FAQ For TurnItIn

Questions were generated through workshops and testing of TurnItIn features. Responses provided by TurnItIn (TII) and Desire2Learn (D2L) support.

Questions:

1. How does Tii index or compare against papers behind paywalls, such as journal articles that are available for a fee from journal publishers?
2. Can you switch on originality checking for a dropbox folder that has already been created? (In other words, do you need to turn it on at the time of creation?) Is this true for a folder that has already been used for student submissions? The main concern is for courses that were created in a previous term and cloned for the current term, and had dropbox folders but originality checking was not switched on.
3. Can the dropbox folder Originality check settings be adjusted so that students can only see part of the report? In other words, can you set up folder settings so that students can only see Grademark but not Originality check info?
4. Can we create a common set of custom Grademarks for a group of instructors to access and use?
5. What's the best way for an instructor to scan papers that were submitted in previous terms prior to having TurnItIn checking in their course, if they want to know if students in the current term have used an older paper?
6. How can an instructor use Tii to rescan a paper if for some reason a student needs to resubmit and multiple submissions are not allowed or it is after the due date?
7. Can students individually opt out of having their paper become part of the Tii database? Related to this question, does the "Index files for originality checking" setting mean all papers in a folder can be prevented from being added to the Tii database? What exactly does this setting do?
8. Can filters be applied to entire folders rather than paper by paper? (for example, quotes and bibliography filters)
9. The only way we can figure out how to have preview originality reports with single submission setting with the D2L integration is to set up an additional "shadow" folder that is just for student previews. Then the final paper goes into the "real" assignment dropbox folder for final originality checking and grading. But then those final papers will show a false positive when compared to the preview submissions. Is there a way to set this up or set filters in order to enable student previews that won't return a false positive when the final paper is submitted?
10. Is Turnitin looking at a product for checking originality of multimedia projects (those incorporating video, music, and text for example)?
Responses - General questions

1. How does Tii index or compare against papers behind paywalls, such as journal articles that are available via library subscriptions, or for a fee from journal publishers?

TII:

Journals etc:
To answer this question, we would need a list of the specific publishers you'd like to know. Tii does subscribe to some of them to include in our database.

Paper Mills:
Turnitin is aware of the "paper mill" web sites that allow students to purchase or acquire pre-written papers. These sites usually require either account registration or payment for paper access.

We are opposed to assisting these web sites in any manner. Therefore, we do not pay for the ability to crawl their repository. While we have not directly sought to address the problem by gaining access to their document cache, we have found that our system has been proven effective in deterring their use for the following reasons:

1. Consistent re-use of these sources has resulted in our establishment of an archive of many of these papers via Turnitin student upload.
2. While we might not catch the first occurrence of plagiarism using a paper mill source, subsequent uploads will yield collusion results (across institutions and globally).
3. Many of these essays already contain plagiarized material, thus uploads result in further un-cited Internet sources.
4. Students are usually aware of their institution's policies regarding retroactive penalties for plagiarism. This helps deter the student from using these sources in the first place.

In general, as we continue to provide our plagiarism prevention service to the academic community, we have found that paper mills consist primarily of a collection of poorly written documents that even plagiarizing students are reluctant to submit as their own work.

Responses - The following questions are regarding how TurnItIn works under D2L integration

2. Can you switch on originality checking for a dropbox folder that has already been created? (In other words, do you need to turn it on at the time of creation?)
Is this true for a folder that has already been used for student submissions?
The main concern is for courses that were created in a previous term and cloned for the current term, and had dropbox folders but originality checking was not switched on.

TII: The instructor should be able to edit the assignment settings for the assignments, for assistance on how to do this, please contact D2L.
D2L: Yes, you can enable that at any time. If there are already submissions, they won't all get sent to Turnitin automatically but there will be an icon beside each submission allowing you to manually trigger the originality checking.
NOTE that this was a bug until the latest D2L patch, which appears to have fixed it. Originality Checking can now be run in an old dropbox. As usual, testing is always good.

3. Can the dropbox folder Originality check settings be adjusted so that students can only see part of the report? In other words, can you set up folder settings so that students can only see Grademark but not Originality check info?

TII: No. With the D2L integration, the setting for them to view originality report has to be switched on in order for students to see the GradeMark markup. They will also be able to see the originality report.
4. Can we create a common set of custom Grademarks for a group of instructors to access and use?

TII: Yes, you can create QuickMarks and shared them with your staff. To create QuickMarks as an administrator, you will need to first log in to your Turnitin administrator account, then do the following:
1. Click on the edit icon and click "Edit account settings"
2. Click on the "QuickMark Library" tab.
3. Click on the "+" in the Sets column, enter a name for the set and click on save.
4. Click on the newly created set, and click on the "+" in the Marks column, enter a name and the description for the QuickMark and click on save.
5. To share the set click on the Share this set to account box to share with all instructors.

D2L: I am pretty sure GradeMark has the concept of shared Quickmark libraries that will be available for all new instructor accounts automatically, but that is really a Turnitin question.

5. What's the best way for an instructor to scan papers that were submitted in previous terms prior to having TurnItIn checking in their course, if they want to know if students in the current term have used an older paper?

TII: Instructors would have to download all the submitted papers in their original format add them to a zip file and upload them to Turnitin so that they can be part of the Student paper repository database. Your account administrator (Ritchie Boyd) may need to assist you with this.

D2L: To check against previous submissions, you’d have to go back to those old classes, enable originality checking, and manually trigger the send to Turnitin (as in Q2 above). Not something that I’ve heard of clients doing personally.

6. How can an instructor use Tii to rescan a paper if for some reason a student needs to resubmit and multiple submissions are not allowed or it is after the due date?

TII: Instructors have the ability to submit papers on behalf of the student, please contact D2L for instructions. In order for a student to be able to resubmit to an assignment the instructor would need to delete the current submission. Now if the due date has passed, then the instructor will need to extend the due date or edit the assignment to allow late submissions.

D2L: Easiest is to probably delete the existing submission and provide special access to extend the end date for that student. Other option could be to have a separate course with test student that instructor could impersonate and submit on behalf of.

7. Can students individually opt out of having their paper become part of the Tii database? Related to this question, does the "Index files for originality checking" setting mean all papers in a folder can be prevented from being added to the Tii database? What exactly does this setting do?

TII: Students cannot opt out from having the papers added to the database while the assignment is active, however, once the assignment is expired, meaning that the end date has passed, the student can request via the instructor and the instructor will then send a request to the account administrator to send a request to us in writing to delete the paper. We will need the following:
- Paper ID:
- Class name:
- Assignment name:

When checked, the setting saves the papers to the database.

D2L: No individual opt-out. If that setting ("Index files for originality checking") is checked, no papers in that folder will be added to the Tii database. (Need to verify this)
8. Can filters be applied to entire folders rather than paper by paper? (for example, quotes and bibliography filters)

TII: All filters must be set upon creating the assignment. Instructor will have the option to exclude some sources/materials such as the one you mentioned.
D2L: In v10, we added a link to let the instructor jump to the Turnitin management page for the folder, and on there I think you can set this as a default, but we haven’t exposed it as a D2L folder setting. If this works as expected, I’d love to hear back to see if we should consider exposing this in our management UI.

9. The only way we can figure out how to have preview originality reports with single submission setting with the D2L integration is to set up an additional "shadow" folder that is just for student previews. Then the final paper goes into the "real" assignment dropbox folder for final originality checking and grading. But then those final papers will show a false positive when compared to the preview submissions. Is there a way to set this up or set filters in order to enable student previews that won't return a false positive when the final paper is submitted?

TII: The only way that I can think of is to set the "shadow" assignments to not save the submissions to the database.
D2L: set up that first folder for the "draft" to disable the ‘index files’ option as in Q7.

10. Is Turnitin looking at a product for checking originality of multimedia projects (those incorporating video, music, and text for example)?

TII: Our system is only designed to check on text. Currently there is no plans of having a system that will work for multimedia files.