



Guidelines for Digital Object Identifiers

DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier. They are one specific type of persistent identifiers, or PIDs. PIDs are a long-lasting reference to a document, file, web page, or other digital object. DOIs are one of the most common PIDs used specifically to identify scholarly datasets and publications. While a URL points to a *location* online, a DOI is assigned to *specific* content or digital objects. A DOI has two components: a unique identifier, which is the string of characters you see, and a service that minted that identifier that locates the resource over time. While the web address and location of an object may change, its DOI will not. URLs tend to change over time and thus end up as broken links. For this reason, using DOIs for datasets is preferable to other types of web links.

DOIs and Data Publishing

- DOIs are helpful when it comes to publishing and citing data, as it will help future researchers easily find your data.
- On MSD-LIVE, and most other sites, a DOI will send you to a landing page with contextual information about your data. Normally this page will contain a full bibliographic citation, so that a person can confirm that they found the correct data and can easily cite it.
- When data has been removed, retracted, or otherwise made unavailable to the public after publication the landing page will serve as a "tombstone page." The page provides enough information that the data can be identified and confirmed to have existed.
- Sensitive data can also be shared via a DOI, with the landing page providing information on how a researcher can access data not openly shared with the public.

Obtaining a DOI on MSD-LIVE

- When you archive your dataset on MSD-LIVE, a DOI can automatically be generated and made visible on the dataset's landing page.
- The DOI field is on the data upload page, after the Files section and under Basic Information
- There are three DOI options:
 - *I do not need a DOI*: Select this if your object does not need a DOI.
 - *I have a DOI already*: Select this if your data already has a DOI from another repository or location. You can then paste in your existing DOI.
 - *I need a DOI*: Select this if you wish to reserve a DOI. The system will show you a DOI that has been reserved with OSTI. This DOI will officially be registered when your upload is published.
- By reserving a DOI, you can often fulfill journal and funder requirements that ask for a DOI. However, since the DOI is only reserved, people will not be able to access the data itself until you publish it.

A screenshot of the 'Basic information' section in the MSD-LIVE data upload interface. The section is titled 'Basic information' in a dark blue bar with a white dropdown arrow. Below the title, there is a section for 'Digital Object Identifier*' with three radio button options: 'I do not need a DOI', 'I have a DOI already', and 'I need a DOI'. The 'I need a DOI' option is selected. Below the options is a green button labeled 'Get a DOI now!'. At the bottom of the section, there is a small text note: 'Reserve a DOI by pressing the button (e.g to include it in publications). The DOI is registered when your upload is published*'.

Basic information

■ Digital Object Identifier*

I do not need a DOI I have a DOI already I need a DOI

[Get a DOI now!](#)

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