APA 6th Edition: Information on DOI

The 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) updated the guidelines for citing electronic references. This was in response to keeping pace with the increase in electronic book and journal publishing.

There is some disagreement as to whether the new version actually simplifies the process for the student. One of the new features is the addition of the doi. The doi, digital object identifier, is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to an article or electronic book. The publisher assigns a doi when an article or e-book is published and made available electronically. All doi numbers begin with a 10 and contain a prefix and a suffix separated by a slash. The prefix is a unique number of four or more digits assigned to organizations; the suffix is assigned by the publisher and was designed to be flexible with publisher identification standards.

When you furnish the doi, your readers can find the exact source you are referencing by pasting it into Google, the Crossref Resolver Tool at http://www.crossref.org/05researchers/58doi Resolver.html, or the Doi Resolver on the DOI Systems Page at http://www.doi.org/ (located at the bottom of the page).

Where do you find the doi?

The doi is typically located on the abstract page of the electronic journal article. Sometimes, it can also be found at the top of the first page of the journal’s pdf document. Not every database will provide the doi for an article. Scholarly articles will often provide the doi. Newspapers, magazines, and trade publications are less likely to have the doi. It is a good idea to copy and paste the doi to prevent errors. When you use the doi, do not include the retrieval date or the name of the database.

Doi is available

Example:

Note: Do not capitalize the word doi, and do not put a period at the end of the number.

When the Doi is not available:

In the next example from ProQuest, the doi is not available. Use the following format: Retrieved from ProQuest ABI/Inform Global database. Do not mention the date of retrieval.
Abstract View: ProQuest ABI/Inform Global Database: No doi is provided

Example:

EBSCO Business Source Elite: Abstract View: DOI Provided

The results search list in EBSCO may include the doi in the numbered list of results as in the following example. Be warned that EBSCO does not give the correct format in these examples of search results:

What do I do if I cannot find the doi?

If you cannot find the doi for an article found in our library databases, here is a summary of where to find the doi, or what to use when it is not available.

**ProQuest ABI/Inform Global database**
The Abstract View may have the doi.
The PDF view at top of article can have the doi, but this is not always the case.
If the doi is not available, use the format: Retrieved from ProQuest ABI/Inform Global database.

**EBSCO Business Source Elite**
EBSCO may have the doi for an article in the abstract view. The citation in the list of search results will include the doi for the article when the doi is provided in the abstract.
If the doi is not given, use the format: Retrieved from EBSCO Business Source Elite database.

**FACTIVA**
FACTIVA does not include DOIs. Use the format: Retrieved from Factiva database.

**LexisNexis Academic**
The database does not currently display DOIs. Use the format: Retrieved from LexisNexis Academic database.

**Gale Databases: DOIs are not included**
Academic OneFile - Retrieved from Academic OneFile database.

**Wilson OmniFile Full Text Select**
The doi will be located at the bottom of the first page of the pdf article or at the end of the article in the Full Text HTML format. Otherwise, use the format: Retrieved from Wilson OmniFile Full Text Select database.

What if I cannot find the doi, and my Instructor told me to include it? Can I look up the doi somewhere?

If you cannot find the doi for an article, the CrossRef.org web site offers a doi lookup at [http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/](http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/). There are 3 options available for looking up the doi. Let’s look at the first option:

1. **Bibliographic Metadata Search: Search by filling in the blanks**

   ![Bibliographic Metadata Search](image)
2. Search on Article Title: Supply the Author’s Surname and Article Title

If you only know the title of an item (article, book chapter, report, working-paper ... etc.) submit them here. Supply the author to reduce the number of results. This form is a guest query interface to the CrossRef system for individual DOI retrieval.

First Author (surname)  meier, k. j.  
Article Title  gender and emotional labor in public organizations: an empirical examination of the link to performance
Enable Multiple Hits  

When you click search, the next screen displays the doi  ↓

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal/Volume Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISSN/ISBN</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PubMedID</th>
<th>PMCID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration Review</td>
<td>Meier</td>
<td>00333352</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Emotional Labor in Public Organizations: An Empirical Examination of the Link to Performance</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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3. Automatic parsing of a normal reference (http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/):

This form allows you to retrieve Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for journal articles, books, and chapters by simply cutting and pasting the reference list into the box below. You may use the form with any reference style, although the tool works most reliably if references are formatted in a standard style such as shown in this example from the Crossref.org web page.

*Note: CrossRef does not provide the correct punctuation in the example it gives us:

Please separate individual references by a blank line. For best results, there should be no line breaks within an individual reference. When submitting multiple references they must be in alphabetical order or presented as a numbered list. For editorial purposes, to check the accuracy of a reference click on the DOI link that is returned with the reference.

Paste the citation directly into the text box shown below. Note the exact format:
Example:

The search returns with the doi: doi:10.1111/j.1540-6210.2006.00657.x for the citation:


doi:10.1111/j.1540-6210.2006.00657.x (in the example, the issue number is not included, there is a colon after the volume number followed by the page numbers)

Note: You will need to rewrite the last part of the citation: Public Administration Review, 66(6), 899-909. The issue number is missing in the example given above, but it should be included in your list of references.

● Is there a way to double check if a doi is correct?

Use the DOI Resolver Tool to verify a known doi at http://www.crossref.org/05researchers/58doi_resolver.html or consult the DOI Systems Page at http://www.doi.org/ (located at the bottom of the page).

Crossref provides a page to search titles at http://www.crossref.org/titleList/.

APA also has an FAQ page that may answer some of your questions at http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/index.aspx; also check out http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx.

In general, include the doi when it is provided in the abstract or pdf view of the article. If no doi is provided, use the following format: Retrieved from Database Name followed by the word database.

Examples:
Retrieved from ProQuest ABI/Inform Global database.
Retrieved from EBSCO Business Source Elite database.

Usually, it will be our doctoral students who go to the extra step of looking up the doi when it is not provided in the database. Always check with your instructor on how he/she wants you to cite references.