**Introduction**

Much has been written on the theme of plagiarism by students, particularly in the context of North American experience. This paper reviews that literature in order to discover what lessons it holds for institutional policy and practice within the institutions of higher education in the UK.

As well as being ‘the problem that won’t go away’ (Paldy, 1996), plagiarism is a problem that is growing bigger. There is mounting evidence that student cheating in general, and plagiarism in particular, are becoming more common and more widespread, encouraging to speak of ‘epidemic cheating’. This evidence is multi-dimensional, coming from many countries, including the USA (White, 1993), the UK (Ashworth, Bannister, & Thorne, 1997), Southern Africa (Weeks, 2001), embracing both undergraduate and postgraduate students and including public and higher institutions of education, large and small. The emphasis in this paper is on the causes and consequences of student plagiarism.

# Bibliography

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