



ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

Effective Year: 2026

1. Introduction

This Accessibility and Inclusion Policy establishes the commitment of the MDOI Foundation to providing fair, inclusive, accessible, and user-friendly digital services for all individuals, institutions, publishers, repositories, researchers, and organisations that use the MDOI platform.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that MDOI services, dashboards, metadata tools, identifier registration systems, resolver services, documentation, and support channels are designed and managed in ways that promote equal access, usability, participation, and non-discrimination.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all MDOI platforms, websites, dashboards, forms, metadata submission tools, API documentation, public records, support services, communication materials, and digital interfaces operated by or on behalf of the MDOI Foundation.

4. Accessibility Commitment

MDOI shall work towards making its digital services accessible to users with diverse needs, including persons with disabilities, users with limited digital skills, users in low-bandwidth environments, and users from different linguistic, cultural, institutional, and geographic backgrounds.

5. Inclusive Design Principles

The MDOI platform shall be guided by clarity, simplicity, readability, consistency, responsiveness, keyboard usability, screen-reader compatibility, colour contrast, accessible navigation, and plain-language communication where appropriate.

6. Equal Access and Non-Discrimination

MDOI shall not unfairly deny access to eligible users or organisations based on disability, nationality, gender, language, institution type, geographic location, or economic background, provided that users comply with MDOI policies and legal requirements.

7. Dashboard Accessibility

The MDOI dashboard should be designed to support clear navigation, readable text, structured headings, labelled forms, helpful error messages, accessible buttons, keyboard navigation, and mobile-responsive layouts.

8. Metadata Accessibility

Metadata records should be structured in a way that supports discoverability, machine readability, assistive technologies, indexing systems, and public understanding. Users are encouraged to provide clear titles, abstracts, keywords, language information, and accessible resource descriptions.

9. Public Records and Resolver Access

Public MDOI records and resolver pages should provide clear, understandable, and accessible information about registered digital objects, including title, identifier, resource type, visibility status, landing page, and relevant metadata.

10. Language and Communication

MDOI shall aim to use clear, professional, and understandable language in policies, notifications, dashboard messages, user guides, and support materials. Where possible, important guidance may be simplified or adapted to support users with different levels of technical knowledge.

11. Support for Diverse Users

The MDOI Foundation recognises that users may include individual researchers, students, institutions, journals, universities, repositories, libraries, publishers, and organisations with different technical capacities. The platform shall support guidance, help materials, and user support to improve participation.

12. Digital Inclusion

MDOI shall promote digital inclusion by designing services that can be used by organisations with varying levels of infrastructure. Where feasible, the platform should support low-bandwidth access, lightweight pages, simple forms, and clear workflows.

13. Accessibility of Documents and Resources

Official MDOI policies, handbooks, metadata guidelines, forms, reports, and downloadable materials should be prepared in formats that are readable, well-structured, and accessible. Documents should avoid unnecessary complexity and should use headings, tables, and labels appropriately.

14. User Responsibilities

Users submitting content, files, metadata, or landing pages are encouraged to make their resources accessible where possible. This may include providing readable metadata, accessible file formats, clear descriptions, alternative text for images, and links to usable landing pages.

15. Inclusive Participation

MDOI shall encourage participation from individuals and organisations across different regions, disciplines, institution types, and knowledge communities. Governance and feedback mechanisms should allow diverse voices to contribute to platform improvement.

16. Accessibility Feedback

Users may report accessibility barriers, usability problems, unclear instructions, or inclusion concerns to the MDOI Foundation. Such feedback shall be reviewed and used to improve platform design, documentation, support, and user experience.

17. Reasonable Adjustments

Where practical, MDOI may provide reasonable support or adjustments to users who experience accessibility barriers. This may include guidance, alternative instructions, assistance with dashboard use, or clarification of policy and metadata requirements.

18. Technical Standards

MDOI shall aim to align its digital accessibility practices with recognised accessibility principles and web usability standards where feasible, including accessible design, readable interfaces, structured content, and assistive technology compatibility.

19. Monitoring and Improvement

Accessibility and inclusion shall be treated as continuous improvement areas. MDOI may periodically review user feedback, dashboard usability, support requests, system design, and public record accessibility to identify areas for improvement.

20. Third-Party Content and Links

MDOI records may link to external repositories, journals, websites, datasets, and institutional pages. While MDOI encourages accessible linked resources, it is not responsible for accessibility barriers on third-party platforms.

21. Compliance

This policy supports MDOI's broader commitment to ethical governance, privacy, data protection, digital inclusion, responsible metadata stewardship, and fair participation in global knowledge infrastructure.

22. Enforcement

Where users deliberately use MDOI systems in ways that exclude, mislead, impersonate, discriminate, or create harmful barriers for others, the Foundation may take corrective or enforcement action under applicable MDOI policies.

23. Policy Review and Updates

This policy may be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect user feedback, technical improvements, accessibility standards, legal requirements, and the evolving needs of the MDOI community.

24. Conclusion

This Accessibility and Inclusion Policy affirms the MDOI Foundation's commitment to building a trusted, usable, inclusive, and accessible digital knowledge infrastructure. By promoting accessibility, fairness, and participation, MDOI supports a wider and more equitable global knowledge ecosystem.