Temple University
Center for the Advancement of Teaching

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)

- 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 with library services

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.