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## CONTENT MODERATION AND MISUSE POLICY

**Effective Year: 2026**

### **1. Introduction**

This Content Moderation and Misuse Policy establishes the rules for reviewing, managing, restricting, correcting, suspending, or removing content, metadata, identifiers, files, links, and user activity that may violate the integrity, legality, safety, or trustworthiness of the MDOI system.

### **2. Purpose of the Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to protect the MDOI infrastructure from misuse, fraud, unlawful content, misleading metadata, harmful files, abusive behaviour, intellectual property violations, and activities that may damage trust in persistent identifier services.

### **3. Scope**

This policy applies to all users, members, organisations, administrators, metadata editors, API users, partners, repositories, publishers, and third-party systems that submit, manage, access, resolve, or interact with MDOI records.

### **4. Acceptable Content**

Users may register scholarly works, datasets, software, books, reports, institutional records, educational resources, media, and other legitimate knowledge assets, provided they have the legal authority to submit them and the metadata accurately represents the digital object.

### **5. Prohibited Content**

Users must not submit content that is unlawful, fraudulent, plagiarised, misleading, malicious, defamatory, privacy-violating, impersonating, unauthorised, harmful to system security, or in violation of intellectual property, ethical, institutional, or regulatory requirements.

## **6. Misleading Metadata**

Users must not submit false titles, false authorship, inaccurate affiliations, deceptive publication details, fake identifiers, misleading funding information, manipulated keywords, or metadata designed to deceive users, indexing systems, repositories, or the MDOI Foundation.

## **7. Intellectual Property Misuse**

Users must not register content they do not own, control, or have permission to deposit. Where copyright, trademark, licensing, database rights, moral rights, or institutional ownership concerns arise, MDOI may review, restrict, or suspend the affected record.

## **8. Harmful Files and Links**

Users must not upload malware, corrupted files, harmful scripts, deceptive downloads, unsafe URLs, phishing links, spam links, or links that redirect users to unrelated, fraudulent, illegal, or malicious websites.

## **9. Platform Abuse**

Users must not abuse the platform through spam registration, bulk fraudulent deposits, fake accounts, automated misuse, API abuse, scraping of restricted records, manipulation of analytics, bypassing access controls, or interference with system performance.

## **10. Identity Misrepresentation**

Users must not impersonate individuals, institutions, publishers, journals, repositories, organisations, or official bodies. Users must not falsely claim affiliation, endorsement, verification, ownership, or approval by the MDOI Foundation or any third party.

## **11. Public and Hidden Records**

Public records must meet standards for lawful visibility, accurate description, and responsible access. Hidden records must also comply with MDOI policies and must not be used to conceal unlawful, fraudulent, harmful, or unauthorised content.

## **12. Moderation Review**

MDOI may review records, metadata, files, links, accounts, API activity, and user conduct where there is suspected misuse, complaint, automated alert, broken link report, policy violation, security concern, or legal request.

## **13. Automated and Manual Checks**

MDOI may use automated checks, metadata validation, file scanning, link monitoring, audit logs, reports, and manual review to detect misuse, low-quality records, harmful links, suspicious registration patterns, or policy violations.

#### **14. User Reports and Complaints**

Users, institutions, rights holders, repositories, publishers, or members of the public may report suspected misuse, false metadata, unlawful content, intellectual property concerns, harmful links, or impersonation. Reports should include enough information to support review.

#### **15. Corrective Actions**

Where a concern is identified, MDOI may request correction, restrict visibility, disable links, remove files, suspend resolution, mark records as under review, revoke verification badges, limit API access, or require additional evidence from the user.

#### **16. Suspension and Removal**

MDOI may suspend, restrict, archive, remove, or disable records where they contain serious violations, unlawful material, fraudulent metadata, harmful files, misleading links, repeated non-compliance, or security threats.

#### **17. Identifier Revocation**

Identifiers may be revoked or marked as invalid where there is confirmed fraud, illegal content, intellectual property infringement, severe metadata misrepresentation, malicious redirection, or repeated misuse of MDOI services. A basic status page may remain for transparency and audit purposes.

#### **18. Account Sanctions**

Users or organisations that violate this policy may receive warnings, correction notices, restricted privileges, dashboard suspension, termination of membership, API key revocation, or removal from trusted participation in the MDOI ecosystem.

#### **19. Appeals and Reconsideration**

Where feasible, affected users may request reconsideration of moderation decisions. Appeals should provide evidence, corrected information, proof of rights, or explanation of the disputed content. MDOI shall review appeals fairly and in line with system integrity requirements.

#### **20. Preservation of Evidence**

MDOI may preserve logs, metadata snapshots, previous URLs, uploaded file records, complaints, and administrative actions where necessary for audit, legal compliance, dispute resolution, safety, or infrastructure protection.

## **21. Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

MDOI may act in response to valid legal, regulatory, institutional, intellectual property, data protection, or security requests. Users remain responsible for ensuring that all submitted content, metadata, links, and files comply with applicable laws and permissions.

## **22. No Endorsement of Content**

The assignment of an MDOI does not mean that the MDOI Foundation endorses, verifies, approves, or guarantees the quality, legality, truthfulness, or scholarly merit of the registered content. It only confirms registration within the MDOI infrastructure.

## **23. Policy Review and Updates**

This policy may be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect emerging misuse patterns, legal developments, security risks, user feedback, platform changes, and best practices in digital knowledge governance.

## **24. Conclusion**

This Content Moderation and Misuse Policy protects the reliability, safety, legality, and credibility of the MDOI ecosystem. By following this policy, users help maintain a trusted infrastructure for persistent identifiers, responsible metadata management, and long-term digital knowledge access.