Adding Direct Links to Electronic Resources

“Reading Lists @ Liverpool” and manually adding links

The University Library supports the use of a reading list platform (“Reading Lists @ Liverpool”) for oncampus/UoL managed programmes. Module developers are advised to consider use of this platform for managing student readings, please see our LibGuide for information on Reading Lists @ Liverpool or contact your Librarian.

“Reading Lists @ Liverpool” is advocated to support the University’s baseline standards for online modules. Note – online programmes operated by our partner Laureate Education do not currently use “Reading Lists @ Liverpool”.

In addition to the above system, it is possible to manually create links to e-resources, this may be necessary if you wish to share a link informally or wish to add a link within your academic work or bibliography.

Note – when adding e-resource links to a bibliography you should be aware of your audience, for example if you would like to share links for a lecturer to read you may need to use a linking option which supports the UoL/MWS login (to access a subscribed/ commercial resource).

If you wish to include e-resource links which are neutral of the University login for a general audience, e.g. links within a thesis or an academic paper, then you may need to use a public DOI link (see details below).

Development staff should be aware that use of manually created links to readings may require ongoing monitoring to ensure they remain functional. Some types of link are more stable than others. For modules which will be maintained less often or contain many links, developers are advised to use the OpenURL method shown below.

LinkBuilder Tools

Further to the advice on this guide, you can quickly create links to e-resources such as E-Journal articles using the Link Builder page - see the left menu of the Library for Online Programmes (http://libguides.liv.ac.uk/onlineprogrammes):
Methods for Linking to E-Resources

- **OpenURL** – these URLs are now most stable way to link to subscribed E-Journal articles and E-Books. When you visit an OpenURL this will contain publication details such as the journal name, issue, volume etc. you will arrive at our linking platform, showing all possible sources for the item.

- **DOI** – a unique ID for an e-resource (usually an article) looking like 10.1103/PhysRevA.68.021801 The DOI can be made into a link using the online DOI service, e.g. http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.68.021801 these links can be accessed via a UoL login or alternatively as a public DOI without reference to the UoL login or library subscriptions.

- **URLs copied from your Web browser** – databases often display e-resources using a complex URL in your Web browser address bar, this URL can include temporary data related to your browsing session. These URLs may function only during your current browsing session or may appear stable if used later, but can change over time, especially following a system upgrade.

- ‘**Permalinks’ provided within platforms** - some platforms such as DISCOVER or the Library Catalogue provide a ‘permalink’ icon to create an e-resource link. These links can be useful for quickly sharing a URL with colleagues or students, they may be stable in the short term, but functionality may change, especially when Library systems change or upgrade.

- **Proxy server** - when you access e-resources using Library links or search boxes, our “proxy” server is often shown in the URL, this often looks like http://www-scopus-com.liverpool.idm.oclc.org In this example, the database (scopus.com) is being viewed via our proxy server (liverpool.idm.oclc.org). It is possible for some of the above linking methods to include our proxy server for logging into subscribed databases/e-resources. These kind of links may be useful for incidental sharing with colleagues or students. However, if Library systems change these links may need to be updated eventually.

**OpenURL**

OpenURL is our recommended method of creating links to E-Journal articles and E-Books for online modules. Development staff should typically use this option rather than other methods (such as DISCOVER permalinks or URLs copied from the browser address bar) to ensure links remain stable in the long term. **Other methods typically require our proxy server to access subscribed e-resources, however our OpenURLs will remain stable even if our login (proxy) server changes.**

The OpenURL consists of a series of elements representing the journal name (or abbreviation), journal volume and issue, starting page number and year. It is possible to create an OpenURL by using the following format with your custom journal details:
You can also create an OpenURL link on the Link Builder page. You will need to supply the journal name, volume, issue, start page and year, you can test the link or copy the link to your clipboard:

![E-Journal Article (Open URL) - RECOMMENDED FOR PROGRAMME DEVELOPERS](image)

This will show our “Is it @ Liverpool” page with a link to the article if available:

![Title: End-to-end arguments in system design](image)

You can also see another tool to create an OpenURL for an E-Book, this requires the exact book title:

![E-Book (OpenURL)](image)

The format in this case requires the following:

http://openurl.ac.uk/ukfed:liv.ac.uk/?genre=book&amp;title=mechanical+system+design
This will show our “Is it @ Liverpool” screen, with a link to the E-Book:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Source: Mechanical system design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If we hold more than one E-Book with the same book title the user will see a screen asking the user to choose the book from a list of books available (inclusion of the full/exact title, year and publisher should be shown in the reading citation to allow for location of the E-Book):

The OpenURL approach for E-Books is a relatively new method of linking to E-Books, if you have any difficulties please contact your Librarian. For an alternative method of linking to an E-Book see the Library Catalogue ‘permalink’ option below.

Other Linking Options

You can see other linking options on the “additional tools” page http://libguides.liv.ac.uk/onlineprogrammes/linkbuilderextra

WARNING

We cannot guarantee the following link formats will remain stable over the long term. Development staff are advised to rely on the OpenURL methods described above or to consider use of “Reading Lists @ Liverpool” to manage readings (not used for Laureate operated programmes).

Create a direct link to an E-Journal article using the Document Object Identifier number (DOI)

The Document Object Identifier number (DOI) is a unique ID associated with specific E-Journal articles or related scholarly resources, you can use this ID to create a direct link to the resource as a URL/Web address.
You can usually find the DOI number when you view the article details - either on the article summary page within a database or in the full-text document of the article itself (alternatively, try the Cross Ref DOI search tool to locate a DOI number).

The DOI number looks like this: 10.1108/09600039610150479

You can make the DOI number into a link using this URL format:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/09600039610150479

To use a DOI with the UoL/MWS login, this requires our proxy also adding:

https://liverpool.idm.oclc.org/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/09600039610150479

You should test any DOI link you create. Some DOI links cannot resolve using the UoL/MWS login, this is because DOI requires a subscription to the primary publisher and we sometimes have access through a 3rd party publisher.

You can create a DOI link on the Link Builder page, this includes a checkbox to create a non-UoL based link which will be neutral of the UoL/MWS login (this may be useful for including links in a dissertation, thesis or academic paper):

Create a direct link to an E-Book using the Library Catalogue

You can create a link to an E-Book using the Library Catalogue. Go to the Catalogue http://library.liv.ac.uk and refine your search to E-Books:

After pressing ‘Submit’ click the ‘Permanent Link’ option:
You can then copy and paste the URL shown in the address bar of your Web browser and use this URL to create your link:

![URL example](http://library.liv.ac.uk/record=b2582964~58)

You can also make E-Book links to search results in the Library Catalogue using tools shown in the Link Builder page (see the ‘additional tools’ page).

**Create a direct link in DISCOVER (for E-Journal Articles / E-Books)**

Once you have located an article or E-Book in DISCOVER, click on the title of the required item, you will be shown a screen containing details about the item.

In the right menu you will see a Permalink icon, if you click this you will see a ‘Permalink’ box showing the URL:

![Permalink example](http://library.liv.ac.uk/record=b2582964~58)
You can also obtain a link for search results (vs. an individual item record). When viewing search results, click the ‘Share’ icon to access a popup containing the permalink to the results:

You can select the URL contained in the permalink box by clicking on it or using your mouse cursor to select all the text, then right-click over the text and select ‘Copy’ (or ‘Copy Link’ in some browsers), you can now paste the link into any email, online discussion or document.

You can also make DISCOVER links using our Link Builder page (see the ‘additional tools’ page).

Further help

If you have any questions please contact your Librarian (see list of Liaison Librarians and Librarian for Online Programmes).