

Online checking services

Examples of services: Turnitin.com, MyDropBox.com, etc.

In general these services work by checking student work using an algorithm to identify matching passages of text, comparing the assignment handed in to you against existing databanks of student work and sources online.

More specifically, when a student or faculty person submits a paper to one of these services for checking it is stored in the archive. All future papers submitted will be checked against it as well as the other sources in the archive.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a 'SafeAssignment Sample Report' from MyDropBox. The report includes the following sections and callouts:

- Report Information:** Author: John Smith, Title: Test Paper, Course: Some Course, Assignment: Some Assignment, Submitted: 05/01, Paper ID: 1045. Callouts describe the 'Matching Index' (72%) and the 'Save Report' icon.
- Matched Sources:** A progress bar shows 72% matching. Callouts describe the 'Email Report' and 'Printable version' icons.
- Suspected Sources:** Lists URLs such as <http://www.babesinspace.net/book/reviews/39.html> and <http://www.scifi.com/sfw/issue100/books.html>. Callouts describe the 'Source Highlighting' icon.
- Excluded Sources:** Lists URLs like <http://www.twbookmark.com/books/59/0446610380/> and <http://members.aol.com/firoane/butler.htm>. Callouts describe the 'Delete Sources' feature.
- Manuscript Text:** Shows a paragraph of text with different colors indicating copied text. Callouts describe the 'Source Comparison' window and the 'Source Comparison' icon.

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Figure 1 Sample report from MyDropBox service.