Goucher College Library – Permalink use

**Definition:** A **permalink** is a web address that will consistently point to a specific information source such as an ebook, an article, a record in the catalog, a video, or a database.

A **permalink** may also be called a **stable link, durable link, persistent link, permanent link** or **document link**, depending on the resource.

**How do I find permalinks?**
Most research databases include a permalink in the article record. The terms used and the location of these links in the record vary from one database to another. Contact your **library liaison** for assistance with locating the permalinks for the various library electronic resources.

**Why can't I just copy the URL in my browser's address bar?**
Web addresses (URLs) that appear in the address bar of your web browser when you search the library's subscription databases usually contain dynamically generated session-based or search-based information that will not work when copied and used at a later time.

**Why would I use a permalink rather than just upload the article into LMS, Google docs, faculty webpages, email or elsewhere?**
You may be in violation of copyright law or license restrictions if you post content without appropriate authorization or permission. Using permalinks is the preferred option. For more information about copyright law, please see the [Copyright @ Goucher](#) libguide. Permalinks are also used to help track statistics. Usage statistics help the library to purchase the right resources for you.

**Should I ever upload the article to GoucherLearn rather than use the permalink?**
Yes, there are a few journals which we have access to via tokens. If your department uses these regularly, you will have been notified. By uploading to GoucherLearn, you will minimize the number of tokens that we have to pay for. While this will affect the usage, we understand the reasons why and will take that into consideration during purchase review.

**How do I know if a permalink will work from off campus?**
When on campus, access is transparent -- you are being authenticated even if you don't realize it because we recognize the IP address. When off campus, authentication via a proxy server, allows us to recognize and authenticate Goucher College Library users. In order for the library's electronic resources paid subscriptions (ebooks, journals) to work from outside our campus network or off campus, they must contain the **library's proxy in the URL** or web address. This in turn will open a dialog box prompting
the user for their campus ID login. Here's a screenshot and more information about off-campus access.

**Emails and Permalinks:**

It's essential that you always include the library proxy with a permalink because an email may be shared or read off campus.

**What does the Library Proxy look like?**

It looks like this - [https://goucher.idm.oclc.org/login?url=](https://goucher.idm.oclc.org/login?url=)

It is usually in front of a URL that directs you to an article

Here's an example of an article link that you can typically copy from the perma link:

Our subscription databases can be linked to using the links found in the [A-Z Databases list.](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=110858655&site=ehost-live&scope=site) The proxy address will not be seen in these links as it is incorporate into the backend of our LibGuides product.

More information on our EXProxy off-campus access can be found on the [Off-Campus Libguide.](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=110858655&site=ehost-live&scope=site)