Who Owns This Text?

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APPENDIX A

Common Research Questions—Intellectual Property and Plagiarism

Faculty “Ownership” of Creative and Intellectual Work

1. What kinds of writing do you typically do as part of your scholarly and/or professional work? (May include production for classes or the public or writing computer code, for example, as well as written text.)

2. Do you produce this work individually or collaboratively?

3. What factors help you decide when to collaborate?

4. If you collaborate, how do you share credit for or ownership of your work?

5. What kinds of writing or other intellectual work are owned in your field? (For example, images, ideas, code, artifacts.)

6. What constitutes shared knowledge in your field?

7. How is ownership rewarded?

8. How do you decide what/how/when to give credit to others for their contributions to your work?

9. What purposes does citing or giving credit serve in your work and in the work of your field?

10. How do you give credit or attribute ownership in your field? (Think about features such as formal citation, shared authorship, acknowledgments, and the order of artists’ names.)

11. How did you learn to attribute ownership or give credit for others’ contributions?

1. Basic questions were adapted slightly for disciplinary context by each interview team.
Student “Ownership”

1. How are faculty creativity, scholarly production, ownership, and attribution similar to or different from student production, ownership, and attribution?

2. Do you expect your students to collaborate on your assignments? How do they acknowledge this collaboration?

3. What does the concept of shared knowledge mean to your students?

4. What errors in giving credit or attributing do you see in your students’ work? What constitutes plagiarism in your classes?

5. To what extent do you expect students in your upper-division courses to know and apply the conventions for attribution in your courses?

6. What consequences occur when they fail to attribute appropriately?

7. What roles do you play in teaching your students about ownership and giving credit for others’ contributions to their work?

The Future

1. With what questions about ownership/attribution does your field currently wrestle?

2. What new questions do you anticipate? What implications do these questions/directions have for your teaching?