BRC GUIDE TO CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES IN APA

When including electronic resources in a reference list, remember:

1. For electronic sources, follow the guidelines for print sources as closely as possible, adding information that points to the electronic source at the end of the reference.

2. When creating a reference for a journal article, always use both the volume number and issue number for that article.

3. Use a retrieval date in the reference if the electronic source is likely to change. If an electronic item is not likely to be changed, (e.g., a journal article in a database,) a retrieval date is not needed.

4. Use the DOI [Digital Object Identifier] when available. Here is the definition of the DOI provided by the APA: “A DOI is a unique alpha-numeric string assigned by a registration agency to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet.”

A more in-depth explanation of the APA rule revisions for Electronic References can be found here: http://www.apastyle.org/elecmedia.html

Example References

Journal Articles

1. Article with DOI [Digital Object Identifier] assigned:
If an article found online and/or in a database has a DOI, add the DOI to the end of the reference. No date of access, URL, or database name is needed.

doi:10.1016/j.chb.2007.01.024

2. Article with no DOI assigned (not open access):
If an article found in a subscription database does not have a DOI assigned to it, record the URL of the journal’s home page.

3. **Article with no DOI assigned (open access):**

If an article is retrieved from a journal that is accessible online for free, and it does not have a DOI, include the complete URL at the end of the reference.


**Web Sites**

1. **Web site with no author**

If there is no author listed on a webpage, begin the reference with the title of the page. Include the full URL of the web site at the end of the reference.


2. **Web site with author**

If there is an author listed on a website, begin the reference with the author’s last name and initials, as in a reference for a print resource. Include the full URL and the date of access at the end of the reference.