

Harvesting a DOI or URL

APA Helps

Harvesting a Document DOI or URL

A document found on the Internet should be referenced in APA with either a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or a web address. The DOI or web address provides information for retrieving the document at a later time. If a publisher has assigned a DOI to a document, then the DOI normally shall be listed at the start or sometimes at the end of the document. To finish your APA reference, copy the DOI and paste it at the end of the reference.

The person reading your paper can type the DOI from the reference into a search engine such as Bing or Google to locate the document.

This is an example of a DOI appearing at the start of a document. Notice it's in lowercase. In a reference, it would be put at the end after the normal reference material. The citation does not include the DOI, so your in-text citation would just have the authors' names and the year of publication and, if it's a direct quote, page numbers.

For a web address, which is commonly called a Universal Resource Locator or URL, it provides a unique location for finding the document. For example, the web address shown at the bottom of this page, the "indwes.edu" indicates that it's from Indiana Wesleyan, the "edu" indicates that it's an educational institution, and the subdirectory "ocls" indicates that this is created by OCLS. And the html and the very conclusion indicates that it's a hypertext or web document.

The web address or URL should be copied from the address bar and pasted at the close of the reference after the words, "retrieved from." If the page appears to be something that changes periodically, then the retrieval date should be added to the retrieval statement. Here's a sample reference showing how the web address or URL is appended to the end of the reference, and note that the parenthetical in-text citation does not have the web address in it, does not have the URL.

Let's talk now about harvesting a web address and putting it into a document or reference page. If you click once on the web address, it turns blue. Right clicking brings up menus, and you can copy that address. Paste it into Word, right clicking brings up a menu, choose to paste, and there we have the web address.

Some documents, such as this APA 6E Guide, don't have an address bar because they're a PDF. You can still harvest the URL. Right click, copy the address or shortcut, and then right click and paste and now we have the web address in for the APA 6E guide. That was all that was necessary in order to create the reference for the APA 6E Guide. So you can harvest web addresses from the address bar from Adobe Acrobat PDF documents, right click and use copy shortcut.

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