Report – International Workshop on Research Ethics and Plagiarism
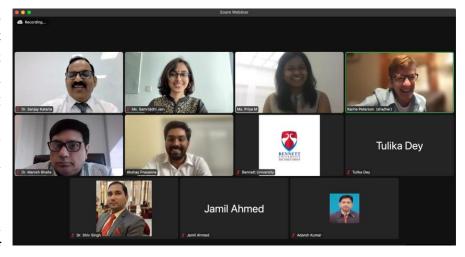
On July 7, 2022 at 11:00 AM an online workshop on *'Research Ethics and Plagiarism'* was organized by the Learning Resource Centre in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) team at Bennett University. 800+ people from 17 countries across the globe had registered for the event. The workshop was framed keeping in mind the UGC initiatives of Framing Regulations for "Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism" in 2018 and UGC "Quality Mandates" of 2019. The whole idea was to enhance the quality of research in academic institutions of India.

The main aim was to create awareness of Research Ethics among the research fraternity taking a cue from the best practices around the world and at the same time upskill them with hands-on training in Turnitin, a software tool to detect plagiarism.
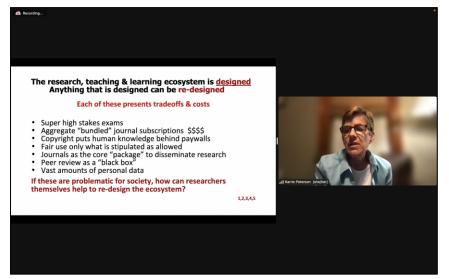
Ms. Karrie Peterson, Dept. Head, Liaison, Instruction & Reference Services at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries, Boston, US and **Mr. Akshay Prasanna**, senior-PES Member at Turnitin, India were the speakers of the workshop.

Ms. Samriddhi Jain, BBA-1st year student from Bennett University set the pitch by introducing importance of ethics and academic integrity in research and invited all esteemed speakers.

Prof. Sanjay Kataria, University Librarian was the moderator of

the session. He addressed the gathering and shared information on the urgency of practising ethics in research, the pitfalls to avoid and how to ace it all.
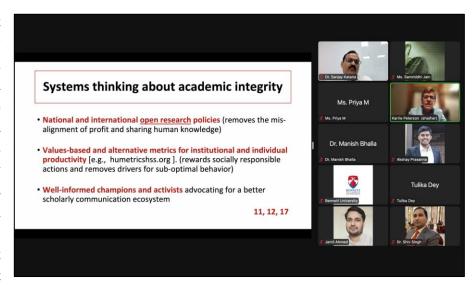

IQAC Head, **Prof. Manish Bhalla** introduced the speakers and welcomed all participants.

A clear understanding of the ethical boundaries in publication is essential for researchers and authors. Plagiarism, research fraud, undisclosed competing interests, not acknowledging all authors are a few of the issues that can threaten not only the integrity of the science, but also one's standing in the scientific community. Academic theft
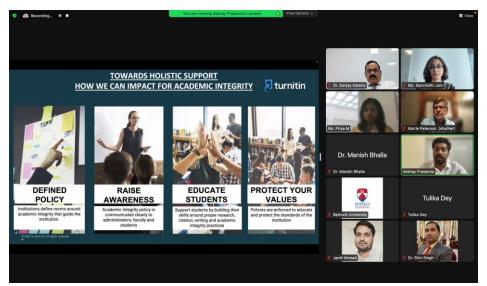
(intentional or unintentional) is a serious theft /offence demanding no tolerance and in all forms is punishable.

All concerns about academic integrity cannot be resolved on an individual level and need a complete ecosystem to have a strong stand. But before jumping into any conclusion, it is important to understand academic integrity, research ethics, all about plagiarism and how it can be avoided.

At the very onset, to familiarize the participants, **Ms. Karrie** initiated with an overview of scholarly communication and the changing landscape of intellectual assets over time. She mentioned the impact of non-compliance to academic integrity and how one should cite others or take the ownership of one's own work. She also discussed the best practices at MIT with the participants, and how researchers should document all important data while carrying out experiments so that they can be well cited in future.

Existing rules of academic integrity don't address important aspects of fairness, accuracy, credentialing, and sharing knowledge. Thus researchers need to participate in the collective re-designing and agree to fair contribution as torch bearers.
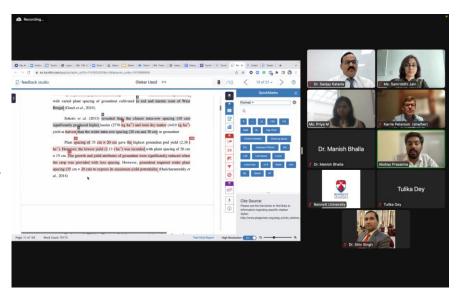

Moving forward, the second session for the day started with an introduction of the plagiarism detection software tool - 'Turnitin', followed by a practical demo session of the software and similarity check report by **Mr. Prasanna**. The practical session was highly interactive and it shed new insights to the participants on how researchers sometimes use dubious methods to escape plagiarism.

The workshop ended with an engaging Q&A round where participants were free to clarify their doubts.

Ms. Priya M., Co-ordinator IQAC proposed the vote of thanks to the gathering for making this event a huge success.

Feedback

The speakers were happy to see the enthusiasm of participants demanding more such events on effective writing and tools to check plagiarism in future. Around 30 questions were taken from the Q&A round. We are thankful for all the valuable feedback and will certainly keep them in mind while designing our next event.

A word of appreciation from our speaker -"It was such a pleasure to be part of your wonderful event, thank you again for inviting me. The context setting that you all did at the beginning of the event was really excellent. Also, the way you ended your event was very good. One of the practices that I like very much is when you have people ready to share some highlights of the speaker presentations at the end - I think that is a very good practice, to help remind attendees of what topics were covered. That's not very common in the US but I think it is an excellent practice! I also learned a lot about Turn It In and how it is used in your context. So, in all that was both fun and a good learning experience for me." *Karrie Peterson*