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Perspectives

New Plagiarism Detection Software Integration

by Jason Adsit, Director, Teaching & Learning Center, and Lisa Stephens, Associate for Instructional Resources, Academic Services

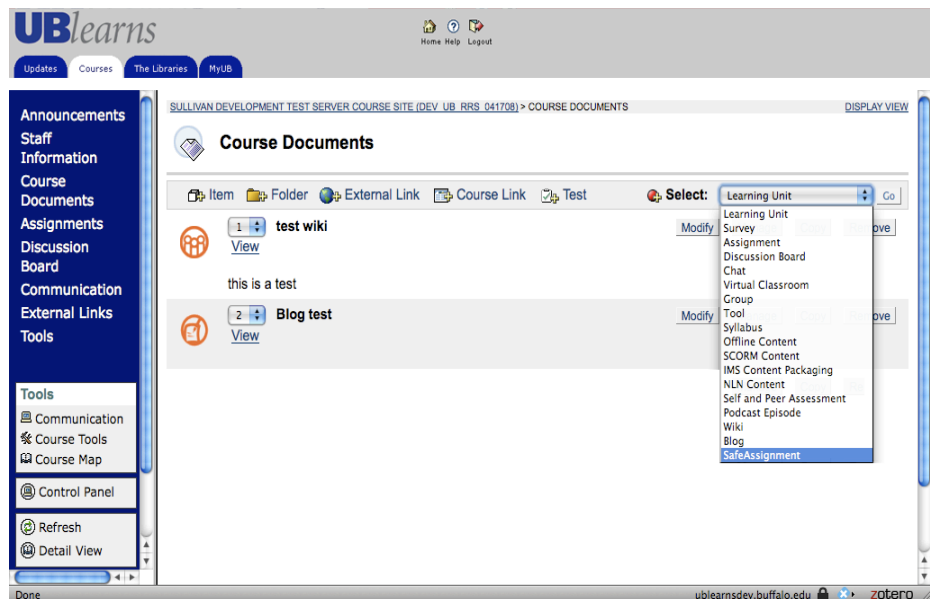
This summer, the UBlearns Support Team will integrate the SafeAssign™ plagiarism detection software tool in UBlearns. This tool will enable students and faculty to submit papers through UBlearns to detect whether passages – or even entire papers – are directly copied from original sources. The uploaded papers are checked against several databases of source material – including:

- The Internet
- Proquest/ABI Inform (a database of articles from the 1990s to the present, updated weekly)
- Global Reference database (to which students can voluntarily submit their work to detect possible sources of plagiarism)
- The University at Buffalo Institutional Database (an internal database that will be built up over time through the UBlearns system)

Most common document file types can be updated to SafeAssign™ – including Microsoft Word, Open Office, PDFs, plain text, rich text, and HTML Web pages.

Using SafeAssign™ in UBlearns

- Click the Edit View link (located in the top right corner) within any course Content Area,
 - Select “SafeAssignment” from the Select drop-down menu the Action Bar.
- Note: A “draft” option can be selected in order to allow students to check rough drafts prior to submission – which will preclude their work from being included in the UB Institutional Database.



Viewing Student SafeAssign™ Submissions

- Select “SafeAssign™” from the Course Tools section of the Control Panel in UBlearns
- Select “View” – and the class roster will appear with submission timestamps and a percentage of how much of the document “matched” existing content from the databases polled for matches

The screenshot shows the UBlearns interface for viewing SafeAssign submissions. At the top, there are navigation tabs for Updates, Courses, The Libraries, and MyUB. Below this, the breadcrumb trail reads: BYRNES DEVELOPMENT SERVER COURSE SITE (DEV UB LV@BYRNES_062308) > CONTROL PANEL > SAFEASSIGN > SAFEASSIGNMENTS. The main content area is titled 'SafeAssignments' and includes a 'View SafeAssignment' link. Below this, the specific assignment is identified as 'Safe Assignment 101'. A 'Download' button is provided for downloading all submitted papers as a ZIP-archive. A table displays submission records for 4 users, showing columns for Student ID, Student Name, Text, File, Matching, SA Report, and Submitted. The table lists three test submissions for 'Sullivan, Robin' and 'Test, Student1-3', all with a matching percentage of 0% and submitted on April 23, 2009. A 'Done' button is located at the bottom of the table.

Student ID	Student Name	Text	File	Matching	SA Report	Submitted
	Sullivan, Robin	-	-	-	-	-
	Test, Student1			-	-	Thu Apr 23 16:50:25 EDT 2009 Clear Attempt
	Test, Student2			-	-	Thu Apr 23 16:56:30 EDT 2009 Clear Attempt
	Test, Student3			-	-	Thu Apr 23 16:50:25 EDT 2009 Clear Attempt

A report is generated with a unique paper ID, and cites sources if suspect content is detected. It is important to recognize that a “match” does not necessarily mean that the student is guilty of plagiarism; rather, it indicates a “match” where a citation should be reviewed, or where a citation was innocently neglected.

The UBlearns Faculty Advisory Committee reviewed SafeAssign™, and compared the tool’s features with UB’s current plagiarism detection software tool (Turnitin™) – which is scheduled for service sunset at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Early testing on the development server by the UBlearns Support Team and the Advisory Committee provided no definitive conclusion that any one tool is superior to another. (In some instances, SafeAssign™ flagged suspect content where Turnitin™ did not, and vice versa.) This led to a broader discussion regarding the nature of departmental and university-wide policies that guide an instructor’s response to suspected plagiarism – and how instructors can leverage plagiarism detection tools to facilitate broader conversations with students about academic integrity.

The Teaching & Learning Center will host SafeAssign™ training workshops for faculty and students this summer – and will work with academic departments and faculty committees to spearhead a larger series of campus conversations regarding academic integrity and plagiarism detection.

Workshops and Help

To view the schedule and register for upcoming UBlearns workshops, go to ubtlc.buffalo.edu/workshops

Software and technical support: ublearns@buffalo.edu or 645-2803

Course consultation and instruction: ubtlc@buffalo.edu or 645-7700

Online Help: ublearns.buffalo.edu/help ■

Faculty Interest in Clickers Is Rising

by Jean Haungs, Turning Technologies Intern, Teaching & Learning Center, and Roberta (Robin) Sullivan, Instructional Designer, Teaching & Learning Center

Classroom response systems, also known as "clickers", have recently attracted increased attention from faculty by enhancing the student learning experience through interactive engagement during lectures. In addition to traditional course applications, clickers have been used to poll participants during several high profile events, including UB's Climate Action and Sustainability Forums, Buffalo City Planning and Teacher Training sessions through UB's Urban Design Project, and the MoneySKILL Mania quiz-show for area high schools.

UB has standardized on the Turning Technologies' clicker which works as a complete hardware and software system. Clicker receivers are installed in the majority of university classrooms and are as simple to use as an everyday flash drive. TurningPoint software is freely downloadable and integrates seamlessly with PowerPoint™. TurningPoint Anywhere™ works in complement with other software and allows for verbal "on-the-spot" questions. Some instructors may find the Turning Technologies' extensive online Learning Community a useful resource (<http://www.turningtechnologies.com/audienceresponsecommunity.cfm>). The instructor-led, web-based training sessions cover a broad range of Clicker features and functionality. Turning Technologies has also sponsored a student internship through UB. Jean Haungs, a graduate student in the Department of Library and Information Studies has provided optimum levels of support for those who have chosen to use clickers this past semester.

The UBclicks website is brimming with information that makes implementing this technology fast and easy. Included on the UBclicks site is an extensive guide that links to clicker research, journal articles, and discipline focused resources to locate information relating to the use of clickers in education. Robin Sullivan, Instructional Designer with the Teaching & Learning Center, has recently published an article in The Journal of Educational Technology Systems, "Principles for Constructing Good Clicker Questions: Going Beyond Rote Learning and Stimulating Active Engagement with Course Content," that was originally presented at the SUNY Conference on Instructional Technologies (CIT). This paper has also recently been presented at the Lilly national educational conference. Sessions similar to this have been presented to numerous UB faculty as TLC discussion forums; and can be scheduled for presentation in departments on request.

The Teaching & Learning Center conducts several workshops each semester to introduce faculty to clickers and to assist in designing effective clicker questions, making these interactive devices an invaluable educational tool. Faculty who have attended these workshops have commented on just "how easy this technology is to use" and have expressed that they "certainly see using it in the future."

If you'd like more information on using clickers, visit the UBclicks website at (<http://ubit.buffalo.edu/ubclicks>). If you're interested in learning more about using clickers or attending an upcoming workshop, please visit (<http://www.ubtlc.buffalo.edu>) or contact the Teaching & Learning Center (ubtlc@buffalo.edu or 645-7700).



CLICKERS in the Classroom

Faculty, make your lectures more engaging
by increasing student participation

- Clickers make learning fun
- Clickers increase understanding
- Clickers inspire discussion

For more information:
 Email: ubclicks@buffalo.edu
 Website: <http://ubit.buffalo.edu/ubclicks>

Or contact: Teaching & Learning Center
 212 Capen Hall, Office of the Provost
 Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
 University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260
 (716) 645-7700 ubtlc@buffalo.edu

UBlearns System Update

UBlearns Scheduled Application Upgrade

We want to ensure all UBlearns instructors are aware of the planned service outage of Blackboard on UBlearns prior to the start of the Summer 2009 semester. UBlearns will be unavailable on Friday, May 15th from 11:00 PM to 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 16th for a scheduled application upgrade.

This upgrade is important to keep UBlearns application current. Additionally, this upgrade includes the launch of SafeAssign plagiarism detection building block, security enhancements, Grade Center improvements and the addition of Internet Explorer version 8 as a supported browser.

UBlearns Course Enrollment Changeover

On Monday, May 18th, 2009, UBlearns student enrollments for Spring 2009 course sites will be disabled in preparation for the Summer 2009 semester. Instructors will continue to have access to course content only, not to student submissions or grades. This applies to course sites enabled through the UBlearns Course Setup and not to administrative-based course sites.

UBlearns Course Setup allows for management of past semester course site enrollments that appear under the Course tab. Instructors may grant access to single students to resolve a grade of incomplete, or an entire class roster for the review of grades and student submissions. Please see the UBlearns help document "student access to past semester courses" for additional details.

UBlearns Spring 2008 Course Removal

In accordance with the UBlearns Data Management Policy, Spring 2008 course sites will be removed on Monday, June 15th 2009.

UBlearns is a dynamic and growing instructional tool that delivers course content and fosters learning in a real-time on-line environment. As system maintainers, our goal is to keep UBlearns stable and equipped for growth. Proactively removing old course data on the system helps fulfill that goal and makes space for new courses that demand increasingly complex and data-rich content. In accordance with UB's Undergraduate Academic Policy regarding Incomplete Grades, courses will remain available to instructors on the UBlearns system for a maximum period of 12 months after the semester ends. Course sites reaching the 12 month threshold will be automatically removed from the system based on the following timetable:

Semester Removal Date (the following academic year)	
Fall courses	January 15
Spring courses	June 15
Summer courses	September 15

The automatic removal period will be scheduled and announced to UBlearns instructors in advance. Additionally, scheduled removal dates for each course are listed on UBlearns Course Setup.

UBlearns Faculty Advisory Committee

The UBlearns Faculty Advisory Committee provides guidance on issues, policies and technology that impact the UBlearns course management service. The committee represents a broad range of academic interests across the campus community.

Current Committee members are Jason Adsit, Jennifer Austin, Kathleen Boje, Kenneth Ehrenberg, Richard Feero, Peter Horvath, Janice Jones, Denise Krause, Teresa Miller, David Murray, Judith Robinson, Lisa Stephens, Robin Sullivan, Athena Tsembelis, Tiffany Walsh, and Jennifer Zirnheld.

For more information, contact Lisa Stephens, Committee Chair, at stephens@buffalo.edu or 645-6522. ■

UBlearns Grade Center & UB Web Grading

End of the semester is near. If you're using the *UBlearns* Grade Center you still need to upload your grades to the official UB Web Grading website (<http://myub.buffalo.edu/webgrd>).

The *UBlearns* Grade Center is useful for tracking grades throughout the semester for a particular course. Grades must be uploaded to the official UB Web Grading website at the end of the semester. Follow these steps to upload your *UBlearns* grades to UB Web Grading.

You need to modify the *UBlearns* Grade Center to make the Student ID the first column:

1. Go to Control Panel > Grade Center.
2. Select Manage > Organize Grade Center.
3. Drag the first cell next to Student ID up to the top.

A+ is not a valid official grade for UB Web Grading. The grade field cannot include an A+. If the *UBlearns* automatic letter grading schema was used, follow the steps below:

1. Go to Control Panel > Grade Center.
2. Select Manage > Grading Schemas.
3. Select the Remove button across from the row corresponding with the A letter grade. Then modify the A+ grade to be A.

Note: When using Internet Explorer, you must instead remove the row for the "F" grade and then modify the rest of the letter grades accordingly.

To download grades from the Grade Center, follow these steps:

1. Click Manage in the Action Bar of the Grade Center.
2. Select Download from the Action Link menu.
3. Using the radio buttons, select the data to download.
4. Select to save the file as Comma delimited format, which is compatible with the official UB Web Grading system.
5. Select the location for the download.
6. Click Submit to finish the download.

Upload grades to UB Web Grading:

1. Go to the UB Web Grading website.
2. Choose the option for uploading a text file.
3. Follow the onscreen prompts to submit and verify grades.

The *UBlearns* Help website provides instructions on doing this:

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/services/ublearns/documentation/faculty/07assessmentsSurveys/webGradingUpdate.htm>



SHOW ME HOW

UBlearns update is a newsletter for faculty and staff to share knowledge about teaching and learning using UB's centrally supported course management environment. *UBlearns* Update is a joint publication of the *UBlearns* Advisory Group, the *UBlearns* Support Team, The Teaching & Learning Center and Academic Services, Computing and Information Technology. To submit articles for consideration, contact Jason Adsit (adsit@buffalo.edu). ■