

# DOIs, the Library and the Researcher

## ■ What Is A CrossRef DOI And Why Should I Care?

A CrossRef DOI<sup>®</sup> (Digital Object Identifier) is a permanent link to published full text like journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, or other content.

CrossRef DOIs ensure that researchers can follow links to the content they need, every time.

Unlike a URL, which can change, or disappear altogether, a CrossRef DOI remains the same. This way, the document can be discovered, even if the URL changes, with the following benefits for researchers and librarians

- Reader navigation through article references increases usage of electronic resources.
- CrossRef DOI links can expand access to content not licensed by the library.
- CrossRef provides valid, robust, and best of all, persistent CrossRef DOI links.
- CrossRef helps find the appropriate copy of an article or other content depending on what resources are available locally through the library or globally on the Web.
- Article-level metadata look-up makes CrossRef publishers OpenURL compliant.

## ■ Where Can I Find A CrossRef DOI?

1. Many publishers display the CrossRef DOI prominently on the first page of an article, in print or online.
2. In an electronic reference, the CrossRef DOI may be included as a link under a button labeled "Article," "CrossRef," "Full Text," or another name.
3. Look up DOIs. Go to [www.crossref.org/lookup](http://www.crossref.org/lookup) and use the citation information you have to get the CrossRef DOI.

## ■ What Do I Do With A CrossRef DOI?

- Make any CrossRef DOI linkable to the full text by putting <http://dx.doi.org/> in front of it.
- Include CrossRef DOIs instead of URLs in your references whenever possible. Most style manuals call for the DOI to be the last item in the citation.
- Copy and paste CrossRef DOIs instead of typing them. CrossRef DOIs can be long, and it is easy to miss-type a character. In order for accurate reference linking, the CrossRef DOI must appear exactly as published in the article.
- Once an article is published and made available electronically, the CrossRef DOI will be activated as a link to the content you are referencing.
- Readers who wish to look up the source can then link either to the actual article, if they have authorized access, or to an abstract and an opportunity to purchase a copy of the item.
- A search on Google Scholar will link from a CrossRef DOI in the results list to the publisher web site. This assures the researcher that they find the article of record, which is crucial for the citation process. For more information visit <http://crossref.org/05researchers/index.html>.

**NORTH AMERICA**  
40 SALEM STREET  
LYNNFIELD, MA 01940  
UNITED STATES  
+1 781 295 0072  
FAX +1 781 295 0077

**EUROPE**  
CROSSREF UK  
CHESTER HOUSE  
21-27 GEORGE ST.  
OXFORD OX1 2AY  
UNITED KINGDOM

