What is a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)?

A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a unique, persistent identifying number for a document published online. It appears on a document or in a bibliographic citation as an alphanumeric string of characters that that acts as an active link to the original digital object (journal article, report, etc.).

Its purpose is to be a permanent, precise identifier for an individual document, regardless of its location on the Internet; a document retains its DOI even if its URL location changes. A publisher assigns a DOI to an article when it is published and becomes accessible online.

Publishers began assigning DOIs to documents in 2000. Some of them have added DOIs to older material retroactively. Many historical documents do not have DOIs.

DOIs are managed by the International DOI Foundation.

What does a DOI look like?

A DOI can appear as either an alphanumeric string of digits or as a webpage URL:

DOI: 10.1080/15588742.2015.1017687
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15588742.2015.1017687

See the following pages for illustrations.

How do I indicate a DOI in my reference?

APA style recommends the following reference format for articles with DOIs. (Note the secure https and the simple URL prefix doi.org.)


Highlighting provided for clarity; do not use in in your reference list.

Read more about referencing DOIs in APA style here.
DOI in a database record (SocINDEX)
DOI on a journal publisher website
Restorative Justice Legislation in the American States: A Statutory Analysis of Emerging Legal Doctrine

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Restorative justice is a relatively new approach to crime response, developing in the U.S. since the 1970s. Over the past three decades, these practices have been incorporated into legislation. Using content analysis of statutes in state criminal and juvenile codes, this study asks how restorative justice has been translated into law. The authors find that 32 states now have statutory support for the use of restorative justice, and that legislation ranges widely from general statements of support to structured use of restorative practices in at least some instances and for some offenders. Implications for practitioners, policy makers, and scholars are suggested.

KEYWORDS criminal justice policy, policy dissemination, restorative justice, victim offender mediation

The American response to crime over the past half century has been highly punitive, with massive growth in the number and scope of criminal laws as well as in the incarcerated population. Attempts to count the number of federal criminal statutes alone have yielded best estimates of more than 3,000 laws, with an acknowledgment that such attempts have been given up as “futile and inaccurate” (Fields & Emshwiller, 2011, p. 1). Even while crime rates have declined since the 1990s, incarceration rates have continued to rise. All the while, crime continues to affect tens of millions of Americans each year, and the present criminal justice system does little to ameliorate

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