

Best practices for using Temple Libraries content accessibly in your Canvas course site

Link to library resources

Use the **External Link** option to add library content in Canvas, rather than uploading files (PDFs, datasets, etc.). Be sure to use [persistent links](#) to library resources, not the URL in the browser window.

Linking to library resources has advantages:

- Enables the library to demonstrate usage, which can help staff make a case to retain a particular resource or subscription.
- Avoids issues with inaccessible files.
- Prevents potential copyright concerns.
- Allows students to choose how they prefer to access content (download a PDF, read online, use built-in “read aloud” features, etc.).

Links within citations

Panorama may flag links to specific sources in citations. For greater accessibility, **link the title of the source, rather than the URL or DOI.**

This makes the link more descriptive, while still providing the full citation to your students. Here’s an example:

Marwick, A. E., & boyd, d. (2014). [Networked privacy: How teenagers negotiate context in social media](#). *New Media & Society*, 16(7), 1051-1067.<https://doiorg.libproxy.temple.edu/10.1177/1461444814543995>

But what about the DOI (digital object identifier)? Should it remain? Refer to your scholarly community’s citation style guidelines, as they may vary. Below are a few common citation styles:

- APA Style: [DOIs and URLs](#)
- Chicago Style: [13.7: Digital Object Identifiers \(DOIs\)](#)

Using Temple Libraries

- MLA Style: [How can I make links in works-cited-list entries more accessible for screen readers?](#)

Use course reserves

The [course reserves program](#) allows instructors to request that their course materials be made available to students via the library. Instructors build a “reading list” of all their course materials in Canvas, and the library steps in where needed to ensure access.

Using electronic course reserves can be helpful to:

1. Acquire texts that the library does not already own. Use the [Manual Entry option](#) to add these texts to your reading list.
2. Request texts in a different format (e.g., a scan of a chapter from a print book). Use the [Request Digitization option](#) to add these texts to your reading list.

Get help

Contact Temple Libraries staff at asktulibrary@temple.edu. Your message will go into the library’s email ticketing system and be routed to the best person to answer your questions.