OpenURL linking via metadata, DOI and specific provider IDs

How does OpenURL linking work?

Referring sources (such as Primo or Summon) are repositories of citation metadata. To connect a user to full-text, the referring source first sends an OpenURL link that contains the relevant citation metadata to the link resolver.

Link resolvers (such as SFX, Alma link resolver, or 360 Link) take the incoming OpenURL and use the embedded citation metadata to:

1. Find a title match in the link resolver's knowledge base
2. Find a portfolio or holding's match in the library's subscriptions
3. Construct an outbound link using the citation metadata to the target's subscribed platform

The outbound link to the target organizes the referring source's original citation metadata using a provider-specific syntax (often called a "parser" or "linker"). The user will then arrive at the full text of the cited journal, article, book, or book chapter.

As an additional feature, SFX, Alma link resolver, and 360 Link will overwrite or augment the referring source's citation metadata with metadata from CrossRef or PubMed if the OpenURL has a DOI or PMID. This helps ensure that we use the most accurate and up-to-date metadata to connect users with full text.

We have improved the linking accuracy even more by using specific document IDs (when available) that we receive from the providers.

Provider ID Method

This method works if the provider IDs are part of the OpenURL sent from CDI, in addition to the metadata. The target parser uses the relevant ID to create a link directly to the full text on the provider's platform.

This update increases the accuracy of links and give us the ability to create new article-level links for some of the providers that do not support OpenURL links.

The following table lists the providers that support the Provider ID method:

Provider	Parser	OpenURL	CTXO
wanfangj	WANFANGDATA::wanfangdata	rft_wanfj_id	rft_wanfj_id
Sage	SAGE::Journals	rft_sage_id	rft_sage_id
sabinet	SABINET::Journals	rft_sabinet_id	rft_sabinet_id

Provider	Parser	OpenURL	CTXO
Proquest	PROQUEST::open	rft_pqid	rft_pqid
popups	Primo::POPUPS	rft_popups_id	rft_popups_id
OUP	OUP::OUP	rft_oup_id	rft_oup_id
Nurimedia	NURIMEDIA::NURIMEDIA	rft_nurid	rft_nurid
Kluwer	KLUWER::LAW	rft_kluwer_id	rft_kluwer_id
Kiss	KISS::KISS	rft_kiss_id	rft_kiss_id
Jstor	JSTOR::JSTOR	rft_jstor_id	rft_jstor_id
Ingenta Connect	INGENTA::CONNECT	rft_ingid	rft_ingid
Gale	Gale::OpenURL	rft_galeid	rft_galeid
Erudit	ERUDIT::ERUDIT	rft_eruid	rft_eruid
equinox	EQUINOX::EQUINOX	rft_equinx_id	rft_equinx_id
earticle	E_ARTICLES::E_ARTICLES	rft_earticl_id	rft_earticl_id
Credo	CREDO::CREDO	rft_credo_id	rft_credo_id
cqvip	CQVIP::CQVIP	rft_cqvip_id	rft_cqvip_id
ceeol	CEEOL::CEEOL	rft_ceeol_id	rft_ceeol_id
Cambridge University Press	CUP::Core	rft_cupid	rft_cupid

Provider	Parser	OpenURL	CTXO
cairnenc	CAIRN::CAIRN	rft_cairnenc_id	rft_cairnenc_id
Airiti	CEPS::CEPS	rft_airiti_id	rft_airiti_id
Informit	INFORMIT::informit	rft_informt_id	rft_informt_id
Elsevier	ELSEVIER::SCIENCE_DIRECT	rft_els_id	rft_els_id
	ELSEVIER::SCIENCE_DIRECT_BOOKS	rft_els_id	rft_els_id
	Clinical::Nursing	rft_els_id	rft_els_id
	Clinical::KEY	rft_els_id	rft_els_id
American Medical Association	AMA::JAMA	rft_ama_id	rft_ama_id
Verlag Österreich	Biblioscout::biblioscout	rft_ost_id	rft_ost_id
Casalini*	CASALINI::Casalini	rft_casa_id=<rft_casa_id>	rft_casa_id=<rft_casa_id>
WISO*	WISO::WISO	rft_wiso_id=<rft_wiso_id>	rft_wiso_id=<rft_wiso_id>
Pubmed Central*	PubMed::central	rft_pmc_id=<rft_pmc_id>	rft_pmc_id=<rft_pmc_id>
IEEE	IEEE::IEE	rft_ieee_id=<rft_ieee_id>	rft_ieee_id=<rft_ieee_id>

Note

*These provider IDs are currently supported in SFX (as of the December 2025 release) and Primo VE (as of the January 2026 release). Primo will add support as of the May 2026 release. CDI linking will begin using these provider IDs after the Primo May 2026 release.