



Library Research Tips

Persistent URLs

Have you ever copied a link (URL) to an article from a database and found that it didn't work when you tried to open it later? The location of the article may have changed.

Most databases provide persistent links to articles. A **persistent URL** uses an intermediary to locate the resource so that while the location of the article may change, your link will still find the resource. It is important to ensure that you provide your readers with the persistent URL whenever possible.

The URL located in the browser window is NOT the persistent URL; you may be able to access your article for a few days after copying and pasting this URL into a document, but you should not use this URL as it is not persistent.

The steps to identify persistent URLs for articles from the library databases differ depending on the vendor:

ProQuest databases (Examples: ABI/INFORM Global, Canadian Newsstand):

- In the item record, scroll down to the **Document URL** (near the bottom) - this is the persistent URL.
- Cut and paste the URL into your document.

Document URL

<http://libdbauth.nait.ab.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/libdbauth.nait.ab.ca/docview/900786157?accountid=12654>

Gale databases (Examples: Academic OneFile, Small Business Collection):

- In the item record, scroll down to the **Document URL** (near the bottom) - this is the persistent URL.
- Copy and paste the URL into your document.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/libdbauth.nait.ab.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA10754056&v=2.1&u=nait_main&t=r&p=AONE&sw=w

EBSCO databases (Examples: Business Source Complete, Academic Search Complete):

- In the item record, click on **Permalink** (in the Tools box on the right).
- Copy and paste the URL into your document.

Permalink

Films on Demand videos:

- In the item record, the persistent URL for **FOD** videos is located below the video screen; it is labeled **Title URL**.
- Copy and paste the URL into your document.

Title URL

<http://digital.films.com/libdbauth.nait.ab.ca/PortalPlaylists.aspx?aid=6122&xtid=44337>

Visit the library website: www.nait.ca/library