



How to Create Reliable Links to Articles in Subscribed Library Databases

These instructions are designed to produce **reliable and stable links** to **articles in library-subscribed databases** in order for these to **work both on and off campus**.

Use the Proxy Prefix **only for subscribed library content** (articles in electronic databases which the library pays for, such as ProQuest, JSTOR, Elsevier ScienceDirect, Oxford Journals Online).

STEP 1: Use the **Most Reliable URL** You Can Find

- If possible, don't grab the URL from the navigation toolbar.
- Instead, click on the article title, 'View Record' or 'View Abstract' and look for a reliable URL (**persistent link**) within the item record. A persistent link is designed to remain accessible permanently (this is the most reliable type of link).
 - e.g. in all ProQuest databases: use the "**Document URL**"
 - in all EBSCO databases: use the "**Permalink**"
 - in ScienceDirect: **right-click on the DOI** at top of page, select "**Copy Link Location**"
- If the database you're using doesn't offer a reliable link somewhere in the article record, you can test whether or not the URL in the navigation toolbar will work when you forward it. Just copy it and paste it into a different browser than the one you are working in (e.g. look up the article in Firefox, then copy and paste the URL into Internet Explorer). If it works in the second browser, it is likely to work for students.

STEP 2: Add the **Library's Proxy Prefix** to the Start of the URL

The library proxy prefix is: <http://libproxy.stfx.ca/login?url=>

- If you give students the link you have identified in Step 1, this link will only work on campus. **In order for a link to one of our subscription databases to work off-campus, you must add the library's proxy prefix to the start of that URL.**
 - e.g.
 - If you want to link to:
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=c8h&AN=2010772238&site=ehost-live>
 - You need to put both together (proxy prefix + URL), e.g.:
<http://libproxy.stfx.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=c8h&AN=2010772238&site=ehost-live>

If you have any questions about this, please contact the [Liaison Librarian](#) for your department, or you may contact:
Suzanne van den Hoogen, Emerging Services Librarian (svandenh@stfx.ca/ 867-4535)