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# From Academic Plagiarism to Information Literacy: Mediation in the Ethical Use of Information

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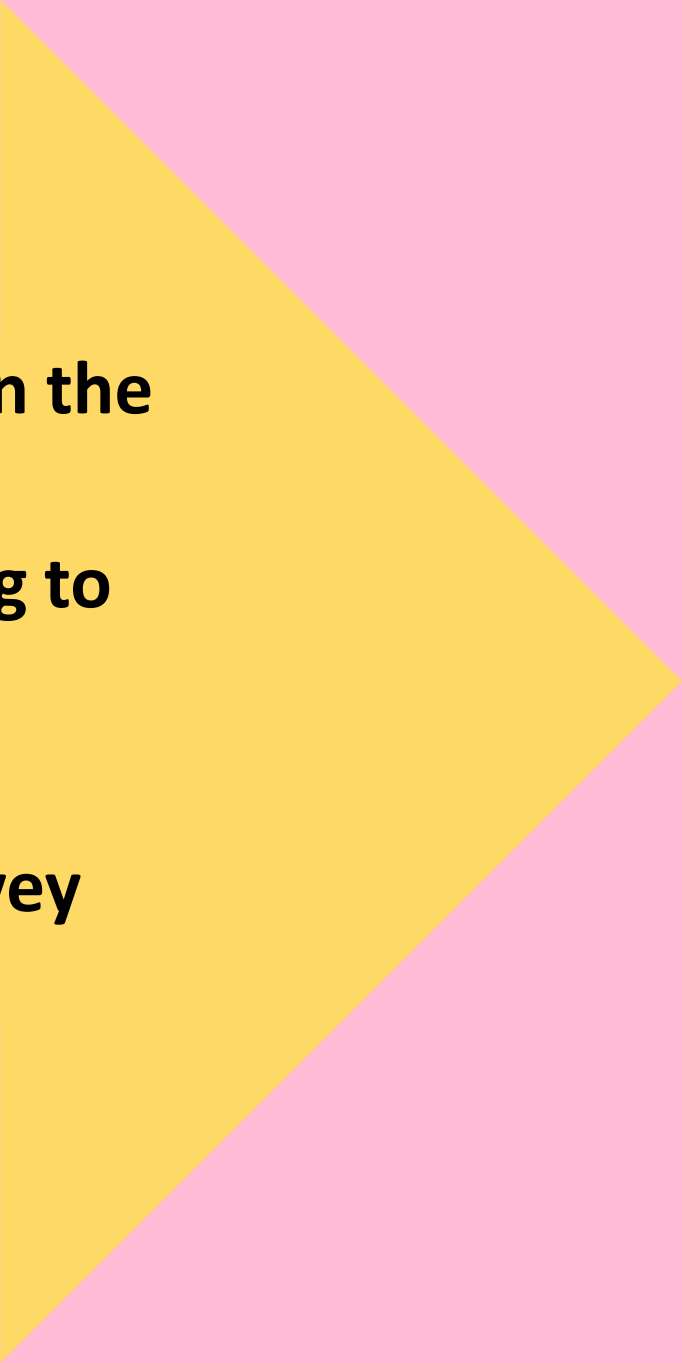




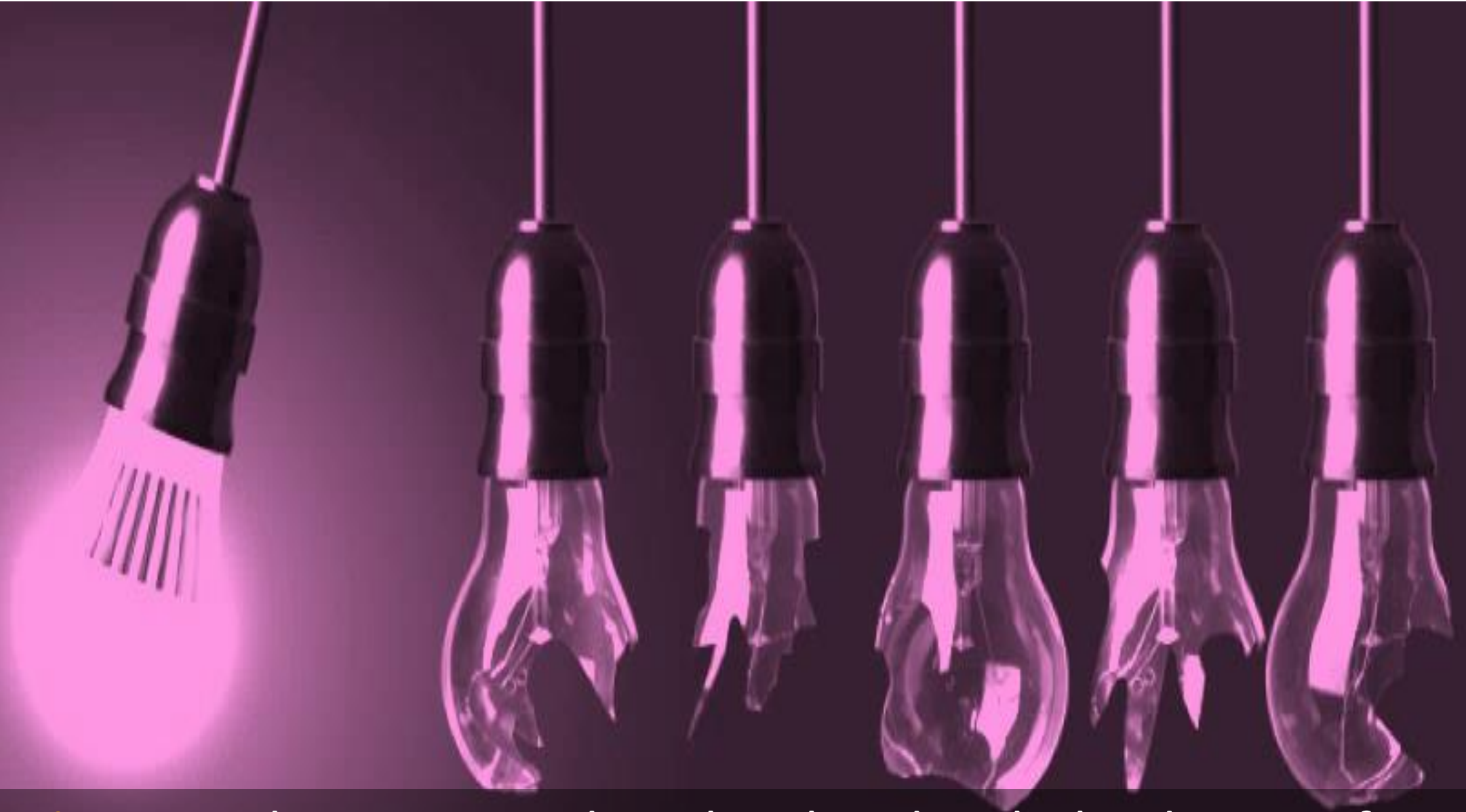
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- To know the role of Mexican university libraries in the prevention of academic plagiarism**
  - Identify the skills related to this matter pertaining to university librarians**
  - Information was obtained through an online survey**



**Plagiarism** is a phenomenon directly related with the degree of originality of the author and the *personality* that imprints to its creation

“Is defined as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without recognize its source”

*University of Berkeley ( 2017).*



# Characteristics



Lack of originality



No relationship of the  
personality of the author  
with the work or creation



Non-existence in the  
protection of Copyright

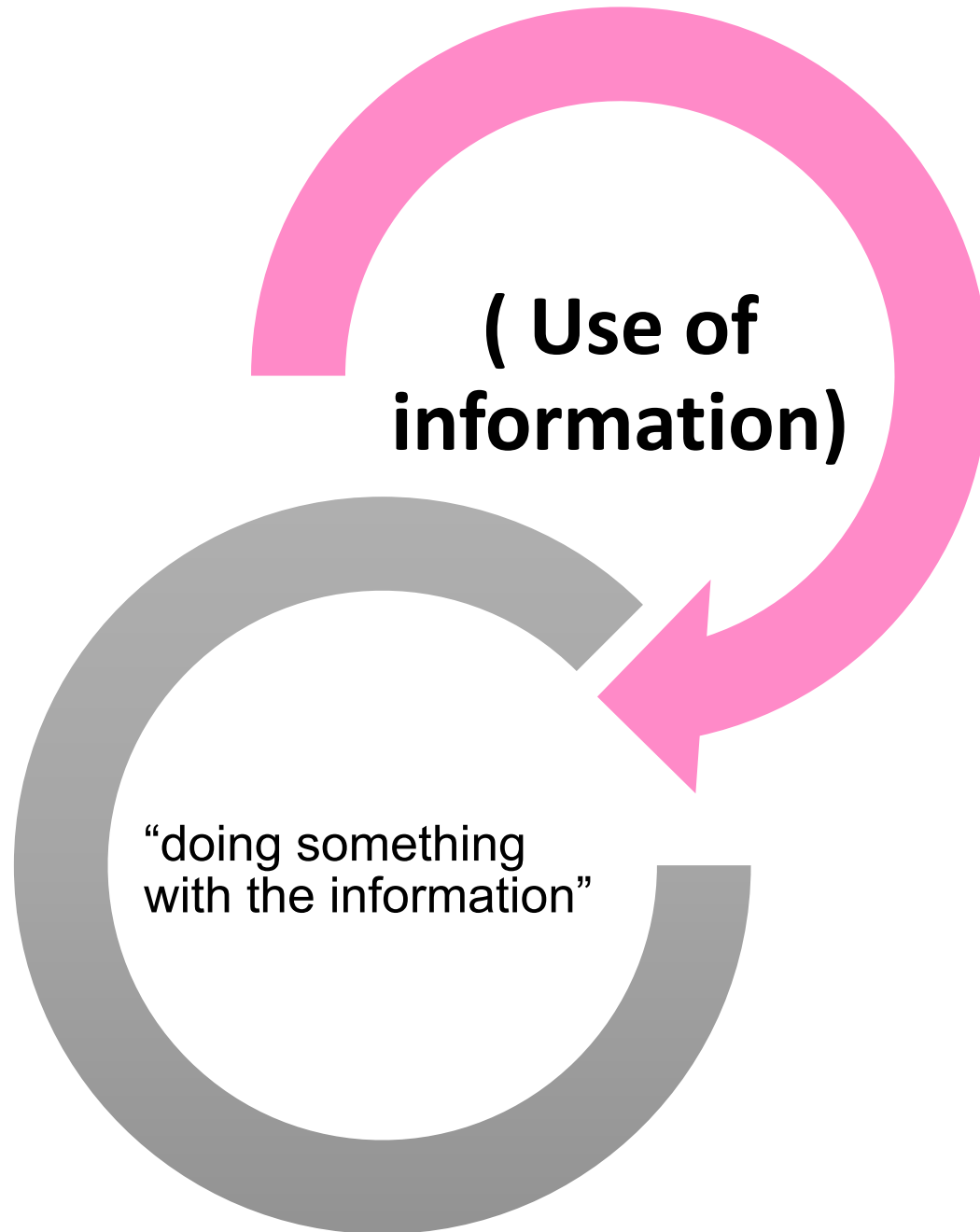
**"Full plagiarism:** Total copy of the original content without any change. Generally made by people who do not know the subject.

**Partial plagiarism:** The content is a mixture of two or three different sources, presents a high level of wrong paraphrase and synonyms.

**Minimalist plagiarism:** Plagiarist focuses on the ideas, concepts and opinions of the text. For many it's not considered as plagiarism, hence the confusion. It can be assumed as the theft of ideas or reflections of another.

**Original source citation:** Provides information about the source, but omits data or certain information to retrieve the cited text or even gives false references.

**Self-plagiarism:** Perhaps the most debated, lies in the author intentionally deceiving his readers. Uses his own work (totally or partially), presenting the same idea in a different way"



- **Technique**
- **Skills**
- **Abilities**





- **Ethical use of information; challenges and perspectives in Mexican University Libraries**
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- Society expects **efficiency and rigor** for the recognition of intellectual property.
- Technologies are ahead on the regulation of plagiarism.
- “Universities must foresee mechanisms which inhibit the presentation, publication or distribution of third-party texts as their own works, since they are harmful acts to others work... the community and with profound social impact” [Morales, 2016].



How to avoid academic plagiarism if there is a wide access through Internet?



What strategies or mechanisms are made  
in Mexican Universities to stop or deal  
with this dishonest practice?

■

- **Literate:** Instructional efforts on information skills focus on the correct and ethical practices
- **Knowing our community:** Help to determine the ethical use of information, before implementing a pedagogical effort



## Public Metropolitan Universities in Mexico city:



- Skills
- Knowledge
- Attitudes

... related to **copyright** and the **use of information** of the librarians, as well as a **content revision of their IL programs** or other institutional efforts that address the topic.

Responses obtained were grouped into topic categories concerning:

## **Policies of prevention taken by university libraries:**

- **50%** do not have any strategy to prevent academic plagiarism at the moment
- **60%** does not contemplate the prevention of academic plagiarism on their policies
- **100%** considers some sanction regarding the academic plagiarism among its community



Responses obtained were grouped into topic categories concerning:

**Actions to prevent academic plagiarism driven by the libraries:**

- 80% do not offer any course, class or seminar intended to prevent academic plagiarism among their community

**Actions that do exist range from:**

- courses (induction, special classes, general),
- awareness campaigns among the community and the faculty,
- acquisition of software to detect plagiarism

**Types of sanctions when detecting academic plagiarism:**

Guidance

Analysis of the cases and the documents

Expulsion, among other administrative sanctions

Responses obtained were grouped into topic categories concerning:

### **Knowledge about the subject (by the librarians):**

- 80% do not have basic knowledge about copyright
- 100% claims to know about the ethical use of information
- 50% use the APA bibliographic style standards, the rest vary
- 66% are familiar with software that helps detect academic plagiarism
- 66% participate in some action to raise awareness among their community
- 50% do not participate in the process to evaluate actions of this type in their institution
- 66% of librarians are familiar with the Creative Commons licenses
- 100% claims to be familiar with Open Access
- 100% Support the belief that if a document is available in the Internet, does not imply it can be freely taken

Responses obtained were grouped into topic categories concerning:

## Information resources addressing plagiarism:

There are no information resources publicly available, about any literacy initiative to prevent academic plagiarism among these libraries and their communities.

The data shows that:

Mexican universities in the metropolitan area **need to play a more active role to prevent academic plagiarism among their communities**, as the present situation can be assumed as a lack of coordinated efforts and communication between the universities and their libraries, leaving the librarian outside the problem.

The data shows that:

The librarians recognize the necessity of been prepared about copyright to increase the possibility of effective intervention and strengthen the skills required to avoid the problem, since **neither the library staff nor their patrons seem to be aware about the mechanisms of prevention, decisions, consequences and penalties regarding academic plagiarism** are effective at their institutions.

The revision of the institution's *Ethical guidelines*, to have a wider area of action at the time of detecting academic plagiarism, generating a posture of faculty towards what they expect from the community.

**Information Literacy courses** (Topic concerning the ethical use information and practices for assuring it).

Acquisition of specialized **software for prevention**.

Academic plagiarism is a historical problem, however, currently technologies, especially the widespread use of the Internet, have modified certain practices in the use of information.

Mexican librarians have the opportunity to create new strategies and information literacy services to prevent this practice, guided by the ethical principles of their institution and providing the necessary skills, abilities and resources for the correct use of the information.



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*Grazie*

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