

Adding Direct Links to Electronic Resources

‘ReadingLists @ Liverpool’

The University Library supports the use of a reading list platform (“*Reading Lists @ Liverpool*”) for many programmes. Module developers are advised to consider use of this platform for managing student readings, please see our Library Guide for information on [Reading Lists @ Liverpool](#) or contact your Librarian.

ReadingLists @ 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”.*

When using ReadingLists @ Liverpool you can add citations from a range of sources automatically (e.g. browser plugin), this often adds a URL with the citation, however if you add a citation manually or find a URL has not been added, you may wish to consider creating a URL – see following advice.

Manually Adding Links

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.

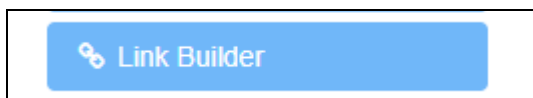
Note – when adding e-resource links to a bibliography you should be aware of your audience, for example if you would like to share links for a lecturer to read you may need to use a linking option which supports the UoL/MWS login (to access a subscribed/ commercial resource).

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.liverpool.ac.uk/onlineprogrammes>):



Note - Database URLs copied from your browser address bar

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. If you copy & paste URLs from the address bar for database results/records, these may not be stable, so you are advised to check these periodically to ensure these remain usable.

Stable Linking

With the closure of the JISC 'openurl.ac.uk' service, there is no linking solution guaranteed to be stable for long term use, we now provide a local 'Open URL' service using our EBSCO database. All linking options described below should be checked periodically as these rely on platforms which may change over time (including our EBSCO Open URL and tools relying on our 'proxy' service).

To ensure links continue to work in the future, you should consider use of a centrally managed solution allowing for systematic updating of URLs, such as **Reading Lists @ Liverpool**.

Methods for Linking to E-Resources

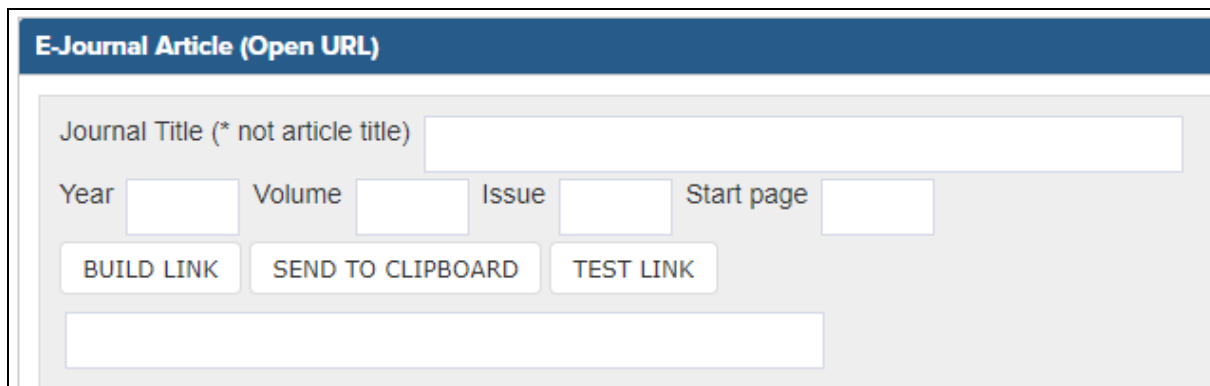
- **OpenURL** – when you visit an OpenURL this will contain publication details such as the journal name, issue, volume etc. you will arrive at our linking platform, showing all possible sources for the item.
- **DOI** – a unique ID for an e-resource (usually an article) looking like *10.1103/PhysRevA.68.021801* 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.
- **Library Catalogue** - you can link to a specific item within the Library Catalogue. When you have located your e-book record in the Library catalogue you can use the 'Permalink' icon shown in the right menu to obtain a short, stable link. You can then copy the URL from your browser address bar.
- **'Permalinks' provided within platforms** - some platforms such as DISCOVER or the Library Catalogue provide a 'permalink' icon (when visiting

the individual record) 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, e.g. when the platform upgrades.

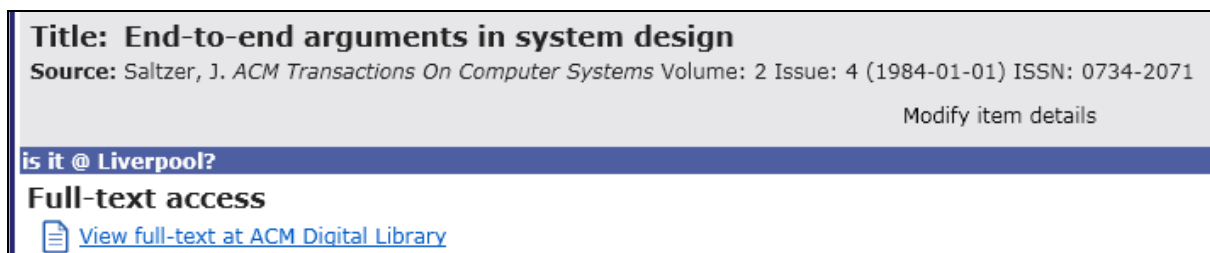
- **Note – Library Proxy server/URLs** - when you access e-resources using Library links or search boxes, our “proxy” server is often shown in the URL, this often looks like <http://www-scopus-com>. In this example, the database (scopus.com) is being viewed via our proxy server (liverpool.idm.oclc.org). 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.

Open URL

This method of creating links will display all licensed sources for an E-Journal article:



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



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:

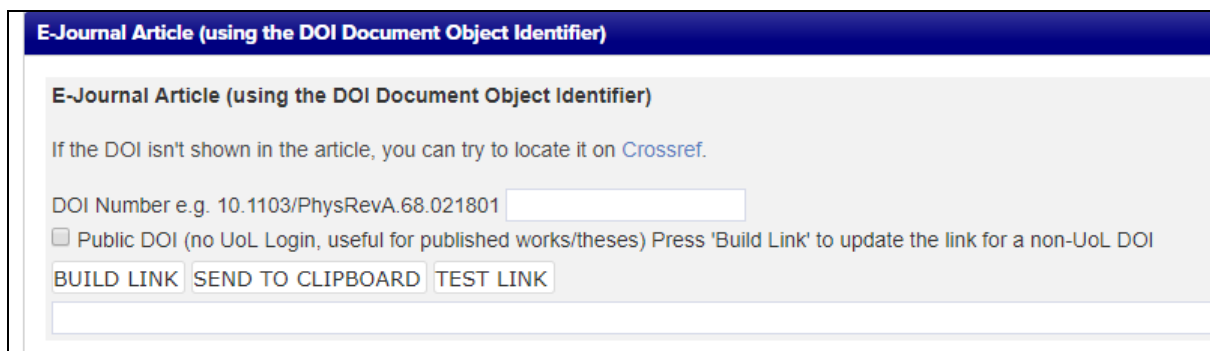
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/09600039610150479>

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>

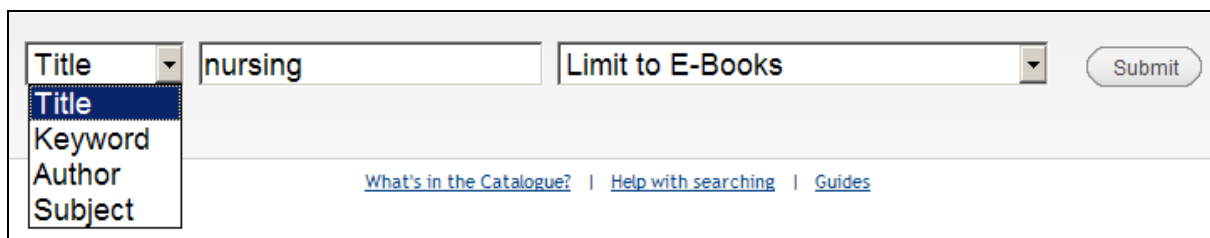
You should test any DOI link you create. Some DOI links cannot resolve using the UoL/MWS login, this is because DOI requires a subscription to the primary publisher and we sometimes have access through a 3rd party publisher.

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):

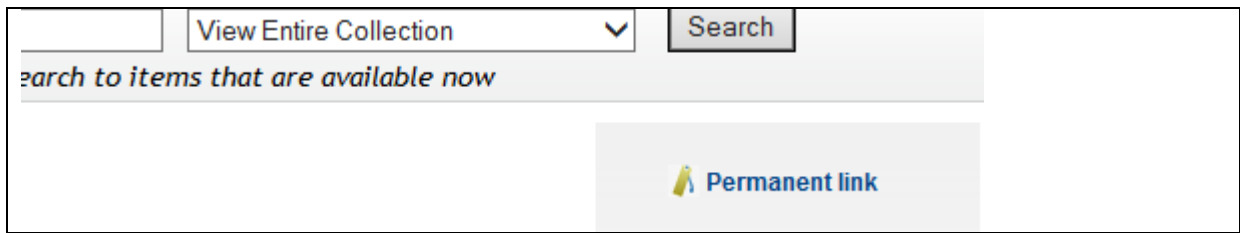


Create a direct link to an E-Book using the Library Catalogue

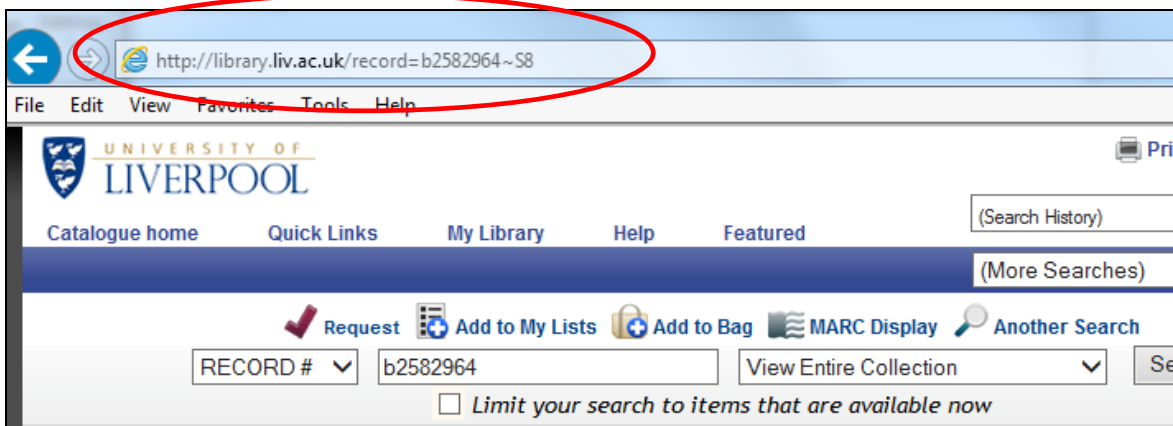
You can create a link to an E-Book using the Library Catalogue. Go to the Catalogue <http://library.liv.ac.uk> and refine your search to E-Books:



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:



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](#)).

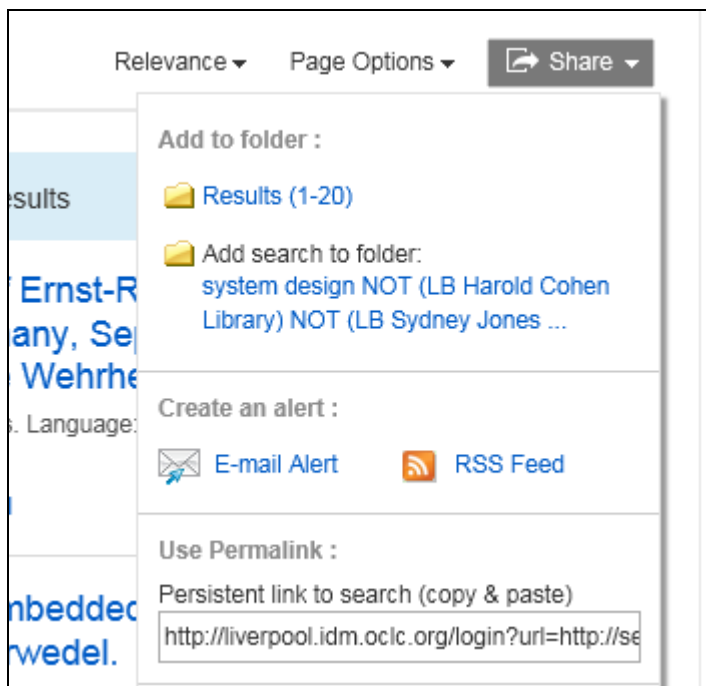
Create a direct link in DISCOVER (for E-Journal Articles / E-Books)

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:



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.

Further help

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

