

Research Tip of the Month

Avoiding Plagiarism in Academic Work



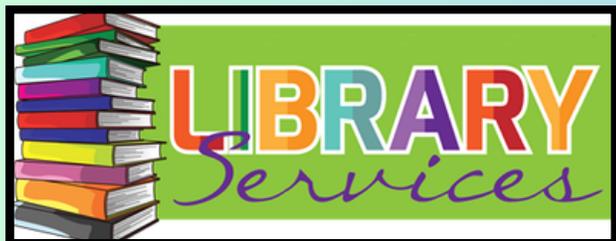
Plagiarism occurs when someone uses another person's ideas, words, or work without giving proper credit. To maintain academic integrity, students should always cite their sources and acknowledge the original author.

When writing academic papers, remember to:

- Use quotation marks when copying exact words from a source.
- Paraphrase information using your own words and still provide a citation.
- Include a complete reference in the reference list.
- Follow the APA Style (7th edition) guidelines for citations and references.

Proper citation not only avoids plagiarism but also strengthens the credibility of your research.

Tip: When in doubt, cite your source.



URBE University Library offers different services:

- Circulation Services (Check out materials)
- Computer Room, Printer and Photocopy
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- Library Instruction, Workshops
- Online research assistance
- Help locating academic articles and eBooks
- Database navigation support
- Guidance on citations and academic integrity

Our library team is here to support you reach out whenever you need help.

Send an email to:

Librarian. Karely Carrion
karely.carrion@urbeuniversity.edu

Research Tip of the Month

Citing AI Tools in APA Style



Artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT are increasingly used by students for research and writing support. When using AI tools in academic work, it is important to acknowledge and cite them properly to maintain academic integrity. In APA Style (7th edition), AI tools may be cited as software.

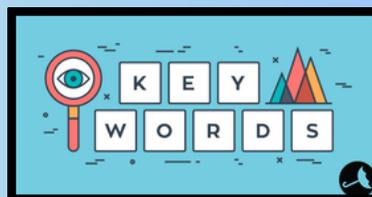
Example citation:

OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT (GPT-5.3) [Large language model].
<https://chat.openai.com>

If AI tools are used to generate ideas, summaries, or text suggestions, students should clearly indicate how the tool was used in their work.

Tip: Always follow your instructor's guidelines regarding the use of AI in academic assignments.

Using Keywords for Research



When searching for academic information in library databases, using effective keywords can help you find more relevant and reliable sources. Instead of searching with long sentences, use specific keywords related to your topic. This strategy improves search results in academic databases such as LIRN or EBSCO.

Example:

Topic: The impact of social media on education
Possible keywords:

- social media
- education
- digital learning
- student engagement

You can also combine Keywords using Boolean Operators:

- AND – narrows your search (social media AND education)
- OR – expands your search (college students OR university students)
- NOT – excludes terms (technology NOT smartphones)

Using the right keywords will help you locate peer-reviewed articles and high quality academic sources more efficiently.

Tip: Start with broad keywords and then refine your search as you discover more relevant terms.

STUDENT WRITER



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The €3 parcel tariff: a necessary debate on trade, consumption and the future of e-commerce.

The decision by the European Union to impose a fixed €3 tariff on low-value parcels arrives at a moment of profound transformation in global commerce. E-commerce has democratized access to inexpensive products and expanded consumer choice, but it has also created new tensions: pressure on local industry, questions about product quality and safety, and an unprecedented volume of shipments that traditional customs systems were not designed to handle.

The debate is not simple. It is not about closing doors to digital trade or punishing consumers. It is about finding balance: protecting European industry, ensuring minimum standards, and adapting regulation to an economic reality that has changed.

Is the measure fair?

The tariff can be interpreted in two ways.

On one hand, it is a corrective measure. In 2024, roughly 4.6 billion low-value parcels entered Europe—around 12 million shipments per day—without customs duties because their value was below €150. Such scale creates logistical and fiscal pressure and exposes regulatory gaps. Furthermore, Brussels argues that many imported products arrive without adequate quality or safety guarantees. Platforms such as Shein and Temu have enabled extremely low prices, but also business models based on rapid turnover and global supply chains where transparency and environmental standards are sometimes questioned.

The tariff seeks to rebalance the system: not to prohibit imports, but to introduce a minimum cost reflecting the use of customs infrastructure and controls.

On the other hand: risks for consumers and small sellers

E-commerce of low-cost goods has expanded consumer access. Clothing, accessories and gadgets for a few euros have broadened the market and intensified competition.

The new charge may increase prices. For small orders, the proportional impact will be higher. A €10 parcel could rise by 30% once duties and logistics costs are included. This might reduce demand and encourage consumers to shift toward local alternatives or fewer purchases.

Small international vendors could also face difficulties. Their competitive advantage is often price. If that advantage erodes, some business models may struggle.

STUDENT WRITER

Will the measure expand to other platforms?

It is likely that the tariff will not remain limited to two companies. The rule applies broadly to low-value parcels entering the EU and registered in the import one-stop shop for VAT purposes.

That means:

- Other marketplaces could fall under the same regime.
- Independent sellers are also affected.
- The impact depends on product categories and shipment structure.

The objective is systemic regulation, not targeting individual firms.

Could similar measures appear elsewhere?

Very possibly. Global trade policy is shifting toward greater oversight of cross-border digital commerce. If Europe implements duties on small parcels, other regions may adopt comparable measures to protect local industries and consumer standards.

Trade is interconnected. Regulatory changes in one market often influence others.

European industry: opportunity and challenge

The tariff could strengthen European manufacturing by narrowing price gaps between imported goods and local alternatives. In sectors such as fashion, consumers might choose European brands that offer higher quality and sustainability.

However, protection alone is not enough. Competitiveness requires innovation, design and efficiency. A tariff that shields industry without encouraging modernization risks long-term stagnation.

European producers must compete not only on price, but on value.

Consumers: adapting to a new reality

For buyers, the change invites reflection:

- Purchase more deliberately.
- Prioritize durable products.
- Compare local alternatives.
- Consider environmental impacts of consumption.

Low-cost e-commerce will not disappear, but it may evolve toward models with greater transparency and responsibility.

Is this the end of cheap e-commerce?

No. Digital trade will continue. The difference is that it will operate under adjusted rules.

The €3 tariff is an adaptation, not a ban. Platforms can continue selling, but they must account for new costs and regulatory expectations.

For some companies it will be challenging; for others, an opportunity to differentiate through quality and sustainability.

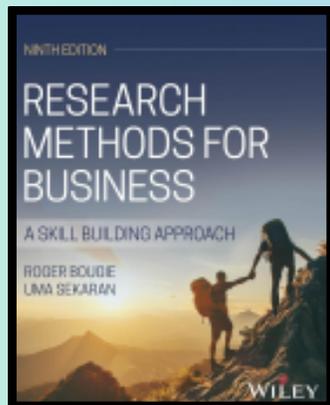
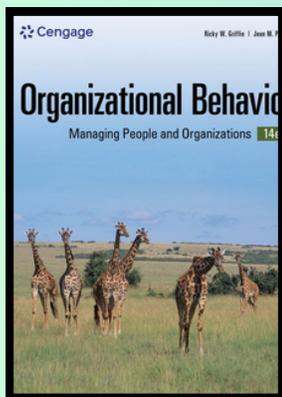
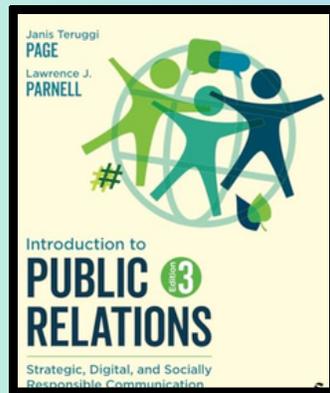
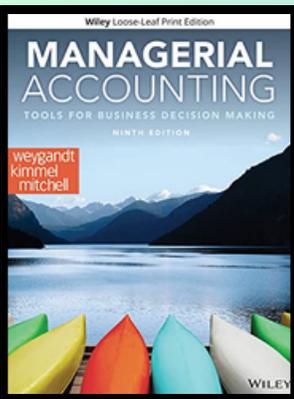
The measure reflects a broader trend: customs and fiscal systems must modernize in response to digital commerce. Millions of small parcels once passed outside traditional frameworks. As volumes grow, regulation evolves.

Balance is essential. Protecting industry and ensuring safety should not mean closing markets, nor should consumer access come at the expense of transparency and fair competition.

The real question is how the policy is implemented and what effects it produces. Evidence and data will be crucial to refine the system over time.

E-commerce will continue to transform. The challenge is ensuring that transformation benefits consumers, businesses and society as a whole.

NEW BOOKS



HOLIDAYS MARCH 2026

HAPPY INTERNACIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8, 2026



International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. .Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to celebrate women's achievements. raise awareness about women's equality.

March 17, 2026 Happy St. Patrick's Day

