PlagScan

News Release
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OECD PISA Study Findings:
Stagnating Educational Performance Might Not Be Due To Inefficient Teaching Methods,
But Missing Time To Nurture And Foster Students' Full Potential

By automating certain processes in schools and education, teachers will get more time for educating creative writers and critical thinkers

(COLOGNE, Germany, December 2019) - **PlagScan, safeguard of academic integrity worldwide, sees the currently published OECD Study as an affirmation to intensify its quest for fair and equal education standards through its software. The OECD Study concludes that only one out of four students across all OECD countries is able to fully understand the meaning of the text they are reading. Could this bring up additional challenges in evaluating the quality of content and where its source is? For PlagScan, this clearly demonstrates the need to ensure nation-wide implementation of originality checking and authorship verification tools in schools across all OECD countries. By automating the process of finding uncited phrases and copies, as well as analyzing students literacy and writing skills, teachers will obtain more time to actually nurture and foster students' abilities.**

Literacy Skills and the Need to Understand a Text Before Writing One's Own Assignment

The currently published PISA study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the state of literary, mathematical and scientific skills of students in primary and secondary education draws a stagnating development of certain skills across all OECD countries[1]. Among them is are alarming literacy levels: Besides the 25% of students that are not able to identify the main idea in texts of moderate lengths[2], only 10% of all students can really mast complex reading and distinguish between fact and opinion.[3]

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[1] OECD (2019), *PISA 2018 Results (Volume I): What Students Know and Can Do*, PISA, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/5f07c754-en.

[2] OECD (2019), *PISA 2018: Insights and Interpretations,* PISA, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://www.oecd.org/pisa/PISA%202018%20Insights%20and%20Interpretations%20FINAL%20PDF.pdf

[3] OECD (2019), *PISA 2018 Results (Volume II): Where All Students Can Succeed*, PISA, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/b5fd1b8f-en.

Understanding the Pressure of Teachers

Teachers do teach in school, but they also need to assess and grade students performances. While 95% of all students across the OECD can access the Internet at home[4], teachers often face uncertainty if texts are really fully written by the student that claims it. In times of unlimited 'free' resources on the internet that can be copy/pasted into assignments, students are often tempted to take a shortcut. In schools where plagiarism detection software hasn't been implemented, teachers usually copy suspicious phrases into a search engine, and hope to uncover the source on the internet. This takes away a lot of time that could be dedicated to really evaluate a students work.

By automating the task of finding uncited or copied phrases and passages, teachers will get to understand the level of students literacy in order to nurture them.

Stylometry - More Than Authorship Verification

When evaluating every student's assignment that is digitally submitted to a teacher, PlagScan's software is also able to detect if the text was written by the student at all. Given the alarming increase in so called 'essay mills' online, as well as parents, siblings or friends that are willing to write a document for weaker students, authorship verification will also support teachers in their quest to detect cheating students.

Fair and Equal Education Standards - Because Every Student Can Change the World

"By actually catching students that try to take a shortcut, teachers actually support them in their individual development: Only if students learn to understand and then write text completely by themselves, they can develop into creative writers and critical thinkers," says Verena Kunz-Gehrmann, CMO of PlagScan. "The OECD Study is a tool to evaluate the current status of our education systems, and then do everything that is needed to provide every student with adequate education to unravel their full intellectual potential."

For more profound views on this topic, PlagScan's CEO Markus Goldbach is happy to discuss how with members of media how the PlagScan solution can have an impact on global education. Please reach out to press@plagscan.com or call +49 (0) 221 75988994 to arrange an interview.

General information on the technical background, further areas of application for companies and price models can be found at: www.plagscan.com

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[4] ibidem

About PlagScan

PlagScan is an education software provider, creating tools to safeguard Academic Integrity and Copyrights. We develop high-tech solutions in compliance with strict data security regulations since 2009 and our solutions serve more than 2,000 organizational customers worldwide. PlagScan educates students on the topic of plagiarism and academic integrity to maintain quality of education helping to educate original thinkers and writers.

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