

The Portable Editor

APA Style Updates

The sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association hit the bookstands July 2009, and brought some big changes to APA style. Arguably the most important, the new edition created new reference formats for electronic sources that are based on the presence (or absence) of a **digital object identifier** (DOI). Other changes include

- new heading styles and renumbering of heading levels,
- use of bulleted lists,
- new reference formats for online first articles,
- new reference formats for works with seven or more authors,
- and tweaks to formats that acknowledge global exchange of information.

Changes in Reference Formats

The new reference formats recognize that using electronic sources is the norm rather than the exception. In addition, the new format incorporates DOIs, which are an important advancement in tracking and managing online sources. A DOI is a string of letters and numbers (e.g., for the online book *Chocolate: History, Culture, and Heritage* the DOI is [doi:10.1002/9780470411315](https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470411315)) that creates a persistent link to a source, enabling the reader to locate a source as long as that source is still floating around on the web. Because several months (or years) might lapse between when researchers begin an investigation and when they publish an article, it is common to find that many of the URLs for electronic sources are dead links. Unlike URLs that are managed at each web site, DOIs are assigned and managed through a central clearinghouse that is capable of making behind-the-scenes corrections to resolve the DOI and link the reader to the document's current location on the web.

If you used a print copy of the journal article (i.e., a printed issue, not a *printout* of the article) the reference format **does not** require the DOI. **However**, many publications are now requiring that authors provide a DOI for all sources (when available), so you might consider noting DOIs for your print sources.

Typically, DOIs are found on the abstract page of an electronic journal article or in the header section on the first page of the article. See the brief PowerPoint presentation "What's New in the Sixth Edition of the APA Manual" at <http://ssw.unc.edu/students/writing> for examples of where to find DOIs.

The foundation that assigns DOIs also provides crossref.org, a search engine that can be used to locate DOIs or to use DOIs to find an article. The "Simple Text Query" is a recent addition that allows you to paste in a formatted reference list and search for several DOIs at

one time. The list that is returned will have removed italics from your entries and may have added unneeded information such as PubMed index numbers. Therefore, copy and paste the DOIs from the crossref.org return list into your original reference list.

Formatting reference entries with DOIs. The DOI replaces the retrieval information for an electronic source; no retrieval date is given because the DOI links the reader to the version of the document that was assigned that unique number. The DOI follows the page range of the article, uses lowercase, and is separated from the number by a colon (no space before or after colon). **Don't** add a period at the end of the DOI because it might invalidate the DOI.

Article with DOI:

Author, I. (Year). Title of article in sentence caps. *Journal Title in Headline Caps and Italics*, 23, 233-245. doi:10.1002/jcop.20046

Article without a DOI retrieved from an open database or direct URL link:

Some journals are giving the public open access to their publications. If the reader can access your source through an open access database or a direct URL link, then provide the **exact** URL for the document. (Don't add punctuation at the end of the URL)

Brown, C. M., & Austin, D. W. Fatty acids, breastfeeding and autism spectrum disorder. *Electronic Journal of Applied Psychology*, 5, 49-52. Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap/article/view/158/177>

Article without DOI retrieved from a subscription database (e.g., PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, EBSCOhost): If a database requires a subscription, providing the reader with the database URL is not going to enable the reader to retrieve your source. Instead, replace the database URL with the URL for the journal's home page. For example, even though the following article was retrieved from the PsycARTICLES database, the reference entry gives the home page for the journal *Social Work*.

Cassowary, B. B. (1996). The emergence of a social conservative from a political radical. *Social Work*, 32, 36-45. Retrieved from <http://www.cswe.org/CSWE/publications/journal/>

New Formats for Works with Multiple Authors

Works 1-7 authors: List up to 7 authors, using "&" to join the 7th author:

Hu, Y., Chu, X., Fee, H. Fie, E., Hum, L., Cue, B., & van Meter, D. (2004). Strange bedfellows: Working collaboratively. *Issues in Research*, 34, 171-189. doi:10.1000/182

More than 7 authors: List the first 6 authors, add 3 ellipses, and the last author. Don't use "&" in this format:

Dey, S., Part, D., Plate, C., Bell, W., Chiou, J-L., Ward, W., ... Ruiz, C. (2007). Multicultural exchanges and workplace communication. *Journal of Acculturation*, 72, 34-45.
doi:10.1000/186