

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Policing plagiarism in China is helped by innovative software

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The science journal of Zhejiang University, designated as a key academic journal by the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation, was the first in China to sign up for CrossRef's plagiarism-screening service CrossCheck in October 2008 (*Nature* **466**, 167; 2010). We have since detected unoriginal material in a staggering 31% of papers submitted to the journal (692 of 2,233 submissions).

This has moved us to persuade authors, researchers and editors to pay more attention to the problem of plagiarism and to dispel misunderstandings arising from cultural differences (for instance, in ancient China, some students were encouraged to repeat the words of their masters in their own writing).

To this end, we have given more than a dozen lectures and written three papers in English and Chinese (including Y. H. Zhang *Learn. Publ.* **23**, 9–14; 2010) that were widely publicized in the Chinese state media (<http://www.sciencenet.cn>; in Chinese [Author, please provide the full weblink to the sciencenet.cn article publicizing your papers]) and reported in CrossRef's quarterly online news magazine (see [go.nature.com/icUwvh](http://go.nature.com/icUwvh)). We display additional information and the CrossCheck logo on our website to remind our authors of their ethical obligations.

Other Chinese journals are also policing plagiarism, using software launched in 2006 [Author, please check launch date - I found 2008?] by China's Academic Journals Electronic Publishing House and Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology in Beijing.

Thanks to such innovative software, we are well on the way to protecting original scientific ideas and discoveries as well as the rights of authors.

**Yuehong Zhang** *Journal of Zhejiang*