What is a DOI?

The new APA citation style manual includes a significant change in citing electronic resources. Instead of listing a retrieval date and database name when citing online articles, APA style now requires a **Digital Object Identifier (DOI).** A DOI is a unique identifier that provides a persistent link to an article online. DOIs should be included in citations of scholarly research articles that are found online (including OIT library's databases).
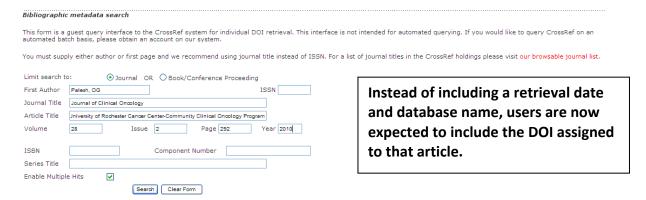
Example:

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Brinkmann, S. (2009). Facts, values, and the naturalistic fallacy in
     psychology. New Ideas In Psychology, 27(1), 1-17. doi:
     10.1016/j.newideapsych.2007.10.001
```
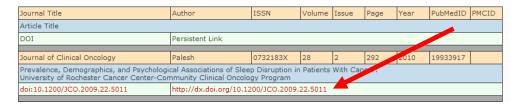
What if the article I am citing does not have a DOI?

Some research databases, such as Academic Search Premier, PsycINFO, and PsycARTICLES, include DOIs in their article records (if available), and citing articles from these sources is simple. Many other research databases, however, do not.

If a database does not include a DOI in its article records, the recommended method is to use CrossRef.org website's "**free DOI lookup**": http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/

Instead of including a retrieval date and database name, users are now expected to include the DOI assigned to that article.

Type in the necessary data in the boxes, and click **Search**. Your article's DOI will be displayed:

What if CrossRef cannot find a DOI?

If the DOI of the desired article is still unavailable, two alternatives are acceptable:
• Give the exact URL of the article (if it is in open access and no sign-in is required)
• Give the URL of the journal publisher's home page (if it is from a licensed database)

Taken in part from: Lewis, L. A. (2008). From the front lines: An academic librarian's reports on the impact of APA's new Electronic References Guidelines. Reference & User Services Quarterly, 48(2),128-131.

This information may also be found at: www.oit.edu/libraries/help/citing/apa/doi   *Last updated 2/10*