



ROBIN HAMMOND/ICON



Anti-cheat software turned on academe

Phil Baty

Software used to catch student cheats may soon be employed by journal publishers to help detect duplication and plagiarism by researchers.

Plans by two of the world's major academic publishers, Elsevier and Blackwell — which between them publish 2,500 journals — to try to counter the apparent rise in academic plagiarism were unveiled this week.

They come as an investigation by *The Times Higher* found that an Oxford University-based journal has been forced to retract an article it published in 2003 — after discovering (in the old-fashioned way) that it had been published elsewhere.

The editor of *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, Oxford chemistry professor Steve Davies, confirmed this week he was officially withdrawing an article after one of its co-authors complained it had been submitted without his knowledge and had appeared in a Chinese journal a year earlier.

Shende Jiang, a professor of chemistry at Tianjin University in China, complained to Professor Davies in May last year that the article published in a 2003 edition of *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* had appeared in English in 2002 in a Chinese journal, *Chemical Research in Chinese Universities*.

Professor Jiang had produced the research at Sunderland University, where he was a postdoctoral student between 1996 and 2002, working under chemistry professor Gudial Singh.

He alleged the article had been submitted to the Chinese journal with the full knowledge and consent of Professor Singh, but that Professor Singh had submitted the same work to *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* without his knowledge or approval.

Professor Singh said that he **continued on page 6**

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