

Closeout of M90110047

This case was brought to the attention of OIG on November 20, 1990 by [REDACTED] in the Division [REDACTED]. It concerns [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Department, [REDACTED]. The complainant was [REDACTED], a proposal reviewer. The subject allegedly copied nearly two sentences from a published paper into a proposal he was submitting to NSF. Although he had cited the paper, he had not indicated that he was copying nearly word for word.

OIG regarded this as a minor case because the source was otherwise carefully cited and the extent of the copying was very limited. In other situations, however, verbatim copying without acknowledgment is a serious matter that causes strong protests. The issue was resolved by a telephone conversation with the subject in which the conventions for citation were discussed. He said that the offense was inadvertent and in the future he will be more careful. OIG considers this a satisfactory resolution of the case and has decided not to pursue it further.

Copy: Inspector General
Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

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