

USING PERMA

WHAT DOES PERMA DO?

Perma creates a permanent, archived version of a website and assigns a permanent URL to that archived version.

WHEN SHOULD I USE PERMA?

Use Perma when citing to ephemeral material publicly available on the Internet, such as blogs or working papers. You can use Perma on any website that does not already use another form of permanent URL.

IS THERE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION FOR PERMA?

Yes there is! See <https://perma.cc/docs>.

HOW DOES PERMA WORK?

- Go to <http://perma.cc> and log in
 - If you are a BCLR staff member who needs a new Perma account, please contact the managing editors.
 - If your account has been created but you never received the confirmation email, check in your spam folder, or if you used your bc.edu email address, in your spam quarantine folder at <https://quarantine.bc.edu/>. For instructions on using the spam quarantine folder, see <http://www.bc.edu/offices/help/comm-collab/email/spam/spamquarantine.html>.
 - If you need further assistance related to Perma accounts contact Nick Szydowski, nick.szydowski@bc.edu.
- Copy and paste the URL for the website you are citing into the box labeled “Paste your URL here.” and click the button labeled “Create Perma Link”.

Perma.cc ∞

Nick ▾

Create a new Perma Link

Enter any URL to preserve it forever.

Paste your URL here.

Create Perma Link

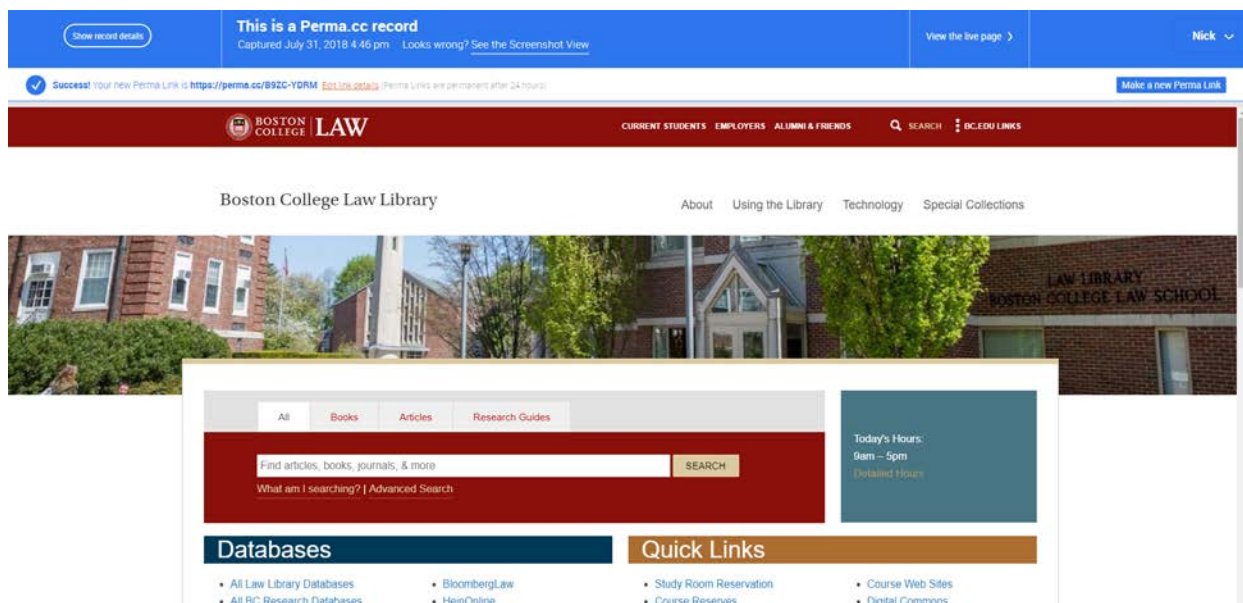
or [create multiple links](#)



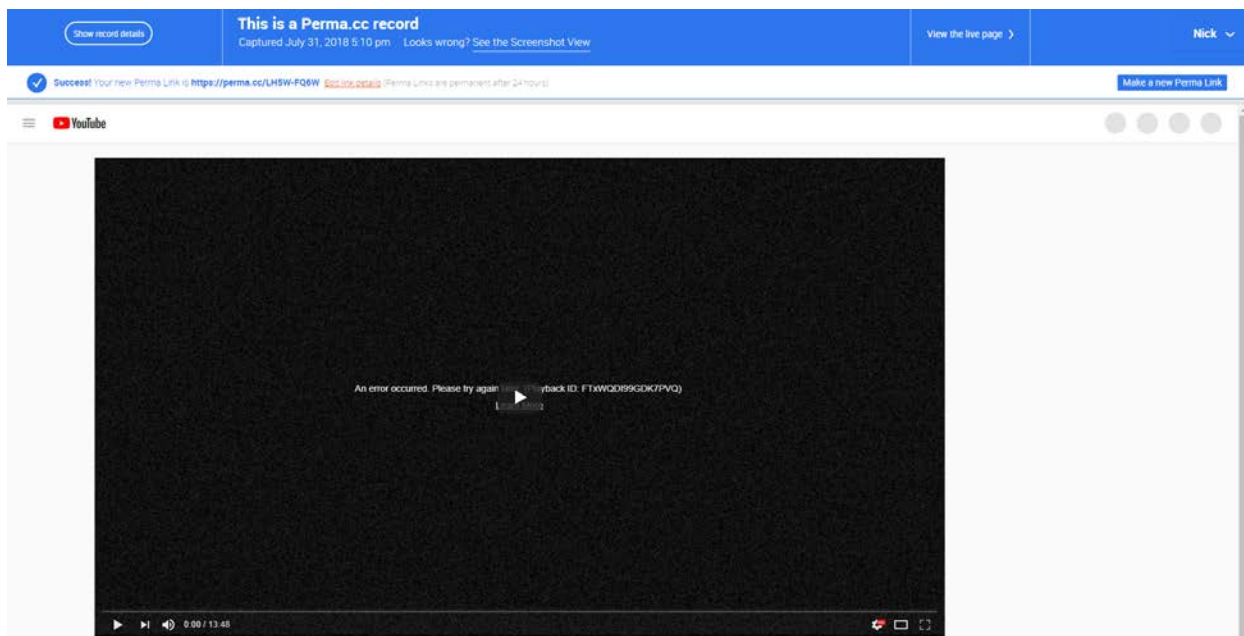
This Perma Link will be affiliated with

Boston College Law Review ▾

- Wait while Perma archives the page at that URL. As soon as the Perma link is ready, you will be brought to the Perma link.



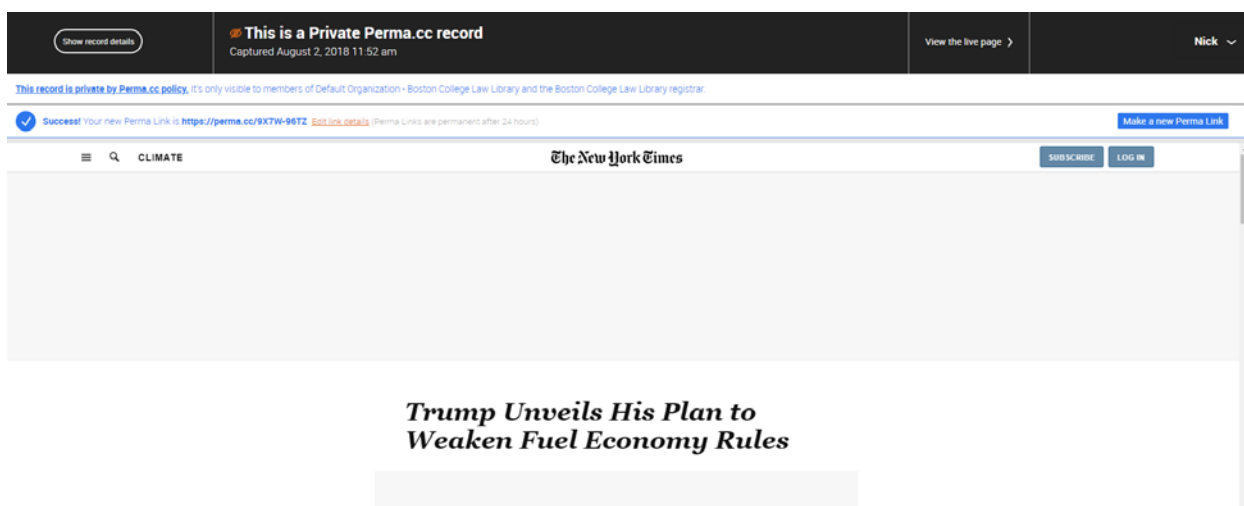
- This is the page users will see if they follow your citation. Perma creates two archived views of the page:
 - The Capture View, which preserves more interactive features of the page. This is the default view when a user comes to a Perma link.
 - The Screenshot View, which consists of an image of the page. While it is not interactive, this version can sometimes include content that was missed in the Capture View.
- Most sites will work well in Perma, but some sites can cause problems, resulting in an incomplete copy of the site being archived. These include:
 - Sites with video.
 - Files where a direct URL is not available, such as PDFs on SSRN. Entering the URL of the SSRN abstract into Perma will only archive the abstract, and not the paper itself.
 - Content that appears on multiple pages, such as a news story that is divided into sections – only the content that actually appears at the entered URL will be archived.
- Here is what a page with video looks like when archived in Perma. While the text of the page is archived successfully, the video is not, and appears as a black box. Using this Perma URL in a citation will not help the reader find the original video.



- If Perma cannot archive the site, you can also try uploading content directly to Perma by clicking “Edit link details” and using the “Upload file” option. This is the best approach for PDF files downloaded from SSRN.
- Once you have established that the site has been successfully archived, you can add the Perma URL to your citation.

PRIVATE LINKS IN PERMA

If the owner of a site does not wish for the site to be publicly archived, they can communicate that preference to Perma, and Perma will automatically hide the archived page from the public. Perma calls these private links, and only journal and library staff members will be able to see the archived content. When you create a private link, it will look like this:



You will often encounter private links when citing to news and other popular sites. This is OK – it is still helpful to create a Perma link and include it in the citation as you normally would, which will allow journal staff access to the archived content if it is ever needed.

However, other sites require users to log in in order to read a story or article, preventing Perma from archiving the content. On these sites it is not worthwhile to create a Perma link, since the content is not available. Perma is only appropriate for publicly available web content.

When a login is required, you will see something more like this example from the Wall Street Journal. Note that in this case, Perma has not only created a private record, which is fine, but has also failed to archive the content of the article and instead archived a login screen.

This is a Private Perma.cc record
Captured August 2, 2018 11:56 am Looks wrong? See the Screenshot View

[View the live page](#) Nick

This record is private by Perma.cc policy, it's only visible to members of Default Organization - Boston College Law Library and the Boston College Law Library registrar.

Success! Your new Perma Link is <https://perma.cc/YJ9F-Z4VQ> [Get this Perma Link](#) (Perma Link are permanent after 24 hours)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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The Trump administration is proposing to freeze fuel-efficiency standards for cars and light trucks in 2020, a move that will ease rules for auto makers and also likely intensify a legal fight with California.

The proposal outlined Thursday would eliminate the sharp increase in fuel-economy requirements adopted under the Obama administration in collaboration with California. The fuel-efficiency rules, which were key to former President Barack Obama's efforts to fight climate change, would be set to expire in 2020.

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OTHER PERMANENT URLS

ARE THERE OTHER TYPES OF PERMANENT URLS?

Yes! Publishers, libraries and archives use other systems to provide permanent URLs for content they manage. If you see one of these URLs, there is no need to create a Perma link – simply use the permanent URL that already exists.

HOW CAN I RECOGNIZE A PERMANENT URL?

There are two types of permanent URLs that you may encounter: DOIs and Handles. DOIs and Handles work the same way, but they are used for different types of content.

DOI:

- Found on journal articles in many fields outside of law, as well as all European Union publications.

- If the publisher provides a DOI URL (e.g. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ajim.22120>), use that URL.
- If the publisher only indicates the DOI (e.g. 10.1002/ajim.22120), you can construct the URL yourself; it will always be “http://dx.doi.org/” + the DOI.
 - For example, “http://dx.doi.org/” + 10.1002/ajim.22120 = <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ajim.22120>

Handle:

- Found on many library and archive sites, including Hathi Trust, which contains millions of digitized books.
- If a library or archive website provides a Handle URL (e.g. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.hncbnw>) use that URL.
- If the library or archive only indicates the Handle (e.g. 2027/hvd.hncbnw), you can construct the URL yourself; it will always be “http://hdl.handle.net/” + the Handle.
 - For example, “http://hdl.handle.net/” + 2027/hvd.hncbnw = <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.hncbnw>

DOI and Handle URLs will always resolve to the current location of the item; if the publisher, library, or archive moves the item to a new URL, they will update the item’s location in a DOI or Handle registry, ensuring that the permanent URL always leads to the correct item.

Tip: most of the scanned books in Google Books are also available in Hathi Trust, <http://www.hathitrust.org/>. If you wish to provide a parallel citation to a scanned book that was found in Google Books, using the Handle URL supplied by Hathi Trust allows you to easily provide a permanent URL to your readers.

Questions about using Perma at BC? Email nick.szydlowski@bc.edu or contact a reference librarian.