What is a DOI? How do I find one?

Most people are aware of the ISBN for a book — the number above the barcode on the back of books. The ISBN is a number that identifies the particular book, edition, format, and sometimes, printing.

Each journal has its own number, as well, an ISSN. This is especially helpful, because journal, magazine, and newspaper names change often. The number identifies the same journal through all the name changes.

In the past 15 years, online material, particularly articles, have received their own special number — that's the DOI. This number will remain the same, even when the journal has a new publisher. With the DOI, you can go directly to an article. Its URL will be http://dx.doi.org/[type in the doi]. For the first example below, it's http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.jbtep2009.11.007.

Some Places the DOI May Appear

1. **Sleep, illness course, and concurrent symptoms in inter-episode bipolar disorder.**
   Database: Academic Search Premier

   DOI at the bottom of the first page of the article.

   DOI in the results list of a database.

   DOI in the Table of Contents of the journal's homepage.

Helpful websites:
The DOI Consortium: http://www.doi.org/