NOTE: This guide applies to APA citation style only.

If you've found an article by searching a subscription database (like Academic Search Complete from EBSCO), you will have to provide a link to the content in your citation. You can link the reader to your content by providing one of the following:

- a DOI (Digital Object Identifier)
- the URL of the publisher's website

You should not simply copy and paste the link you see in your browser. A reader without a subscription to our databases would be unable to access your material if you provide the link that the database provider creates. For that reason, you'll need to include the DOI or the publisher's website link--both options will connect them with a way to access the information regardless of whether they have a subscription to that particular database.

A **DOI (Digital Object Identifier)** is a unique and permanent number that's assigned to an electronic document so it can be easily found online. No matter where the article is stored (in a database, on a publisher's webpage, etc.) your reader should be able to link to it. This is the preferred way to link to your resource--if you've got it, you should **always** include it in your citation.

The **publisher URL** is a web link to a publisher's homepage. Providing this link helps your reader connect with the resource that you have cited even if they do not have access to the database where you found it.

Not sure how to find the publisher information? Try checking the database for details. For example, Figure 2 shows a record for an article found using an EBSCO database.

From the article record, clicking on the "Source" link (typically, this is the journal title) will open a page that provides details about this particular journal title.
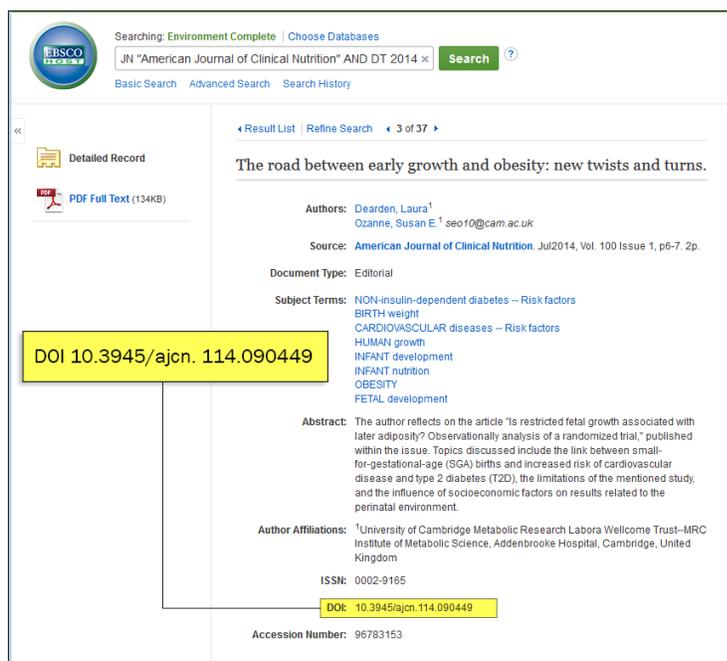

Figure 1 - database record with DOI highlighted

Figure 2 - Journal article source

Figure 3 - Publication record highlighting the Publisher URL with a reference to the SWITCH Library Consortium.

Figure 3 shows the Publication Details for the article shown below. The highlighted area indicates a url for the publisher's website. In this example, the url contains a reference to the SWITCH Library Consortium, through which the CSU databases are accessed. This reference is determined by the presence of **switchinc.org** within the url. **This is not the correct url for the publisher and should not be used in your citation.**

If the url contains references to the SWITCH Consortium, or if you do not see a publisher url, you will need to do a web search to find the publisher information.

A quick web search of "Career Development Quarterly" yields the publisher information and the link you should provide.

Figure 4 - Webpage of the journal, Career Development Quarterly