

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)



What is a DOI?

A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a permanent, distinct web address assigned to a specific academic publication. While web URLs can change or 'break,' a DOI is permanent, like the unique fingerprint of a specific article, book chapter, or other scholarly works.



Do all publications have a DOI?

No! Most journal articles published after the year 2000 have DOIs, but many other sources (e.g., videos, blogs, news articles, older articles) do not have a DOI assigned.



Citation with DOI (APA style)

Author(s). (Year). Article Title. *Journal Title*, Volume (Issue), Page number(s). DOI

Example

Kühn, S; Gleich, T; Lorenz, R. C; Lindenberger, U; Gallinat, J. (2014). Playing Super Mario induces structural brain plasticity: Gray matter changes resulting from training with a commercial video game. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 19(2), 265–271.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/mp.2013.120>



Locating a DOI



Most scholarly publications have the DOI on the article, typically near the publication information or in the citation.



Check directly the publisher's website by searching for the article's title.



Go to crossref.org and select 'Search metadata.'



When in doubt, ask a librarian through the 'Ask Us' service on <https://lib.uwaterloo.ca/web/>.

