

APA 6th edition: Citing Electronic Resources

DOI: Digital Object Identifier is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to articles by publishers. All DOI's begin with a 10 and are usually found on the first page of an article. Most databases (PsycInfo, ERIC, Academic Search Premier, etc.) will list a DOI field somewhere in the record for materials published within the past few years. Database records of older materials will generally not contain a DOI.

1. Journal article WITH a DOI, print or electronic version:

There has been a recent update to the format for DOIs, and APA now accepts two formatting choices for including a DOI in a reference. Your DOI can appear at the end of your reference in either of these ways:

- doi:10.1037/rmh0000008
- <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/rmh0000008>

Note that the DOI itself is the same in both of the examples above. The first example shows a DOI as formatted when the 6th edition of the APA style manual was released in 2009. The second example shows the latest version of the DOI, given as a working web link with the prefix <http://dx.doi.org/>.

When incorporated into your reference, the DOI should appear in one of these two ways:

Kim, J., Wigram, T., & Gold, C. (2008). The effects of improvisational music therapy on joint attention behaviors in autistic children: A randomized controlled study. *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders*, 38, 1758-1766.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10803-008-0566-6>

OR

Kim, J., Wigram, T., & Gold, C. (2008). The effects of improvisational music therapy on joint attention behaviors in autistic children: A randomized controlled study. *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders*, 38, 1758-1766. doi:10.1007/s10803-008-0566-6

Either of these formats is acceptable, but make sure you choose one or the other—don't mix them. Here are three INCORRECT examples for providing a DOI:

- <http://doi:10.1037/rmh0000008>
- doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/rmh0000008>
- Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/rmh0000008>

When a DOI is provided it is the last element in the citation. Note that there is no period at the end of the DOI. Whether obtained in print or online, no other retrieval information is needed (Section 6.32 & 7.01 example 1)

2. Journal article WITHOUT a DOI from a library database:

Mueller, M., & Bentley, M. (2009). Environmental and science education in developing nations: A Ghanaian approach to renewing and revitalizing the local community and ecosystems. *Journal of Environmental Education*, 40(4), 53-64.

In general, you no longer need to include database information in the citation. Only include a database retrieval statement if the document is not easily located (e.g ERIC document). (Section 6.32 & 7.01 example 3) Notice that in this example the issue number is included as the journal does not have continuous pagination.

3. Online Magazine article WITHOUT a DOI (not from a library database):

Price, M. (2009, December). New insights on homelessness and violence. *Monitor on Psychology*, 40(11). Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/>

If no DOI has been assigned, provide the home page URL of the journal or magazine. Notice that there are no page numbers as this was a webpage, not a pdf file. (Section 6.32 & 7.01 example 8)

Other major changes in APA 6th:

1. Publication information: For print book entries, always include both the city and state/country in the citation, even for major publishing cities. (Section 6.30)

New York, NY: Wiley.
London, England: Taylor & Francis.

Siegel, D. (2010). *Mindsight: The new science of personal transformation*.
New York, NY: Bantam Books.

2. Eight or more authors: When an article or book has eight or more authors, list the first six authors, then three ellipses, then add the last author's name. (Section 6.27 & 7.01 example 2)

Gilbert, D. G., McClernon, J. F., Rabinovich, N. E., Sugai, C., Plath, L. C.,
Asgaard, G., ... Botros, N. (2004). Effects of quitting smoking on
EEG activation and attention last for more than 31 days and are
more severe with stress, dependence, DRD2 A1 allele, and
depressive traits. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, 6, 249-267.
doi:10.1080/14622200410001676305