On proper citing

Godmar Back

Virginia Tech

On Plagiarism

- Constitution of the Graduate Honor System, Appendix IIIa: Plagiarism
- "Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, ideas, and/**or** thoughts of another **and** passing off same as one's own, original work."
- Plagiarism = copying of
  (language || structure || ideas || thoughts) && misrepresenting

Virginia Tech

CS 5204 Fall 2005   11/14/2005   2

Types of Plagiarism

- Flagrant Plagiarism
  - Verbatim copying
- Plagiarism through Paraphrasing
- Plagiarism of an idea

- The problem of common knowledge

Virginia Tech

CS 5204 Fall 2005   11/14/2005   3

Documentation

- "The purpose of documenting a source is first to give proper credit to others for their original words, thoughts, and ideas, and second to enable the interested reader to locate the original source in order to read or study further."

Virginia Tech

CS 5204 Fall 2005   11/14/2005   4

Documentation (cont'd)

- Indicating Quotations:
  - "Whenever the **exact wording of a source** appears in a student paper, that fact must be made apparent to the reader."
  - "Brief quotations should be enclosed in quotation marks. The student should be careful to denote precisely where the source's exact wording begins and ends by the appropriate placing of opening and closing quotation marks."
  - "Longer quotations (of more than three lines) should be indented ten spaces from the left-hand margin. Again, the beginning and ending of quoted material should be clearly indicated."

Virginia Tech

CS 5204 Fall 2005   11/14/2005   5

Citations

- "Immediately following every piece of quoted or paraphrased material, some type of reference is required." [VT-GHS]
  - VT-GHS: Virginia Tech University Council, Constitution of the graduate honor system
- For survey papers, let's use ACM Style
- Survey papers should be no more than 8 pages in ACM Conference Style
  - http://www.acm.org/sigs/pubs/proceed/template.html

Virginia Tech

CS 5204 Fall 2005   11/14/2005   6

Comments

- If I properly document everything, will I get credit for what I've copied?
  - No: you get credit for those parts of your paper that are not copied, i.e., that constitute your own work.
- Considering that this is a survey paper, then what do I get credit for?
  - (basic) for explaining concepts & systems in your own words (while crediting the idea using citations)
  - (advanced) for comparing, contrasting, identifying overarching concepts/generalizing, synthesizing, evaluating.

Virginia Tech   CS 5204 Fall 2005   11/14/2005   7

2