The Gist of DOIs: What you Need to Know and How to Handle Them

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) came into being in 2000 and some have been retroactively added to citations. Secondly, some databases never provide DOIs and one example is SportsDiscus.

Per the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA manual), "If no DOI has been assigned to the content, provide the home page URL of the journal or of the book or report publisher. If you are accessing the article from a private database [and ATSU's library databases would be an example here], you may need to do a quick web search to locate this URL" (pp. 191-192).

If the DOI is available, it will be in the article record information near the bottom (Still One Search, Most EBSCO Databases), at the top of the citation information (PubMed), or on the very bottom of the page or amongst the author information, if the article comes via Inter Library Loan. Looking at the Crossref website (http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/) might also provide you with a DOI.

For citations not providing a DOI, your alternative, as a student, is to provide a direct link to the Journal itself. Some of the journals will be listed in the PubMed Indexed Journal list available here (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals) and others will require you to locate a the website of the journal.

Two Examples - everything is as it should be:


Two Examples - DOIs are missing, URL for actual Journal:


Journal Website URL: https://www.jco-online.com/

Article Record from EBSCO Database: http://p.atsu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com.p.atsu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=82788526&site=eds-live Note-this type of link is not accepted by the University Writing Center or your instructor!

Journal website URL: http://apjcn.nhri.org.tw/