

## 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.**

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### **How do I find a DOI?**

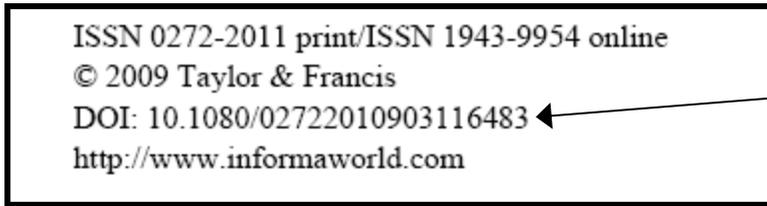
-Not all articles will be assigned a DOI (though they are becoming increasingly standard), but if an article has one, you may find it in all sorts of places!

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

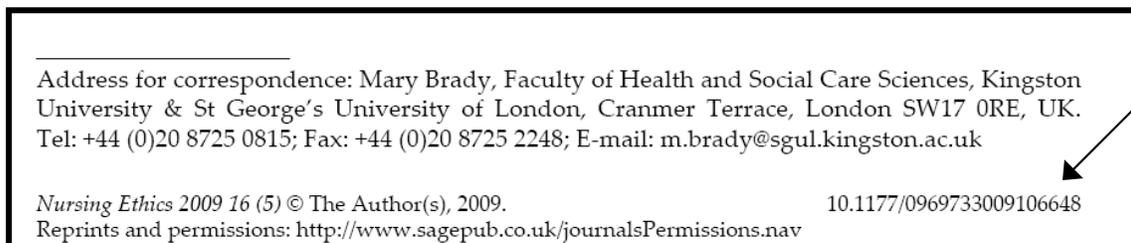
|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Copyright:</b>                 | American Psychological Association. 2009 |
| <b>Digital Object Identifier:</b> | 10.1037/a0016089 ←                       |
| <b>PsycINFO AN:</b>               | 2009-13007-011                           |
| <b>Accession Number:</b>          | 7000-64-6-564-2                          |

2. It is also common to find the DOI on the **title page of the article** in all sorts of locations:

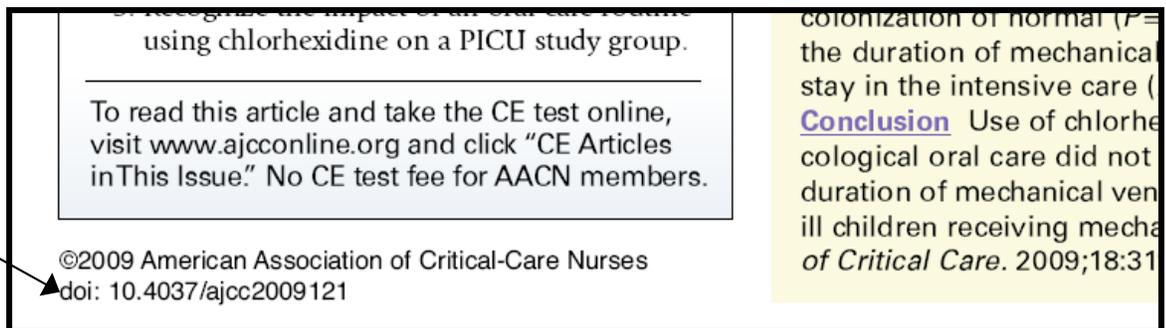
a) Here is an example where it was found in the *lower left corner* of the title page—



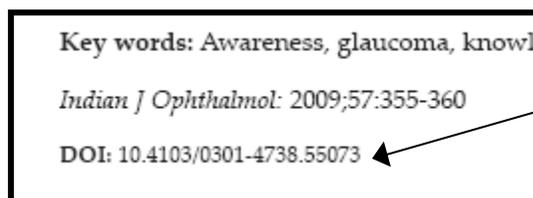
b) On this one, it was found on the *lower right corner* of the title page (notice it is also *not labeled "DOI"*, it just has the number by itself!)—



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



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



**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).**