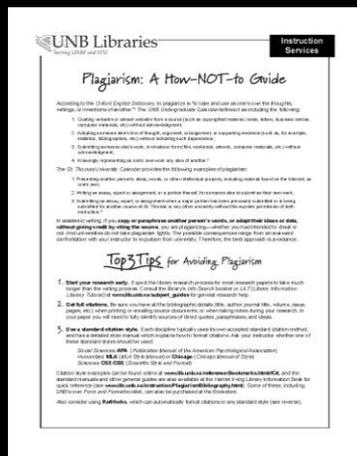


**9: For specific help, visit the Writing Centre.**



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For more information see:



**Plagiarism: A How-NOT-to Guide**  
[lib.unb.ca/research/Plagiarism.html](http://lib.unb.ca/research/Plagiarism.html)

Recommended academic writing handbooks:  
[lib.unb.ca/research/PlagiarismBibliography.html](http://lib.unb.ca/research/PlagiarismBibliography.html)

## Sources:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Posner, R. A. (2007). *The little book of plagiarism*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Northey, M., & McKibbin, J. (2007). *Making sense: A student's guide to research and writing*. Don Mills, Ont: Oxford University Press.

UNB Libraries. (2011). *Citing your sources*. Retrieved from <http://lib.unb.ca/research/citing.php>

