APA (American Psychological Association) Style – Citing Online Sources

Periodical Articles Retrieved from Online Databases

Provide original print publication information (such as author, publication date, periodical name, volume, issue, and page numbers) then add electronic retrieval information according to one of the following rules:

1. DOI Assigned (most preferable)
Provide the DOI (Digital Object Identifiers), if one has been assigned to the content. No further retrieval information is needed. The DOI is typically located on the first page of the electronic document, near the copyright notice. The DOI can also be found on the database landing page for the article. (See APA Manual, 6th ed., pp. 188-192)

   Author, A. A., & Author, B. (Date of publication). Title of article. Journal Title, Volume number(issue number if applicable), pages. doi:xxxxx.xxx (no period after DOI)


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If no DOI has been assigned to the content, provide the home page URL (Uniform Resource Locator) of the periodical. If you are accessing the article from a library database, you may need to do a quick web search to locate the URL. (See APA Manual, 6th ed., pp. 191-192)


3. Archival Documents (no DOI Assigned) Retrieved from Databases (Such as JSTOR or ERIC)

Some archival documents (e.g. discontinued journals or monographs) can only be found in electronic databases such as ERIC or JSTOR. When the document is not easily located through its primary publishing channels and has no DOI assigned, give the entry page URL for the online archive (database). (See APA Manual, 6th ed., p. 192)


Electronic Books Retrieved from Online Database

Enter the author, publication date, book title, publisher name and location (if available) then add electronic retrieval information such as DOI (if provided) or database name. (See APA Manual, 6th ed., pp. 202-205)

Note: Electronic books available from LACC databases do not have DOI assigned, so citing the database name is recommended.


Citing Web Documents

Include the same elements (e.g., authors, dates, titles), in the same order, as you would for a reference to a fixed media (print) source and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the source you cited. (See APA Manual, 6th ed., pp. 187-188, 205-209)

Entry in a Web-based Reference Work


Governmental Document Published on the Web


QUOTATIONS OF ONLINE MATERIAL WITHOUT PAGINATION

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph numbers preceded by the abbreviation para.

(Myers, 2000, para. 5)

If the document is long and includes headings and neither paragraph nor page numbers are visible, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it to direct the reader to the location of the material.

(Beutler, 2000, Discussion section, para. 2)