

Oh my! What's a DOI???

Digital Object Identifier - DOI

What are they?

A digital object identifier, or DOI, is a unique number that is assigned to a digital object, such as an online journal article, online image, or any other piece of information available on the Internet. This number is permanent and will never change, even if the URL or website address for the object changes.

What are they used for?

The chief reason for the development of DOIs was to ensure that online objects can be easily located online. Because DOIs are permanent any item that is given a DOI can always be found online, regardless of any changes to the originating website.

Why did APA start using them in citations?

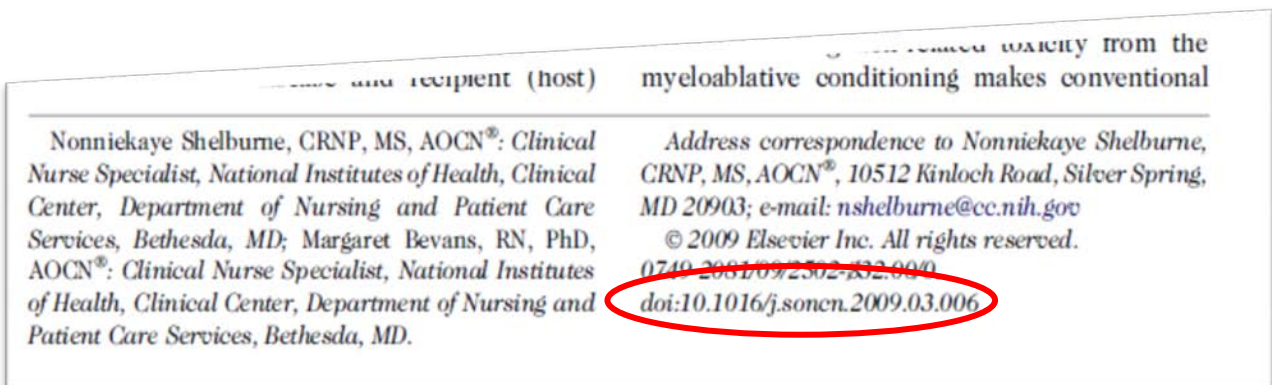
Because they are much more reliable and stable than URLs.

How do I know what the DOI is for an article I'm citing?

One way of easily ensuring that you are providing DOIs in your reference lists is to use a reference manager like RefWorks, EndNote or ProCite. When you import references from an article database to a reference management tool the DOIs will also be imported and will automatically be added to your citations when you create your bibliographies.

To find a DOI for a digital object if you are creating citations manually, there are a couple of places that you can look. If you have a printed copy or pdf version of an article the DOI is often included in the citation or publication information provided on the article.

Example:



The web page on which the article appears may also display the DOI.

Example:



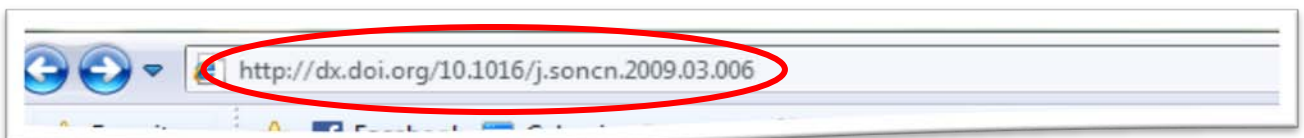
What if I can't find a DOI?

Not every article or digital object has a DOI. It is a scheme for digital identification that is not yet universally adopted and it the decision of the object's creator or publisher as to whether or not they participate in this scheme. While it is widely used in the scientific, medical and technical fields of publishing it is inevitable that some items in your citation lists will not have a DOI.

How do I find an article using the DOI?

You can easily locate an article using its DOI by adding the DOI to the following URL:
<http://dx.doi.org/>

Example:



More information on DOIs can be found at www.doi.org.