What do you do when you find a good source? If you're like me, you'll want to save it to look at more closely later.

However, we have to be careful since the url that displays in your browser is often a session-specific link that is unstable. If you bookmark the page or copy the url, the link may not work in the future. It's not a good thing to get an error message!

Instead, be sure to save a persistent link. This will allow you to access the item later.

You can usually tell the difference between an unstable session link and a stable persistent link by the length.

For example, if you find this article in a database, the unstable session link may look something like this:

> [on screen:
> http://web.b.ebscohost.com.liblink.uncw.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=4&sid=670bc3e4-0ec2-4a85-aa82-6c7d3705de4d%40pdc-v-sessmgr01&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=50892031&db=afh]

Meanwhile, the stable persistent link is:

> [on screen:
> http://search.ebscohost.com.liblink.uncw.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=afh&AN=50892031&site=ehost-live]

A stable url will be much shorter and less cluttered than a session link.

Randall Library has hundreds of different databases, and so you'll have to look in different places to find the stable link depending on which database you are using.

> [on screen: From Randall Library's website, the cursor clicks on "Find & Research" and then "Databases"]

In ProQuest databases, the stable, persistent link is called a "document URL." When looking at an article, click on the "Abstract/Details" tab, and then scroll down on the page. You can then copy the document link.

In Ebscohost databases, it is called a "permalink." You'll click on the button in the right-hand side of article entry, and then copy the linkthat displays.

In Jstor, it's called the "stable URL" and is found right under the article's citation information in the middle of the page.

In both ScienceDirect and Project Muse databases, the link in your web browser is automatically stable. Go ahead and copy it!

In our library catalog (in which you can find books, videos, and more) you can click "permanent link" along the right-hand side of the page. The url in the web browser will become a stable one. Copy that link.

If you ever aren't sure of how to save an item for later, just ask a librarian! If you don't want to leave your computer, go to the library's homepage and click "chat with us" to get immediate help.