

APA Style

Tips for Citing Material Found Electronically:

When citing an item you found electronically, retrieval information should be listed- as available- in the following order:

1.) DOI

If you have a digital object identifier (DOI) then you are golden. No further retrieval information is needed if you have a DOI.

2.) Periodical or Website Homepage URL

If the item you are citing does not have a DOI, then you should provide a homepage URL. What does that mean?

1. If you retrieved an article from a subscription database (like a library database), then you must do a simple [google](#) search to find the publisher's homepage for that item. Many journal publishers will have a simple homepage where you can find basic information about the journal and where articles can be purchased. Be wary of journal homepages from old publishers; you want the latest publisher's homepage. If you have no DOI but do have the journal homepage, then you are finished with the retrieval information portion of the citation. Example: "Retrieved from <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0021-9029>"
2. If you retrieved the item from the internet, you simply provide the homepage URL of the website where the item was found, but there is one condition. Is the website easily searchable? You must determine if the website is easily searchable before you include the homepage URL. Try searching the site for the author or title of the item you are citing. Can you find it? If there is no DOI and the website is easily searchable, then you include only the website homepage URL. You are then finished with the retrieval information portion of the citation. Example: "Retrieved from <http://www.newsweek.com/>"

3.) Database Information or Exact URL

If the item you are citing does not have a DOI, a publisher's homepage, or an easily searchable website, then you include either database information or an exact URL to the item online.

1. If you are unable to find the journal or periodical homepage online and you retrieved the item from a subscription database (like a library database), then you can list the database in the retrieval information portion of the citation. When you list the database, include the "abstract identifier" or accession number. Most databases will provide a unique number for each item in the database. Simply include this number after stating the database name. Example: "Retrieved from Health Reference Center-Academic database. (Accession No. A149657222). "
2. If you retrieved the item from a website that is not easily searchable, include the exact URL to the item as the retrieval information portion of the citation. Example: "Retrieved from <http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-9211/critical.htm>"

