

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

Plagiarism of Research Papers

As a researcher you need to gather literature relevant to your research study and find out the current updated knowledge in the field of study that your research is focused and find out the knowledge gap prevailing. While you do this information collection some of the researchers especially young researchers unexpectedly fall into the pitfall of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an unethical practice that uses ideas and words of another author or your own ones that were published previously without proper acknowledgement. It can happen intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarism is considered as a serious intellectual offence and it will result for loss of credibility and recognition of the author. It will also be a result to get your paper refused to be published and you will be black listed in the journal. Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka tolerates only up to 10% of plagiarism level for a paper which is the accepted standard of Web of Science. We have experienced that non-native English speakers face difficulties and challenges in communicating their technical content and ideas in English language without breaking these ethical standards. Today, due to easy access to most of the publications through the internet, some researchers are motivated to copy and paste information.

Out of all type of plagiarism, complete plagiarism is the most sever type of plagiarism that is author get the most of the content of other's publication and publish in somewhere as his/her own publication. This is an intellectual property stealing. It is also an offence that can be sue in front of a civil court and request for compensation in most of the countries.

As an academic writer, you can avoid plagiarism by citing your source, including quotations if you use same wordings of another author, paraphrasing (writing another source's idea in your words), present your own ideas and using plagiarism checker. These steps will be helpful to avoid plagiarism of your manuscript.

As a journal indexed in Master Journal list of Web of Science and SCOPUS, the Journal of Agricultural Sciences –Sri Lanka publishes research papers that are with the highest quality. Hence, we are very strict on plagiarism and authors who submit highly plagiarized manuscripts intentionally to the journal are black listed.

Currently the JASSL has been indexed in Web of Science, SCOPUS, EBOCUS, DOAJ, COPE, AGORA, Cabi abstracts and many other indexing bodies. This is an indicator for our progress in journal quality during past years. There were many people behind this success. This honour must go to Prof. Chandrika Dissanayake - Coordinating Editor of JASSL, Mr. Prasad C. Iddamalgoda, Ms. Suiox Cummings of INASP, Ms. Amila Tennakoon of SLJOL, Mr. Harsha Udayakantha Peiris- Copy Editor, all the authors, reviewers and editorial committee members.

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