Easy to See:
How Citations for Print and Online Journal Articles
Differ in NLM Citation Style

Here is an example of a citation for a print journal article that started out as Summary Text from PubMed. It was enhanced with added Internet information (in bold):


The following discussion clarifies the similarities and differences in formatting citations for print and online journal articles.

Citing Medicine provides examples of citations from many types of online materials including websites associated with an article or journal issue. Chapter 23 covers Journals on the Internet. Many online journals are identical to their print versions. Chapter 23 covers Journals on the Internet. Many online journals are identical to their print versions. Increasingly, however, journals are written directly for the Internet to enable hyperlinking, to include complex graphics, and to run multimedia such as film clips and sound.¹

Journal Article on the Internet

It is important to cite the version you saw. If you viewed an article on the Internet, do not cite it as if it were from the print issue. However, it may be useful to first locate all of the information needed to cite a print article, and then add the Internet-specific elements. See example above.

Although Internet journals differ in physical form from print journals, the basic rules for citing them do not differ markedly. There is still an author or organization with responsibility for the article, an article title, a journal title, a date of publication, and the location of the item (page numbers or the equivalent). Anyone citing an Internet document should try to locate all of these elements. Simply adding a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or another electronic address to a title is not sufficient. Internet sites disappear with great frequency, and users of a citation must be given some other identifying information if they are to locate articles.¹

(continues)
DOI and URL

Here is an example of citation for electronic journal, where both the URL and DOI are included. Elements unique to citing an online journal are in bold font.


URLS can be extremely long and complicated. The DOI, if available, may be the preferred electronic address. Providing a link documents authenticity of cited resources and, just as importantly, facilitates your readers’ ability to pursue the cited material.

Volume, Issue and Page Numbers (not) Present?

What has changed most with [citing] Internet journals... is volume and issue information. Some publishers omit volume and issue numbers, substituting an article numbering scheme or using the date the item was placed on the Internet as an identifier.¹

Example of citation for electronic journal, where publisher does not provide page numbers:


Reference