

# Developing a Persistent URL Creator for SFX

ELUNA 2008, July 31, 2008, Long Beach, CA

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## Goal:

Create a single way for users (faculty, staff and students) to link to our e-resources (specifically e-journal articles) while avoiding session specific information and including our proxy prefix for off-campus users.

## Outline of functionality:

1. User clicks on an SFX button from within a database and is presented with the standard SFX menu.
2. From the menu, the user selects the option “Create a persistent link to this item”
3. This sends the openURL containing the pertinent metadata to the persistent link creator which queries the SFX API for target information for the specific item.
4. The API sends a reply in XML containing the appropriate targets and linking URLs.
5. The persistent link creator displays the citation and all of the targets available for that citation with the URL presented in a text box which can be copied and pasted as necessary.

## Advantages of design:

- Eliminates need for users to understand how to retrieve a persistent URL from a specific resource.
- Adds proxy to URLs automatically for off-campus users.

## Disadvantages of design:

- Persistent URLs are not permanent due to full text coming in and out of aggregators, website re-designs and changes in library subscriptions.
- Links are only as good as SFX. If SFX can only link to the journal level, then the persistent link will only be to the journal level.

