What is a DOI?

DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier. A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to a journal article or other document. It identifies content and provides a persistent link to its location on the Internet.

In an electronically published document, the DOI is usually hyperlinked to the content, and readers can link directly to the item if they have authorized access. If they don’t have authorized access, they can link to an abstract and an opportunity to purchase a copy of the document.

If the link is not live or if the DOI is referenced in a print publication, you need to do the following:

- Go to [www.crossref.org](http://www.crossref.org)
- Enter the DOI into the DOI resolver search box
- Click submit

This is the result you will get for the DOI above:

Kwantlen has authorized access, and if you are on campus and logged in you can simply click the link to the full text to view the item. If you are off campus, you will need to follow the steps outlined on the bottom of page 2.
If Kwantlen does not have authorized access, the following will happen (the DOI entered in the DOI resolver in the following case was 10.1037/0002-9432.76.4.482):

The result tells you that the article was retrieved from PsycARTICLES database. Although Kwantlen has a subscription to PsycARTICLES, we subscribe through a different service provider, and hence you will not be able to access the article directly from this site.

To access the article if Kwantlen has a subscription through a different service provider than the one being provided when doing a DOI search, follow these steps:

- Go to the Library homepage www.kwantlen.ca/library
- Click on Journal titles
- Enter the title of the journal
- Click on the hyperlink to the database
- Follow the necessary steps to get to the article (in the above example, you would click on year 2006, then Vol. 76 Issue 4)