

Letter from the Editor

The DOI and why it matters in scientific publications

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Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

The DOI, or Digital Object Identifier, is a unique alphanumeric string that is assigned to digital objects, such as research papers, to provide a persistent and unique link to the paper. It is like a social security number for the cited article. Web addresses might change, but DOI will stay the same permanently. The DOI system was created by The International DOI Foundation (IDF) a non-profit organization introduced in 1997 and adopted as International Standard ISO 26324 Registration Authority in 2012. The final original standard was published on 23 April 2012, and was updated in 2022.

By late 2011, more than 50 million DOIs had been assigned by various Registration Agencies (RA, members of the IDF), by 2013 this number had grown to 85 million DOIs, and to date, approximately 190 million DOIs have been assigned in various digital objects. Registration agencies generally charge a fee to assign a new DOI; parts of these fees are used to support the IDF. In general, the DOI system operates on a not-for-profit cost recovery basis.

DOI for all Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica (AOTH) publications

Not all electronic materials have a DOI. The DOI system is a fairly recent concept; therefore, books and articles published prior to 2000 are less likely to have a DOI. Since the second issue of 2024, any specific paper published in Acta Orthopaedica et

Traumatologica Hellenica (AOTH) will have a DOI. Although it is not strictly required to have a DOI assigned to a research paper, it is highly recommended because a DOI (1) provides a permanent and unique identifier for the paper, (2) makes the paper easy to locate and access even if the original URL changes, (3) can be used to provide information about the reach and impact of scholarly content, and (4) ensures that the paper is original and not plagiarized, and that proper attribution and citation are used throughout the paper. Many databases and search engines, such as Google Scholar, use DOI as the primary way to identify and link to scholarly articles; this means that if a paper has a DOI, it is more likely to show up in search results and be accessed and cited by researchers in your field. The DOI for a paper remains fixed over the lifetime of the paper, whereas its web location and other metadata may change. Referring to an online document by its DOI provides a more stable link than using its URL.

The IDF designed the DOI system to provide a form of persistent identification, in which each DOI permanently and unambiguously identifies the object to which it is associated. Although when the publisher of a journal changes sometimes the DOI may be changed, with the old DOI no longer working. In these cases, it is the responsibility of the publisher to update the URL with the metadata associated with the permanent DOI. A DOI name differs from commonly used internet pointers to materials,

such as the Uniform Resource Locator (URL), the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), Uniform Resource Name (URN), the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Recording Code (ISRC), Persistent Uniform Resource Locator (PURL), and Globally Unique Identifiers (GUID). A DOI does not depend on the object's location and can be used as substitute identifier for documents on the Internet.

Publishing in Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica (AOTH)

Digital technology is evolving for research, development, and medical writing. Publication has also shifted from print to digital. The majority of the journal articles are published with a DOI. Currently, Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica (AOTH) has adopted a DOI for its own publications. As Editors of the journal, promotion and dissemination of the published papers was our responsibility. Therefore, obtaining a DOI was a priority aiming to increase the visibility of the published papers and the impact of the journal. The DOI will help in this respect.

Submission to Acta Orthopaedica et Trauma-

tologica Hellenica (AOTH) is open and free of APCs for all authors. Reviewing is controlled by the Board of Editors, and editing is managed by the editorial office and the editor in chief himself. Our peer review purpose is to improve the submitted papers and accept for publication. After the publication of a paper, the authors are also encouraged to promote and disseminate the DOI of their paper by including in the abstracts of meetings and power point presentations, sharing on social media platforms such as e-mails or messenger applications, adding in promotional materials such as flyers or posters, or even by generating QR codes to promote the paper to a wider audience. This will allow others to easily find and access the article using its unique DOI.

We do appreciate all the work that takes for a manuscript preparation and submission and we look forward to your contribution to Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica (AOTH).

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