

# e-Marking with Canvas: October 2018

There are two current integrations of Turnitin with Canvas, old and new. The former is the existing integration that has been used for a number of years, previously within Blackboard. The new integration was released to staff on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 after a period of testing.

Turnitin do not intend to make any further developments to the old integration and will focus the development on the new integration. This would indicate that the old integration will be withdrawn in the future.

## **1. Old integration: The Turnitin Grademark e-marking**

This is the original integration and combines a marking tool and plagiarism detection within one interface.

There are recognised disadvantages associated with sub-optimal connections between Canvas and Turnitin:

- Issues maintaining settings
- Absence of anonymity
- Less control of the release of the originality report to students
- Issues with students finding feedback
- Disruptions to Turnitin availability
- Issues with grade transfer into Canvas Grades

Almost all of these issues are fully addressed by the new integration.

## **2. New integration: Canvas Speedgrader e-marking with Turnitin for plagiarism detection**

Canvas have been working on a 'Plagiarism Framework' that allows Turnitin to integrate with Canvas more seamlessly. This uses a deeper integration of the Canvas Assignment tool and incorporates all the settings for a Canvas/Turnitin assignment on one page. Using this integration, students can submit their assignments into the Canvas interface with Turnitin working invisibly in the background; teachers can access the Turnitin originality scores when they use Canvas Speedgrader. This new integration does not currently allow staff to mark and provide feedback using Turnitin Grademark. It is only for providing a link to Turnitin originality reports.

### ***Maintaining settings***

With the new integration, all of the settings are visible on the same page, and not in two different locations as in the original integration. The number of settings are also reduced because there are no Turnitin settings for online marking. The new integration is far easier for students. It looks exactly the same as a normal Canvas submission, with the exception of an additional tick box to say that they accept Turnitin's terms of use.

### ***Anonymity***

The current anonymity process within Canvas does not change the anonymity within Turnitin; you can hide the names in the Speedgrader but see the name in the Turnitin report with the new integration.

### ***Control of the Release of the Originality Report to the Student***

In the new integration, staff have four clear settings to control student access. However, the setting for 'immediately' means that students can resubmit as many times as they like. Please note: each resubmission is available via the Speedgrader tool in Canvas, so it is possible to view all submissions. When an assignment is muted for marking, students no longer have access to the originality report.

### ***Students Finding Feedback***

If staff wish to continue using Turnitin to provide feedback, we strongly advise that you make students aware of how they access it as issues have arisen in the past.

### ***Turnitin availability***

There has been a total unplanned outage for 2018 of 328 minutes to date. This is far higher than any disruption affecting Canvas so far. The University has no control over Turnitin system availability; it is therefore important that any staff wishing to use this service accommodate the possibility that the system could be unavailable for a number of hours, during the critical marking period.

This issue may still affect both the original and new integration. However, the new integration is designed differently so that Canvas receives the uploaded file first and then passes onto Turnitin. This means that there is a reduced risk of staff marking an old version of the file, and having online marking disrupted by a Turnitin outage. Students can also access their feedback regardless of Turnitin availability.

### ***Grade Transfer***

Occasionally, marks do not transfer successfully from the old Turnitin integration into the Canvas Gradebook. Staff continuing to mark in Turnitin must check both systems to ensure that the data has been accurately passed into Canvas.

### **Marking in Turnitin Grademark versus Canvas Speedgrader**

Here are the key differences in marking and feedback between each tool.

#### ***1. QuickMarks.***

Turnitin has a drag and drop annotation palette that allows tutors to reuse a personal bank of comments when annotating student work. There is no equivalent feature in Speedgrader.

#### ***2. Speech to Text.***

Speedgrader in the Chrome browser allows the tutor to speak into the general comments box, this is then converted to text. Tutors with a strong accent may find the voice recognition inaccurate.

#### ***3. Clearer Interface.***

Turnitin displays the feedback tools in a clearer more effective way to tutors. Certain aspects of Speedgrader, including the rubrics, are less well designed.

#### ***4. Records of Student Access to Feedback***

Turnitin displays to the tutor which students have visited the feedback in Turnitin. This could be useful in helping the staff member identify students who may not be engaging in their course. Canvas Speedgrader does not currently offer this.

#### ***5. Students Accessing Feedback.***

It is easier for the student to find the feedback left in Canvas SpeedGrader than Turnitin.

#### ***6. Differentiated Marking.***

The Turnitin framework can be developed to allow tutors to specify different release dates for different students, e.g. on different programmes. This functionality is not available using the original Turnitin integration at LJMU. The LJMU TEL team have the potential to develop in-house extensions to Canvas Speedgrader so that staff and students see their feedback on a programme level. However, Turnitin Grademark feedback would not be able to be used in these developments as there is no way to integrate into their database.

### **Potential Developments to Canvas Speedgrader**

1. Reporting of student access to feedback, allowing tutors to see which students have accessed feedback.
2. Student global view of feedback, allowing students to see all of the feedback on canvas in one page.
3. Tutee feedback report, allowing tutors to see all the feedback in canvas provided for a single student.
4. Tutor rubric analysis report, allowing tutors to review which criteria students have struggled with.

### **Summary**

The new integration of Canvas Speedgrader and Turnitin offers more potential for development than the old integration of Turnitin Grademark, the latter having insurmountable performance issues. Staff are advised to use/switch to Canvas Speedgrader.

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