What are DOIs and How Do I Find Them?

DOI= Digital Object Identifier

DOI (you may see the term in lower case as well: doi) help provide a stable location for digital objects online. They are becoming increasingly important in various citation styles, such as APA style. Try Googling a DOI sometime…you should be taken to a unique website with the article’s information.

DOI in APA Style (from the MU Writing Center APA Style Guide):

Journals and the DOI
Content on the Internet tends to be moved, restructured, or deleted, which results in broken hyperlinks and nonworking URLs. Thus, scholarly publishers have begun assigning a digital object identifier or DOI to articles and other documents in order to maintain retrievability. The DOI provides a persistent link to the location of information on the Internet, avoiding the possible arbitrariness of other kinds of links (APA, 2009).

*A DOI may be found in scholarly journal articles, but it may appear with other kinds of sources as well. Always use the DOI if it is listed.

*All DOI numbers begin with a 10 and contain a (4 number) prefix plus a suffix separated by a slash.
  Example: DOI: 10.1037/0278-6133.27.3.379

*When a DOI is used, no further location information is needed. Do not include retrieval dates or subscription services such as Ebsco, JSTOR, PsychInfo, CINAHL, etc.

How do I find a DOI?

- Not all articles will be assigned a DOI (though they are becoming increasingly standard), but if an article has one, you may find it in all sorts of places!

1. The DOI may be listed in the database citation information about the article:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Copyright:</th>
<th>American Psychological Association, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Object Identifier:</td>
<td>10.1037/a0016089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsycINFO AN:</td>
<td>2009-13007-011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Number:</td>
<td>288-616-664-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. It is also common to find the DOI on the title page of the article in all sorts of locations:

a) Here is an example where it was found in the lower left corner of the title page—

```
ISSN 0272-2011 print/ISSN 1943-9954 online
© 2009 Taylor & Francis
DOI: 10.1080/02722010903116483
http://www.informaworld.com
```

b) On this one, it was found on the lower right corner of the title page (notice it is also not labeled “DOI”, it just has the number by itself)—

```
Address for correspondence: Mary Brady, Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, Kingston University & St George’s University of London, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)20 8725 0815; Fax: +44 (0)20 8725 2248; E-mail: m.brady@srgul.kingston.ac.uk

Nursing Ethics 2009 16 (3) © The Author(s), 2009.
Reprints and permissions: http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav
```

c) On this journal article, the DOI was found on the left side of the page, sort of in the middle—

```
©2009 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
doi: 10.4037/ajcc2009121
```

d) And on this example, it was in the middle of the page, before the text of the article begins—

```
Key words: Awareness, glaucoma, knowl
DOI: 10.4103/0301-4738.55073
```

**LESSON:** DOI CAN BE FOUND IN MANY PLACES, IF AT ALL. Look in the most common places…
If you don’t see a DOI, use the APA rule to cite an electronic source without a DOI (see separate handout for details).

Handout by Amanda Pippitt, 1-10