



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0035-O

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A PI allegedly copied unattributed text into her proposal. We analyzed her proposal with our plagiarism software and confirmed the presence of unattributed text copied from three sources. We sent the PI an inquiry letter asking about the allegation, and she acknowledged the sources we identified were not properly referenced. She told us the text from those sources was provided to her by her collaborator (the Collaborator) with the appropriate citation, but due to five people editing the proposal, the references were lost. The Collaborator was on travel prior to the submission, so he did not get to review the final version before submission.

She said there was no other text in the proposal that was not properly cited, and no other proposal from her has copied text without proper referencing. To verify, we examined another recent proposal and found no plagiarism.

The Collaborator was named in the proposal and was the author of one of the source papers. Therefore, we excluded the material copied from the source authored by him. Doing so reduced the totality of copied text to a relatively minor amount that does not rise to the level of research misconduct. We sent the PI a questionable practice letter reminding her to exercise more caution during the preparation of her proposals. Accordingly, this case is closed.