

## **VeriCite Plagiarism detection software Pilot**

In the spring of 2017 CR piloted the VeriCite Plagiarism detection software as recommended by the DEPC (Distance Ed Planning Committee) and sponsored by the OEI (Online Education Initiative). VeriCite was considered a possible addition to or replacement of our current software Turnitin. We initially had 14 volunteers and 9 reported back their experiences. Below are the summarized results as reported at the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 academic senate meeting by Lisa Sayles (DE Faculty Coordinator) and Reno Giovannetti (Instructional technologist)

**Vericite Pilot** – Survey results. Full results available at the end of this report

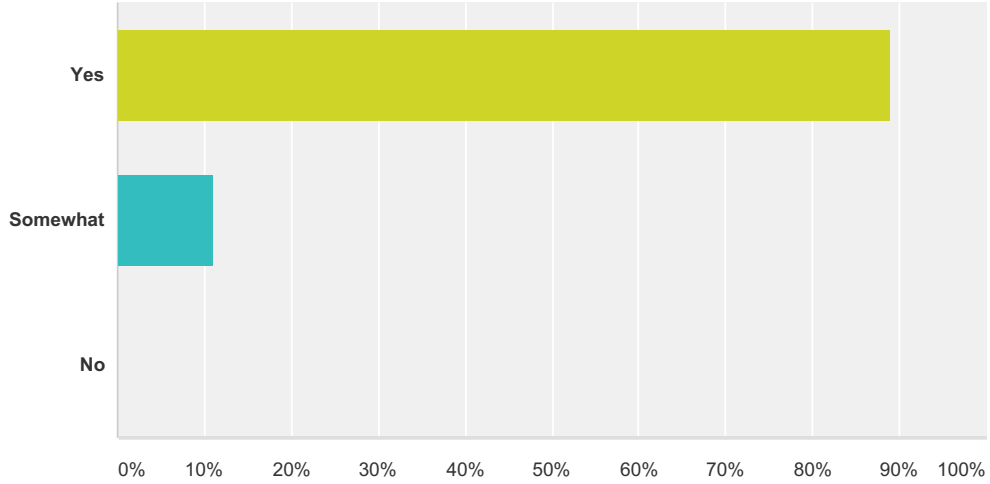
1. Most felt that they used VeriCite enough to form or somewhat form an opinion.
2. 5 said that they would recommend VeriCite, 2 were unsure, and 2 would not – however, **this flipped** for the next question, and there were significant qualifications later.
3. 5 said they would choose Turnitin, 4 would choose Vericite
4. Comment summary –
  - a. A plagiarism tool is important
  - b. They like the robust Turnitin reports, but not the integration in Canvas
  - c. They like the ease of Vericite integration, but Vericite reports are not intuitive to use or very substantial.

**Conclusion** – Vericite will likely become more robust over time given their new relationship with OEI. If we had to make a recommendation now –

- d. We don't think that there is enough support to recommend switching from Turnitin to VeriCite at this time.
- e. Ideally, we would be able to offer both options to instructors.
- f. We should revisit this issue at a later date.

### Q1 Do you feel you were able to use VeriCite and form an opinion about its performance and usability?

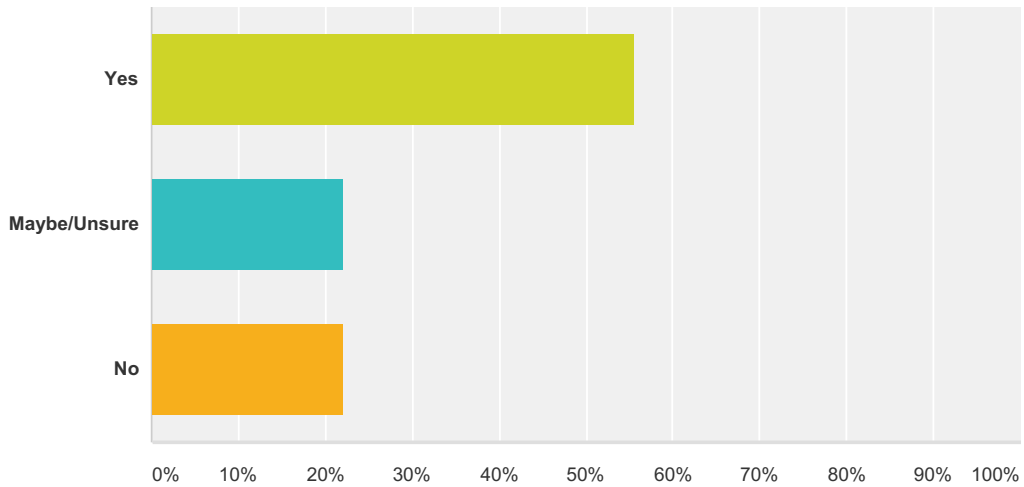
Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.89% 8
Somewhat	11.11% 1
No	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

### Q2 Would you recommend VeriCite as a good tool to use with Canvas?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
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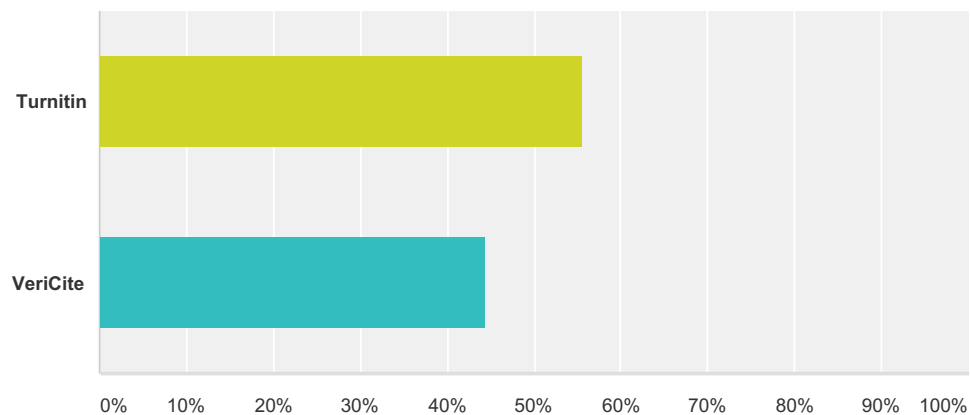
## VeriCite Pilot Feedback

Yes	55.56%	5
Maybe/Unsure	22.22%	2
No	22.22%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

#	Why or Why Not:	Date
1	For purposes of preventing and identifying student plagiarism VeriCite was fine.	4/27/2017 12:39 AM
2	Easy to access student reports and cross check with other sources.	4/25/2017 10:22 AM
3	I like that VeriCite integrates seamlessly with Canvas and isn't glitchy. Students haven't complained at all about tech problems, like often happens with Turnitin. It seems to do a good job of finding matches at the institution, and I like that it has dynamic updating, where each time you access the report it updates. Although I did feel impatient waiting for the reports to generate. The reports were not easy for me to read, and didn't feel intuitive to use.	4/19/2017 8:29 AM
4	VeriCite enabled me to quickly observe if student papers had been overtly plagiarized, and allowed me to investigate the sentences or passages that appeared to have been copied. Furthermore, it showed me the results from where these phrases may have been taken from. In my case, the tool highlighted quotations, which were ruled out of plagiarism. It did give me peace of mind, however, that I could quickly identify and rectify problems.	4/18/2017 4:44 AM
5	Integration was flawless, except for one random event when a student submitted her paper when Canvas was down (for 5 minutes)...and that was a hassle. Reno the Rockstar saved the day, though.	4/18/2017 3:50 AM
6	I found the Vericite display difficult to use. The distinctions with the color coding were hard to discern. The links between matches and their sources were not easy to uncover. I use this kind of software not just to hunt out "cheating," but also to help students avoid inadvertent plagiarism (when they fail to fully paraphrase ideas from their readings). The Vericite display made this harder. Although Vericite may blend better with Canvas than Turnitin has, I found it an inferior product overall.	4/18/2017 2:24 AM
7	My students did not have the same types of submission issues with VeriCite as they did with Turnitin, but the VeriCite reports were not as complete as the Turnitin reports.	4/18/2017 2:19 AM
8	There are a number of reasons. I will be preparing a detailed report after the pilot is over. One reason is that VC does not allow for grading with rubrics.	4/18/2017 2:09 AM

### Q3 If you had to choose between using VeriCite and Turnitin which tool would you choose.

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Turnitin	55.56% <span style="float: right;">5</span>

## VeriCite Pilot Feedback

VeriCite	44.44%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

#	Why	Date
1	I have used Turnitin.com during multiple semesters with multiple class sections and experienced multiple and increasing problems with its Canvas interface. This semester VeriCite functioned smoothly; there were no problems. Two downsides to VeriCite compared to Turnitin are: the actual plagiarism report is easier to read in Turnitin.com and Turnitin.com shows the word count but (I believe) VeriCite does not. However Turnitin's interface with Canvas is so dysfunctional and has caused so many problems in the past year or so that I much prefer VeriCite because it functions smoothly.	4/28/2017 7:10 AM
2	Turnitin provided an easier to navigate document with clearly identified links to plagiarism sources. VeriCite is satisfactory but not robust.	4/27/2017 8:39 AM
3	I used Turnitin for many year and it just seemed cumbersome and hard to really use without going to their main site. I know professors who have a Turnitin site of their own and use ti with great success, but VeriCite seems much more configured to the Canvas learning management system.	4/25/2017 6:22 PM
4	This is a tough question because I like Turnitin better as a tool, but it doesn't work well in Canvas so students struggle with tech issues, or I can't rely on the integration and the correct paper showing up in speedgrader. The only way to make it work properly is to have students access the Turnitin site directly which is ridiculous. It doesn't support student success in the online course to require students to log in to sites outside of Canvas. It is enough for them to learn to navigate the Canvas environment. Vericite works seamlessly in Canvas, and it was a relief not to have constant tech issues with a plagiarism tool like I do with Turnitin, but it doesn't seem like a very robust tool at this stage. I would be okay with it, but not very enthusiastic.	4/19/2017 4:29 PM
5	I have not used Turnitin, and VeriCite seemed very easy to use. I did not have to create a user profile like Turnitin requires.	4/18/2017 12:44 PM
6	I would choose VeriCite, but only because it was cheaper and it integrated easily into Canvas (which reduced cognitive load for my students). But...I like Turnitin's originality reports much better. They were more instructive and helpful. There were many times I'd click on a marked/"plagiarized" sentence in the VeriCite report, and the source wasn't available for some reason. Then (often), if the sentence DID pop up, it was super WEIRD...I would be confused why VeriCite thought it was plagiarized. However- I might just need to do a better job setting up the parameters in VeriCite...so perhaps training would help. In Turnitin I could click on a marked sentence and the source pops up right there, unless it was from another student paper. But it was SOOOOOO easy to activate in Canvas (and I know it is less expensive)- so I think it is a go.	4/18/2017 11:50 AM
7	Turnitin's database is now huge and will perhaps be more reliable than Vericite's. I worry with the new software that my prior students' work, all in the Turnitin database, will be invisible to Vericite and potentially available for plagiarism. The Turnitin display is superior, easier for me to understand. I've tried to account for the familiarity factor as I've made that judgment, and I still prefer the way Turnitin links student text to matched sources.	4/18/2017 10:24 AM
8	I would choose Turnitin for its more robust similarity reports but ONLY if it could be more seamlessly integrated into Canvas. Students often had difficulty submitting assignments with Turnitin and I did not have those issues with Vericite.	4/18/2017 10:19 AM
9	See note #2	4/18/2017 10:09 AM

### Q4 Do you have any other thoughts about online plagiarism detection generally, or Vericite or Turnitin specifically?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	Online plagiarism detection software is a powerful tool to prevent student plagiarism of online resources. Either VeriCite or Turnitin is important for my classes, Turnitin is superior to VeriCite. Nevertheless, if Turnitin costs are significantly greater than a VeriCite license, I'd recommend VeriCite.	4/27/2017 8:39 AM

## VeriCite Pilot Feedback

2	Both sites offer needed tools to detect and verify if plagiarism is occurring. Instructors in all disciplines need these tools to make our job easier in facilitating true student learning and success. Thanks for making Turnitin, and now VeriCite, available to the CR community!	4/25/2017 6:22 PM
3	I think that it is very important to have a plagiarism tool, especially for online instructors. It is a plagiarism deterrent, saves instructor's time, and is a useful learning tool for students. It is very frustrating that Turnitin once worked really well, and now does not. I like the idea of using a tool that OEI is using and I think that VeriCite will likely evolve into a good option down the road, but for now it seems limited. I am disappointed with both tools for different reasons, though either would be better than nothing.	4/19/2017 4:29 PM
4	I usually rely on my own intuition and observations to identify plagiarism. So far, that has not failed me. That being said, I find it comforting to have a tool that may reaffirm my suspicions, and give me concrete evidence (web search results) to back them up.	4/18/2017 12:44 PM
5	Plagiarism detection software is very important to the English department. It's very important to my work teaching composition. If the products were equal, I would be all for using a cheaper product. But they don't seem equal to me so far. I think I would feel hindered in my ability to teach transfer-level courses if I could only use Vericite.	4/18/2017 10:24 AM
6	I really like having a plagiarism detection tool, but it needs to have both detailed reports and seamless integration with Canvas.	4/18/2017 10:19 AM
7	See note #2	4/18/2017 10:09 AM