**What is a DOI?** (3 Sept. 2016)

DOI stands for the digital object identifier. This identification system allows researchers to continue to find an item even if the website changes.

URL stands for uniform resource locator and is a web address.

A DOI in a works cited page looks like this:

Chan, Evans. “Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema.” *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000.

*Project Muse*, doi:10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.

Notice that the abbreviation for DOI is in lowercase in the works cited entry and that there is no space after the colon.

When you use a DOI, you do not need to enter the letters (doi) into the search bar.

Not all documents have a DOI, but when they do, use that instead of the URL as it is a much more reliable container. To see what to look for, find the article with the DOI in the above example. You will see a box identifying the DOI to the left of the article title and author, similar to my example below.

|  |
| --- |
| **From:**[**Postmodern Culture**](https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/160) [Volume 10, Number 3, May 2000](https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/1614)  10.1353/pmc.2000.0021  https://muse.jhu.edu/publisher/1/image/colophon |

**In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:**

Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema

[Evans Chan](https://muse.jhu.edu/results?searchtype=regular&filtered_content=author&search_term=%22Evans%20Chan%22)

**What is a permalink?**

A permalink is also called a stable URL. This is also better than a URL without that designation.

WordPress permalinks described by [www.elegantthemes.com/blog/tips-tricks/wordpress-permalinks](http://www.elegantthemes.com/blog/tips-tricks/wordpress-permalinks)

The designation can show up like this:

http://www.website.com/wp-admin/options-permalink.php

But the *MLA Handbook* example does not have a permalink designation.

I typed <http://nyti.ms/1sjGXQA> into the search bar and came up with this:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/10/books/patrick-modiano-wins-nobel-prize-in-literature.html?smid=pl-share>

I have emailed this news outlet and asked how we distinguish whether they are using a URL or a permalink. I am waiting for their a reply.

From: <http://library.sbcc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/CopyingArticlePermalinks.pdf>

How do you locate the Static/Stable URL (ie the Premalink) on the source?

Possible labels: “stable URL,” “document URL,” “permalink,” or “book mark”