Sharing Journal Articles with Students

Best Practices for Sharing Journal Articles in Course Sites

Instead of posting PDFs of copyrighted journal articles in course sites, faculty can share these documents with students using Welch Library eReserves or posting direct links to articles in the Online Library.

Information about Ares, the eReserve system can be found here: [http://welch.jhmi.edu/welchone/Ares-The-New-Online-Reserve-System](http://welch.jhmi.edu/welchone/Ares-The-New-Online-Reserve-System). Note that eReserve requests should be made 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the term. Additional guidelines for submitting requests: [http://welch.jhmi.edu/welchone/Submit-an-eReserve](http://welch.jhmi.edu/welchone/Submit-an-eReserve).

Posting Links to Journal Articles in Course Sites

We recommend that you share stable URLs (persistent links) to journal articles via the Online Library’s Weblink tool.

It’s best to organize your course readings using the Online Library so that you can easily affiliate readings with your course’s topics and schedule, and so that the readings will be listed on the downloadable version of your course syllabus.

1. From the Online Library, choose Add Weblink

![Add Weblink screenshot](image)
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2. Paste the stable URL to the document in the Link URL field
3. Select a Folder, if used
4. Paste the article citation into the Link Title field
5. Select Importance (required/reference/optional), if used
6. Select the Session the article should be affiliated with
7. Select Link to Syllabus if you’d like this item to be part of a “reading list” on your course syllabus (it will appear under files from the Online Library)

Use Stable URLs to Ensure Links Don’t Break

When adding an article link to your course site, avoid pasting the URL from your browser’s address bar as these links often contain session, user, or proxy information and may expire.

Three Options for Stable URLs

1. Locate or Create a DOI Link

The most frequently used stable URL is the DOI or Digital Object Identifier and it is the preferred method of linking a document because it is platform independent and will never change. Many journals and databases include the DOI link in their citation information.

Unfortunately not all articles have DOIs but they are used for 85% of academic articles and more are added daily.

All article DOIs begin with 10.1xxx and some incorporate journal titles

DOI: 10.1001/jama.288.3.321
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMcpc1210260

To create a Stable URL with a DOI

1. Locate the article’s DOI on the article landing page or pdf
2. Type http://dx.doi.org/ (this points to the DOI proxy server)
3. Paste or type the article’s DOI following the backslash after org: http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8519.2012.01991.x

Note: If you can’t find the DOI on the article page or pdf, try using Google to locate the DOI by typing the title followed by a space and then the letters DOI. You can also use the DOI lookup tool (http://www.crossref.org/guestquery).
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2. Locate the Stable URL in an Article or on Article Information Page

Look for a stable URL provided by the publisher on the article's information or landing page. Look for words such as, “persistent URL,” “stable URL,” “infomark,” “permanlink,” “document URL,” “durable link,” “linking options for this record,” or “DOI link.” Unfortunately, not all articles have stable URLs.

3. Locate the Stable URL Using Export Citation Tools

Use the citation tools provided by the database and export the citation to your Refworks (or other account) OR choose a plain text option. The citation information generated often includes a stable URL.

Locating Stable URLs in JAMA

In many journals like JAMA and NEMJ, the stable URL is a DOI based link.

Don’t see it? You can also use the Get Citation tool to locate the DOI link or stable URL.
Using the Get Citation Tool

The JAMA Network provides a Get Citation tool that allows users to download citation files in various formats (e.g., BibTeX, EndNote). This tool is particularly useful for sharing journal articles with students as it facilitates the inclusion of proper citations in their assignments.

Finding Stable URLs in NEMJ

The New England Journal of Medicine (NEMJ) offers a tool to access stable URLs of articles. This feature is crucial for academic purposes as it ensures that the links to articles remain valid over time, even after they are republished or updated in the journal.

Center for Teaching and Learning
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
tinyurl.com/jhsphtoolkit
Finding Stable URLs in JSTOR

JSTOR articles do not have DOIs but the stable URL is indicated on the article page.

Tips and Tricks

- If you are using the library’s Find It tool, look to the column on the right for a DOI link.
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- If you need stable URLs for several articles, try CrossRef's Simple Text Query Form (http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/) to get DOIs for multiple articles by pasting your reference list into the text box. Note: You need to register for a free account to use this service (http://www.crossref.org/requestaccount/)

1. Paste your references into the text box and click on Submit

Enter the email address you registered for use of Crossref services. If you have not registered your email address, click here.

Registered email:  

Enter text in the box below:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0001363.1995.10545272

http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10755-009-9095-2

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02602930600679035

http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/tl.473

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0001363.2013.787304

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0001363.2011.938035

http://dx.doi.org/10.3200/CHNG.37.1.30-33

2. The system will then return the DOI links for your items (always proof before posting)