

# **Publishing Practices Among Senior Multidisciplinary Researchers Using Turnitin.com Originality Reports**

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**Abstract** – A researcher cannot publish what he has not written, and he cannot write what he has not read – that is how vital the central role of reading is in a researcher’s academic life. This study, an excerpt, aimed to identify the publishing practices among senior multidisciplinary researchers by analysing the originality reports of their published articles generated through the Turnitin.com software. Findings showed that the published articles are organized and intact and are structured using the IMRAD format. Quantitative analysis showed that while there was a moderate positive correlation, there is no significant difference between the total number of references listed in the published articles and with their generated similarity indices. Statistical analysis revealed that the published articles serving as ‘document transcripts’ had more similarity from internet-based articles rather than from publication-based sources. While the findings agree with similar reviewed studies that publication sources are used less in publication practice, the study has established that senior researchers used publication-based studies more often than undergraduate researchers. Evidence that empirical studies are consulted less during publishing in multidisciplinary journals in the Philippines is conclusive. Thus, it is recommended that senior authors develop the attitude of making their research profile visible in the web by creating web-based research profile accounts.

**Keywords** – *Publishing Practices, Senior Researchers, Turnitin.com, Content Analysis*

## INTRODUCTION

Publishing is the major way in which research findings are communicated and exchanged. Although there are many different types of publication opportunities (books, chapters in edited collections, book reviews, and so on) available to the researcher, the typical starting point is publishing in journals. Despite the hindrance of having new work responsibilities, there is an insurmountable feeling of success when a thesis or dissertation of hundreds of pages is transformed into a journal manuscript [1]. A person cannot share what he does not have. Consequently, a person cannot write what he has not read. Reading is part of publishing.

The process of writing scholarly papers for publication is challenging as it requires one to move from spoken and written words to the arena of substantive evidence in attempts to make logical arguments [2]. Writing is very important in the life of a senior researcher because without writing, publication is not possible. However, writing is strongly linked with reading as well. In a study among master's students using an e-survey, the findings indicated [3] that the reading habit was crucial for students' academic writing skill. If an e-survey could provide an evidence conclusive of academic writing skill, much more will the write ups themselves provide a more straightforward conclusion. Improving academic writing [15] is a key towards successful publishing, and assessment of pre-published write-ups is the beginning of that ending.

Undergraduate authors are like 'seeds' of future academicians and researchers, and to analyse their published outputs early is re-routing areas of weakness to an unfathomable strength of the future [6]. This tells us that we can trace how the young becomes the researcher he wants to be by analysing his unpublished and unpublished outputs. Through this analysis, implications of his reading habits will be understood. And, consequently, when these outputs are published, the publishing preferences on sources are also learned.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Generally, this study, an excerpt, aimed to identify the publishing preferences among senior multidisciplinary researchers using quantitative analysis of original reports generated through a plagiarism testing tool, the Turnitin.com, of representative full paper articles published from Year 2017 to 2019 in a multidisciplinary journal managed and published in the Philippines.

Specifically, this excerpt of a study, aimed to answer the following specific questions:

1. How are the full papers of senior multidisciplinary researchers written as documentary transcripts in terms of format or structure?
2. What is the profile of the sampled full papers of senior multidisciplinary researchers as document transcripts in terms of the following Total No. of References (t.n.r.)?
3. What is the profile of the document transcripts of senior multidisciplinary researchers as revealed by the Turnitin.com Originality Reports in terms of the following:
  - a. Similarity index (s.in.);
  - b. Internet source index (i.s.i.); and
  - c. Publication source index (p.s.i.)?
4. Are the total number of references and the similarity indices of the document transcripts significantly related?
5. Is there a significant difference between the total number of references and the similarity indices of the transcripts?
6. Is there a significant difference between the internet-source index (i.s.i.) and publication source index (p.s.i.)?

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Methods

The research design employed in the study is qualitative in nature because data are collected in the form of words, rather than numbers Fraenkel & Wallen [5] justified that the kinds of data collected in qualitative research include interview transcripts, field notes, photographs, audio recordings, videotapes, diaries, personal comments, memos, official records, textbook passages, and anything else that can convey the actual words or actions of people. In this study, documentary transcripts were used as source of data which were quantified using the Turnitin.com software through the Originality Report [6][7]. Qualitative data could be analyzed quantitatively based on pre-defined categories. Several studies published recently are, in their use of source of data, primarily qualitative including the use of open-ended question in sentiment analysis regarding synchronous online learning in a state university [8], the use of published articles for thematic review for an analysis of board performance [9], revisiting a senior high school curriculum in Biology for integration of top 10 skills in industrial revolution 4.0 [10], multilingual detection and mapping of emergency and disaster-related tweets, [11], and many others.

### Materials

Twenty-two (22) published full papers in sampled multidisciplinary journals managed and published from 2017 to 2019 (3 years) in one province in the Philippines were taken as samples, A-MRJ FULL ISSUE (Vol 4, No. 1, s.2020) editor@paressu.org

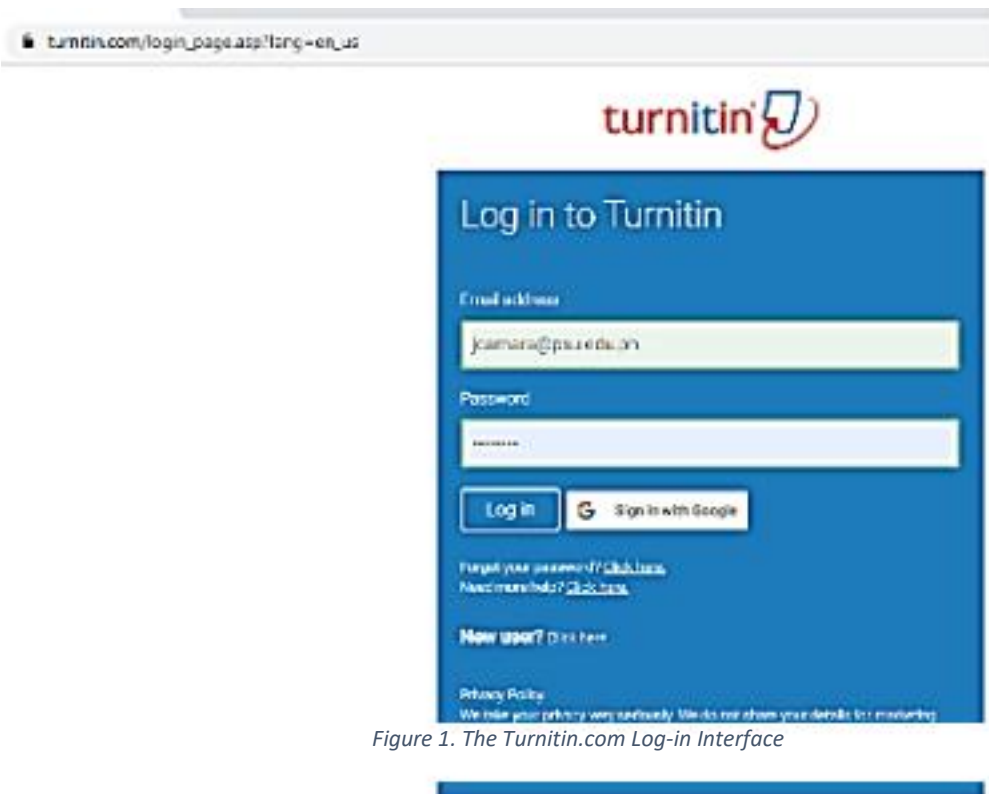


Figure 1. The Turnitin.com Log-in Interface

The technique utilized in the study is content analysis, i.e. a technique to study an aspect of human behavior indirectly using their communications and/or outputs like those mentioned in the research design section and now, recently, including pottery, weapons, songs and the like as generally agreed upon by researchers. The researchers of this study have employed content analysis in several of their published papers including the analysis of portfolio [12], culinary booklets [13], coded answer sheets [14], research abstracts [15], aptitude test results [16], curriculum competency checklists in research [17], biology modules and textbooks [18], and the post-evaluation insights by students of a curriculum [19]. Majority of these studies had strong implications to human behavior and his interaction with the society where he belongs.

and were referred to in this study as ‘document transcripts’. The document transcripts were selected on the following criteria: (a) written or co-authored by a senior researcher, (b) the journal is itself multidisciplinary, (c) the authors are from the province where the journal is managed and published, and (d) the full paper must have had at

least 1 citation by March 2020 as reported through google scholar. Note that criterion 'c' is included because this paper is an excerpt and it published only results of that province. Note that the criterion 'b' is included because authors are expected to have displayed diverse publishing preferences in their document transcripts. For the purposes of academic secrecy, other than these details, other information are kept confidential, but are open for academic inquiry by other researchers. Emails are encouraged to the main author for this.

The Originality Reports generated through the Turnit.com software were used in the study to provide for the following information: similarity index, internet-based sources, and publication-based sources. All transcripts and reports (all number-coded) were all verified by an external evaluator as to its authenticity. All document transcripts were downloaded from their respective journals from the Open Journal System, and are fully downloadable. No conflict of interests exists in the study with respect to the use of transcripts and materials.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Format of Document Transcripts

The format of the document transcripts is strongly organized, and the presentation itself is intact. Obviously, the transcripts were written following the most acceptable format for publication, the IMRAD Format, i.e. Introduction, Methodology, and Results and Discussion. The transcripts also included an Abstract which condenses the entire paper in one smaller version, as well as reference page that lists all the cited works and books in the full paper.

While the arrangement varies from one journal to another, majority of the transcripts contained the following in the paper itself in the following sequence:

1. Title of the Multidisciplinary Journal;
2. Journal Volume the paper was published;
3. Journal Issue No the paper was published;
4. Year or series the paper was published;
5. Website the paper could be accessed;
6. Name of the Author;
7. Affiliation of the Author;
8. Email or contact of the Author;
9. Short Bionote of the author;
10. Page number of the paper in the issue;
11. Date paper was received by the editor;
12. Date revised paper was received;
13. Indexing of the journal;
14. Tables and graphs in the body; and
15. (some) Picture of the author.

## Profile of the Document Transcripts

Table 1. Profile Frequencies of Transcripts

<i>Code No.</i>	<i>No Ref</i>	<i>S.I.</i>	<i>I.S.</i>	<i>P.S.</i>
1	13	8	6	2
2	13	16	15	7
3	9	5	3	3
4	8	22	21	5
5	14	15	14	4
6	21	20	7	5
7	9	7	7	2
8	11	14	12	5
9	5	2	2	1
10	7	15	12	6
11	9	14	12	16
12	11	5	5	2
13	4	5	5	1
14	8	9	9	3
15	6	7	6	3
16	7	15	13	12
17	4	1	1	0
18	12	22	22	3
19	10	3	2	1
20	8	6	6	1
21	15	5	4	2
22	17	15	15	4
	<b>10.04</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>9.06%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

Table 1 generally shows that 4 to 21 references is the range of total references used by the senior researchers in their articles, from which 1% to 22% of similarity indices were reported. Some works though did not consider the references listed in the article's reference page [6,7], but instead the cited references provided by the software was considered and found that unpublished full papers [7] had less cited references compared with published papers [6].

Further, on average, the document transcripts had 10 references per sampled full paper. The average similarity index is found to be 10.5%, which is 9.5% lower compared to the acceptable cut-off of most journals [6,7]. This means that if the similarity index is small, the more originally written the paper is, and the cut-off to consider the paper 'still' original is 20%. The

## Statistical Difference Between I.S.I. and P.S.I

Table 3. t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means

average use of internet-based references is found to be 9.06%, which is almost equal with the number of references. The publication-based sources is found to be 4.0%, which is rather less compared to using internet-based articles. This means that for every 2 internet materials, 1 publication is consulted.

## Number of References and Similarity Index correlates of Document Transcripts

Table 2. Correlation and t-Test:

Paired Two Sample for Means

	<i>t.n.r</i>	<i>s.i.n.</i>
Mean	10.04545	10.5
Variance	18.14069	42.07143
Observations	22	22
Pearson Correlation	0.466259	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
df	21	
t Stat	-0.36324	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.360029	
t Critical one-tail	1.720743	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.720057	
t Critical two-tail	2.079614	

Table 2 reports that while Paired samples t-Test revealed no significant difference between the total number of references used and the similarity index, statistical analysis for correlation using DAT reported a correlation of (*r*) 0.47 which is interpreted as moderate positive linear relationship [20]. Strength of correlation and significance are not the same thing [21].

This finding agrees with some studies that no significant difference exists between the cited sources and similarity indices among unpublished articles of special science researchers [7] and undergraduate Filipino authors [6]. This implies that the publishing practices of senior researchers, undergraduate Filipino authors, and Filipino authors with unpublished works are significantly the same.

Mean	<b>9.045455</b>	<b>4</b>
Variance	35.37879	14.09524
Observations	22	22
Pearson Correlation	0.477662	

Hypothesized Mean Difference	0
df	21
t Stat	4.461124
P(T<=t) one-tail	<b>0.000108</b>
t Critical one-tail	1.720743
P(T<=t) two-tail	<b>0.000216</b>
t Critical two-tail	2.079614

Table 4 reveals that that there is a significant difference, in both 0.05 and 0.01 alpha, between the internet source index and the publication source index of the document transcripts which basically means that they are, generally, not equal. The high mean of the i.s.i. ( $M=9.05$ ) shows that the senior multidisciplinary researchers favor the use of internet-based sources than publication sources.

This finding agrees with some studies that a significant difference exists between the use of internet-based and publication-based articles of researchers, and concluding that the use of publication-based articles are less favored in the document transcripts of senior researchers, undergraduate Filipino authors [6] and Filipino authors of unpublished articles [7].

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on these findings, the researcher concludes the following in this study:

1. The published full paper articles of senior multidisciplinary researchers are organized and intact using the IMRAD Format, and including similar contents in general.
2. Generally, the document transcripts had 10 total listed references, 10.5% similarity indices registered in the

originality reports by Turnitin.com Software, 9.06% average percentage internet-based articles cited, and 4.0% publication-based articles cited;

3. The total number of references listed in the document transcripts' reference page is not significantly related to the similarity indices generated by Turnitin.com Software;
4. No significant difference is found statistically between the total number of references and the similarity indices of the document transcripts;
5. A significant difference was statistically established between the use of internet-based articles and publication-based articles, and analysis showed that senior researchers consulted publication-based articles less.

Based on these conclusions, the following recommendations are provided in this study:

1. The less use of publication-based articles among senior researchers may have an influence on their visibility in web-based research technologies like researchgate.org, scholar.google.com, academia.com, and the like, and thus, it is recommended that senior researchers create their own accounts in these web-based technologies to enhance their research visibility, and making them use more of publication-based articles and less of internet-based articles, among others.
2. Develop a training-workshop or a training plan [22] among the senior researchers on how to create an account in web-based technologies to enhance their visibility in the research community worldwide, and enhance their publication practices as a researcher.

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