

Editorial

Use of Digital Object Identifiers

Advances in electronic publishing continue to come at a rapid rate. TCA is committed to taking advantage of these to enhance the journal's value to the theoretical chemistry community. Effective immediately, we will accept citations to Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for materials published electronically. Naturally, more typical citations, e.g., (year) Journal volume:page number will remain acceptable.

What, you ask, is the value of citing a DOI? There are two principal values, one short term and one longer term. In the short term, the DOI provides a very handy way for readers to access a cited reference. One need remember only a single URL prefix – <http://dx.doi.org> – and one will be able to find any item simply by adding its DOI to this prefix. The DOI directory resolves the address for the Web browser; examples appear below.

In the longer run, many journals, including TCA [1], are reducing their publication times substantially by placing articles on-line immediately after authors have corrected the proofs. These articles can be referenced (and accessed) by DOI even though page numbers may not yet have been assigned. Indeed, for journals that publish *entirely* electronically, the DOI is likely to be the most convenient citation. Although we have no current plans to do away with the printed version of TCA, it would be foolish to imagine that the percentage of electronic-only chemistry journals will not continue to increase in the future.

To codify format issues, citations in TCA that use a DOI should appear in one of two formats. When the referenced journal, book, etc., has a printed version, the citation should appear as, for example

Hayashi Y, Nakai H, Tokita Y, Nakatsuji H (1998)
Theor Chem Acc 99:210 DOI 10.1007/s0021498000m7

or, if a page number has not been assigned

Jensen F, Theor Chem Acc, (in press)
DOI 10.1007/s002149800m14

When the referenced item is entirely electronic, the citation may include only the DOI, for example

Doe J, Moe K (1998) DOI 99.9999/s0123456789

Authors are by no means *required* to provide the DOI to electronic articles that they cite (unless that is the only available reference). However, we encourage the community to take advantage of the convenience afforded by this opportunity. Those wishing to learn more about DOIs and the consortium supporting their development may visit <http://www.doi.org>.

Reference

1. Stumpe R (1998) Theor Chem Acc 99:209 DOI 10.1007/s002149800145 (If you want to access this citation immediately, point your browser to the URL <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s002149800145>)

CJ Cramer
DG Truhlar