APA Citation Style (6th ed.)

Retrieval Statement Assistance

When articles have been retrieved from electronic resources (such as websites or online indexes/databases), a retrieval statement should be included in the reference.

The following principles should be kept in mind:

1. **Follow patterns for print sources when possible.**
   Use reference-list entries for similar print sources as your guide: Include as much of the information that is required for corresponding print versions as you can locate and present the information in the same order and format.

2. **Provide retrieval information.**
   After providing basic information about an online source—author, date, title, and so on—add sufficient retrieval information to allow readers to locate your sources on the Internet. Use retrieval dates *only* when sources are likely to change (for example, wikis).

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   Current publications usually display the DOI—a fixed alphanumeric link to an online document—at the top of the first page. When it is available, use it to identify the source.

4. **Use a uniform resource locator (URL) as an alternative.**
   When a DOI is not available, use the URL of the home page of the online source. A complete URL is necessary *only* when a source is difficult to locate within a website.

5. **Present a source’s DOI or URL with care.**
   To ensure that you record a DOI or URL exactly, copy and paste it into your reference-list entry.

6. **Divide the DOI or URL when necessary.**
   To avoid large spaces in citations, divide DOIs or URLs *before* punctuation; however, retain http:// as a unit.

7. **Present retrieval statements with care.**
   A retrieval statement ending with a DOI or a URL has no ending punctuation, because a closing period might be misinterpreted as part of the identification number or electronic address.

(Perrin, 2012, p. 106)
Example of an article with a DOI:


Places where you might see a DOI:

- On the first page of an article (usually in smaller print near a journal logo, journal title, copyright, or an author’s email address)
- In the article’s citation or record in an online index/database

One may search for a DOI using a free DOI lookup service provided by CrossRef.org: [http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/](http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/)
Example of an article without a DOI:


Principles of Managerial Moral Responsibility.

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**Source:** Business Ethics Quarterly; Oct2009, Vol. 19 Issue 4, p529-552, 24p

**Document Type:** Article

**Subject Terms:** EXECUTIVES
MANAGEMENT
BUSINESS ethics
RESEARCH
INDUSTRIAL management
NEEDS assessment
MORAL & ethical aspects
MORAL conditions

**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to formulate and defend a set of moral principles applicable to management. Our motivation is twofold: 1) to increase the coherence and utility of Integrative Social Contracts Theory (ISCT); and 2) to initiate an alternative stream of business ethics research. To those ends, we specify what counts as adequate guidance in navigating the ethical terrain of business. In doing so, a key element of ISCT, Substantive Hypotheses, is found to be flawed beyond repair. So we propose and defend a remedy: prima facie moral principles. After delineating the appropriate criteria and format for such principles, we formulate, explain, and defend five of them. We conclude with a brief comment on future research possibilities.

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**Database:** Business Source Premier
NOTE: If a DOI is not found:

- On the full-text of the article
- In the article’s citation or record in an online index/database
- Via the DOI lookup service

Then a web search needs to be placed for the home page of the journal in which the article is found (e.g., Business Ethics Quarterly), and the URL for that home page used in the reference.
Example of a document without a DOI, and is not easily located through its primary publishing channels:


The home or entry page URL for the online archive in which the article is found is used (i.e., the page that appears when you click on the link to the database in which you were searching). ERIC and JSTOR are examples of electronic databases in which this type of document may be found.
**Database Information:**

“In general, it is not necessary to include database information. Journal coverage in a particular database may change over time; also, if using an aggregator such EBSCO, OVID, or ProQuest (each of which contain many discipline-specific databases, such as PsycINFO), it may be unclear exactly which database provided the full text of an article” (*Publication Manual*, 2010).

In other words, the name of an online index/database is not usually included in a retrieval statement unless the database is the only place where that document can be found (e.g., ERIC documents).

Example:


References
