ANTI-PLAGIARISM PROCEDURE IN THE SCHOLARLY WORKS PUBLISHED BY
SACRA SCRIPTA

1. Preamble

In accordance with the Decision CA BBU no.15823/14.11.2022 regarding the mandatory anti-plagiarism examination of all the journals from the portfolio of the Babeș-Bolyai University, beginning with the **1st** of **January 2023**, the Editor-in-Chief of *Sacra Scripta - Journal of the Centre for Biblical Studies*, together with the members of the Editorial Committee, will evaluate for plagiarism, based on the procedure presented below, all the articles received by the Editorial Office.

The analysis of the articles consists of an *anti-plagiarism verification* utilizing the *Turnitin* similarity analysis program according to the BBU Senate Decision no.119/23.09.2021 and of a *qualitative analysis* of the results obtained following the verification.

1.1 Definition

Art. 4 of Law no. 206/2004 defines *plagiarism* and *auto-plagiarism* as follows:[1]

- d) *plagiarism* - the exposure in a written work or an oral communication, including in electronic format, of some texts, expressions, ideas, demonstrations, data, hypotheses, theories, results or scientific methods extracted from written works, including in electronic format, of other authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources;
- e) *auto-plagiarism* - the exposition in a written work or an oral communication, including in electronic format, of texts, expressions, demonstrations, data, hypotheses, theories, results or scientific methods extracted from written works, including in electronic format, of the same author(s), without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources.

2. The Objective of the Procedure

The Editorial Committee of *Sacra Scripta*, by applying the anti-plagiarism procedure, urges all the authors, who wish to publish their articles in *Sacra Scripta*, to respect the norms of professional conduct and the ethical obligations within the academic environment, the BBU Code of Professional Ethics and Deontology, also consult the Ethics Commission- Ethics and Academic Honesty- Guide for the Students of the BBU, to prevent the phenomenon of plagiarism (details in the Annex of the Decision HCA no. 16712/15.12.2021 regarding the Strategy for Preventing and Combating the Phenomenon of Plagiarism at the Babeș-Bolyai University).

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[1] Law no. 206 from the 27th of May 2004, amended and updated (translated fragments): *http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/52457*

3. The Presentation of the Procedure

The elaboration stages of the *Similarity Report* are the following:[2]

1. The author will send by e-mail the final version of the article (in PDF and DOC/DOCX format).

2. The Editor-in-Chief and the editorial secretary upload the article into the *Turnitin* analysis software within 30 days of receipt, which will generate a *Similarity Report*.
This *report* consists of a list of documents that have been identified as potential sources for certain fragments of the analyzed text and one or more similarity score ranges.

3. The generated *Similarity Report* will be evaluated by the Editor-in-Chief and by the members of the Editorial Committee.

4. The editorial secretary will keep a record of the articles that have been uploaded into the similarity analysis software and of the generated reports. Likewise, the editorial secretary will ensure the electronic archiving of the articles analyzed by *Turnitin* and of the generated reports using the infrastructure of the BBU.

5. The Editor-in-Chief will perform the *qualitative analysis* of the results generated by the *Turnitin* program, regardless of the alert threshold signaled by the software.

6. The Editor-in-Chief will examine/determine the following aspects:

- ✓ The percentage of the unauthorised use of content like large portions of text, belonging to other authors, identified by the analysis program as similarities (quotations/text passages/fragments or ideas taken without specifying their source in the text/ within the footnotes/ in the Bibliography; reproducing quotations without using quotation marks; paraphrasing without crediting the source ... etc.).
- ✓ Whether fragments of text from a single source have been extracted multiple times.
- ✓ If the article contains drafting issues that indicate unauthorised use of text that reveals plagiarism.
- ✓ The limit of similarities (alert threshold), according to the specifics of the journal's domain (Theology and Religion), which if exceeded still does not signal plagiarism for sure. Therefore, a thorough assessment is required to further examine these similarities as specified in BBU CA Decision 82/4.01.2022 (point 7, page 2).

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[2] The stages have been elaborated and adapted to the specifics of the journal, after the consultation of the following documents: BBU CA Decision 82/4.01.2022, Studia BBU - Anti-plagiarism Procedure and Ethics Commission- Ethics and Academic Honesty- Guide for the Students of the BBU.

7. After analyzing the *Similarity Report*, the Editor-in-Chief will draft the *Resolution on Unauthorised Use of Content*, which will include Observations/ Motivations/ Conclusions (list of works identified as sources, which have not been mentioned as such).

8. In the event of plagiarism, established following the verification, the members of the Editorial Committee will reject the article submitted for publication. Then, in a mandatory manner, they will inform, based on documentation, all the authors and the institution to which the main author belongs (Decision CA BBU no.15823/14.11.2022, Art. 3).

The Editor-in-Chief *will not accept* the article if the *Similarity Report* indicates the following:

- the content detected in the article appears without specifying the source and thus denotes plagiarism.

- in the article there are intentional changes of the original text, an aspect that implies a cover up of the unauthorised content.

9. If the Editor-in-Chief and the members of the Editorial Committee decide to offer suggestions and recommendations to amend the article with unauthorised use of content, then the similarity analysis procedure will be resumed and the amended article will be uploaded into the similarity analysis program *Turnitin* as specified in BBU CA Decision 82/4.01.2022 (point 11, page 3).

Additional Anti-Plagiarism References for the Authors and the Editors:

Ghid pentru identificarea plagiatului în lucrările științifice [Guidelines for Identifying Plagiarism in Scientific Works], developed by the National Ethics Council of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation (CNECSDTI), 2017:
https://cnecsdti.research.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/cne/2017/12/Ghid_identificare_plagiat_final_site.pdf

The Harvard Guide to Using Sources:
https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/what-constitutes-plagiarism

Elsevier:
https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/publication-process/ethics/plagiarism-decision-making-dealing-grey-zones-across-academic-fields

https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/publication-process/ethics/plagiarism

Michael Shafir, Reguli antiplagiat Harvard [Harvard Anti-Plagiarism Regulations]:
https://www.romaniacurata.ro/reguli-antiplagiat-harvard/,