



IDENTIFIER RESOLUTION POLICY

Effective Year: 2026

1. Introduction

This Identifier Resolution Policy governs how Metascholar Digital Object Identifiers (MDOIs) are resolved, maintained, monitored, updated, and preserved within the MDOI Foundation infrastructure. Identifier resolution is a core service of the MDOI system because it enables users to locate digital objects, metadata records, landing pages, and related knowledge assets through persistent identifiers.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that every assigned MDOI remains reliable, traceable, resolvable, and persistent over time. The policy provides rules for maintaining active landing pages, managing resolution links, detecting broken links, updating destination URLs, protecting identifier integrity, and supporting long-term access to registered records.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals, organisations, publishers, repositories, institutions, administrators, metadata editors, API users, and technical personnel who register, manage, update, resolve, or maintain MDOI identifiers and their associated records.

4. Definition of Identifier Resolution

Identifier resolution refers to the process through which an MDOI directs a user, system, API, or search service to the authoritative metadata record, landing page, or access location associated with a registered digital object. Resolution may provide a metadata preview, landing page URL, visibility status, verification status, and resource access information.

5. Persistent Identifier Principle

Once assigned, an MDOI is intended to remain persistent and must not be reused, reassigned, or transferred to an unrelated object. The identifier remains connected to its registered object even when the landing page, file location, metadata, visibility, version, or access condition changes.

6. Resolution Target Requirements

Each registered MDOI must resolve to a valid and authoritative landing page or metadata record. The resolution target should contain enough information to identify the object, including title, creator or organisation, resource type, publication or creation year, access information, and relevant metadata.

7. Landing Page Responsibility

Members are responsible for maintaining active, accurate, and accessible landing pages or resource URLs linked to their MDOI records. Where external websites, repositories, journals, or institutional systems are used as landing pages, members must ensure that such links remain functional and lawful.

8. Metadata-Based Resolution

Where a direct resource URL is unavailable, restricted, private, or temporarily inactive, MDOI may resolve to an internal metadata record, public profile, or controlled landing page that provides descriptive information about the registered object. This ensures that the identifier continues to provide meaningful discovery and verification.

9. Public and Hidden Records

Public records may resolve to publicly discoverable metadata and landing pages. Hidden or private records may resolve only to limited information, restricted metadata, or internal dashboard views depending on visibility settings. Hidden status does not invalidate the identifier or remove its persistence.

10. Resolution Monitoring

MDOI may monitor identifier resolution performance, broken links, failed landing pages, unavailable URLs, redirect errors, and unresolved identifiers. The system may generate alerts where records fail resolution checks or require user action.

11. Broken Link Management

If a resolution target becomes inactive, broken, misleading, unsafe, or unavailable, the member must update the landing page or resource URL within a reasonable period after notification. MDOI may mark such records as requiring attention until the issue is resolved.

12. Updating Resolution Links

Members may update destination URLs, landing pages, or access links when resources move to new locations. Updating a resolution link does not change the assigned MDOI and does not affect the persistence or citation value of the identifier.

13. Resolution Integrity

Members must not use MDOI resolution links to redirect users to fraudulent, unlawful, harmful, irrelevant, deceptive, or unrelated content. The resolution target must remain connected to the registered object and must not misrepresent ownership, authorship, resource type, or publication status.

14. System-Generated Resolution

The MDOI system may generate a standard resolution format for each identifier. Example formats may include an MDOI landing page, public metadata record, dashboard preview, resolver URL, or API-accessible record. These system-generated records support discovery, verification, and long-term continuity.

15. Resolver Availability

The MDOI Foundation shall take reasonable measures to maintain reliable resolver availability, fast response time, secure routing, and system continuity. Temporary downtime may occur due to maintenance, technical failures, upgrades, cyber incidents, or external infrastructure disruptions.

16. Resolution Analytics

The MDOI platform may collect resolution analytics, including resolution counts, access trends, failed resolution attempts, public record views, metadata access events, and related usage indicators. Analytics may be used to improve system performance, record quality, and reporting.

17. Security of Resolution Services

Resolution services shall be protected using reasonable security controls such as secure routing, monitoring, rate limiting, abuse detection, audit logging, and protection against malicious redirection, scraping, automated abuse, or denial-of-service attempts.

18. API-Based Resolution

Where API access is provided, users and organisations must comply with API security, rate limits, authentication rules, and integration standards. API-based resolution must

not be used to overload the system, harvest restricted records, bypass visibility controls, or compromise platform integrity.

19. Identifier Revocation and Suspension

An MDOI may be suspended, restricted, or marked as revoked where there is evidence of fraud, illegal content, intellectual property violation, serious metadata misrepresentation, harmful redirection, system abuse, or repeated failure to comply with MDOI policies. Revoked records may still retain a basic resolution statement for audit and transparency.

20. Preservation of Resolution Records

The MDOI Foundation may preserve resolution history, metadata snapshots, record status, audit logs, and previous landing page information where necessary for accountability, citation integrity, dispute resolution, and long-term stewardship.

21. User Notifications

MDOI may notify members about resolver failures, broken links, landing page errors, maintenance events, metadata issues, policy changes, or system updates. Members are expected to respond promptly to notices affecting the reliability of their records.

22. Compliance and Enforcement

Failure to maintain accurate resolution targets, misuse of resolution links, harmful redirection, repeated broken links, or violation of this policy may result in warnings, restricted access, suspension of records, revocation of identifiers, or termination of dashboard privileges.

23. Policy Review and Updates

This policy may be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect technical improvements, resolver performance requirements, user feedback, interoperability needs, legal obligations, and developments in persistent identifier infrastructure.

24. Conclusion

This Identifier Resolution Policy supports the MDOI Foundation's commitment to persistent identification, reliable discovery, trusted metadata access, and long-term digital object stewardship. By maintaining accurate resolution targets and responsible identifier practices, members help preserve the integrity and usefulness of the MDOI ecosystem.

