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Guidelines for students about correct use of citation

Unfortunately, we occasionally experience that students are caught in plagiarism because of incorrect citation. Plagiarism is a serious matter, which can lead to expulsion from the university for a semester or more; see plagiarism.aau.dk. This short guideline describes the typical errors and how to avoid them. See also en.stopplagiat.nu for information about correct citation.

Error type 1: Instead of e.g. *Bohr (1913) states that "the number of electrons in an atom is deduced to be approximately equal to half the atomic weight"* you write *the number of electrons in an atom is deduced to be approximately equal to half the atomic weight (Bohr, 1913)*, where the text is copied (more or less) word-for-word from the reference without making quotation marks.

Error type 2: Copying (more or less) word-for-word from a source without stating the source; which means that you amplify error type 1 by only writing e.g. *the number of electrons in an atom is deduced to be approximately equal to half the atomic weight*, without stating (*Bohr, 1913*).

For both types of errors the reader is left with the clear impression that the formulation is one's own, which is a serious violation of the rules of plagiarism.

If you wish to repeat a formulation from a source, it must be clearly stated that the formulation is not one's own; e.g. by stating quotation marks around the copied text and clearly state the source, from whom the text derives.

It is also considered plagiarism if a formulation is made by changing or switching single words around in a formulation from a source or if you translate the formulation from one language to another.

In other words, all formulations in one's written work that do not consist of clearly stated citations from clearly marked sources must be one's own formulations.

Best regards

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Head of SICT