The URLs for publications located on the Internet can frequently become “broken” or “dead” links, making it impossible to connect to those publications. The doi offers a more reliable “locater” system for publications on the Internet because it does not depend on the URL to find them.

**What does a doi look like?**

A doi is made up of two parts -- a prefix and a suffix:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.1007/s10615-007-0133-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Prefix**: Registration Agency code - currently all doi numbers start with 10
- **Suffix**: Publisher’s ID number
- **Suffix**: Item ID number – assigned by the publisher

**How does it work?**

The difference between the ways a URL and a doi work to locate a publication on the Internet can be compared to the difference between the ways your home phone and your cell phone work to locate you. A friend can call you on your landline at your home address (similar to the way a URL works to locate the address of an item on the Internet). But what happens if you move to another city? Calling your old landline number no longer works because your phone number has changed (similar to the way a URL can be changed). However, if your friend knows your cell phone number (similar to the doi), he can still find you because your cell phone number travels with you, no matter where you are physically located. The doi travels with, and identifies, the article no matter what the URL is.
Using the doi with APA style

The 6th (2010) edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* recommends that you include the doi in the citation for an electronic article, if one is available. Below is an example of a citation that includes a doi:


How can I find the doi for my article?

Not every article has a doi at present. A number of the Library’s electronic databases, such as PsycINFO, MEDLINE, etc., are beginning to include doi numbers within the full article descriptions. Sometimes the doi can also be found listed on the article itself. If you cannot locate a doi for your article in the database or on the article, you may want to try this website:  [http://www.crossref.org/guestquery](http://www.crossref.org/guestquery). Here, you can type in, or copy and paste, elements of your article citation (such as author, title, year, etc.), and the website will attempt to locate the doi for you.

How does the doi help me locate the article?

The doi can help you locate the full text of an article on the Internet only under the following conditions:

1) you attach this string to the front of the doi:  [http://dx.doi.org](http://dx.doi.org) (i.e. [http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1007/s10615-007-0133-1](http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1007/s10615-007-0133-1))

2) you are using a computer located on campus

An off-campus computer will be unable to recognize your “authorization” to have access to the full article (i.e. it cannot see that you are coming from a place, like the WSU Library, that has paid for you to have access). An off-campus computer may only be able to take you to the page where you could access the article if you had authorization.

Where can I get more information on using APA 6th style?

**American Psychological Association**
Sample Paper:  [http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/data/resources/sample-papers.pdf](http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/data/resources/sample-papers.pdf)
Sample References:  [http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/data/resources/sample-references.pdf](http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/data/resources/sample-references.pdf)

**The OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue**
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owlw/resource/560/01](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owlw/resource/560/01)

**Nova Southeastern University – Alvin Sherman Library**

Prepared by: Janet Dagenais Brown, Assoc. Prof.
Education & Social Sciences Librarian

Rev. 6/14/11