



# Good academic practice

The different scientific disciplines are in constant exchange with each other. Theses, arguments, and findings that were conducted by an individual scholar, or in a team are continuously commented on, criticised, and refined by other scholars.

In this scientific process, recognition of and respect for the other scholar's effort is indispensable. The German concept of academics regards the latter as author ("Urheber") of the scholarly text, whose theses, arguments and findings are part of his or her intellectual property ("geistiges Eigentum"), which is legally protected.

Thus, when discussing someone else's thoughts in a written work, you always have to indicate this authorship by means of specifying to the source you used, either as in-text-reference, or in a footnote.

## Plagiarism

If you use theses, arguments and findings by another author without referring to him or her as original source, you commit plagiarism, as you pretend these thoughts were yours. You thus steal intellectual property. In Germany this is regarded as wilful deceit, which not only disregards the scholarly efforts of others, but will furthermore disappoint your academic teachers. Intended plagiarism is a legal offence, and may result in exmatriculation.

Should you have any questions with regards to academic writing and plagiarism, please contact the FSU Writing Center. Further Information on its work and office hours may be found on its homepage: [www.schreibenlernen.uni-jena.de](http://www.schreibenlernen.uni-jena.de)

