



MEMBERSHIP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(Effective 2026)

1. Introduction

These Membership Terms and Conditions (“Terms”) govern participation in the **Metascholar Digital Object Identifier (MDOI) Foundation**, a not-for-profit infrastructure established to support the persistent identification, management, and resolution of digital objects.

The MDOI Foundation operates a global system for assigning **persistent identifiers (MDOIs)** and managing structured metadata that enables digital objects to be **identified, discovered, accessed, and preserved over time**.

By applying for and maintaining membership, each participant (“Member”) agrees to comply with these Terms, the MDOI governance framework, and all applicable policies issued by the Foundation.

2. Purpose of the MDOI System

The MDOI Foundation exists to strengthen digital knowledge infrastructure by:

- Providing **globally unique, persistent identifiers (MDOIs)**
- Enabling the **registration, storage, and retrieval of structured metadata**
- Supporting **reliable resolution of identifiers to authoritative records**
- Facilitating **linking and interoperability across digital objects**
- Promoting **long-term preservation and accessibility of knowledge assets**

All systems, services, and technologies supporting these functions are collectively referred to as the **MDOI Infrastructure and Services**.

3. Membership Eligibility and Activation

Membership is open to individuals and organisations that produce, manage, or steward scholarly, institutional, or knowledge-based digital content.

Membership becomes active upon:

- Submission and approval of an application
- Acceptance of these Terms
- Activation of a registered MDOI dashboard

Members are granted access to the MDOI Infrastructure and Services subject to compliance with these Terms.

4. Member Rights

Subject to compliance with these Terms, Members are entitled to:

- Register and manage **MDOI identifiers and metadata records**
- Access and use the **MDOI dashboard and associated services**
- Participate in the **MDOI governance and community framework**
- Contribute to the development and evolution of the MDOI ecosystem

5. Member Obligations

Members agree to uphold the integrity, reliability, and persistence of the MDOI system through the following responsibilities:

5.1 Metadata Accuracy

Members must ensure that all deposited metadata is **accurate, complete, and up to date**, reflecting the true characteristics of the registered object.

5.2 Rights and Authority

Members shall only register content for which they have **legal rights or authorised control**. Unauthorised registration is strictly prohibited.

5.3 Identifier Assignment

Each eligible object must be assigned a **unique MDOI identifier**, ensuring global distinctiveness and traceability.

5.4 Resolution Integrity

Each identifier must resolve to a **persistent landing page** containing clear descriptive information and, where applicable, access to the object.

5.5 Metadata Maintenance

Members are responsible for:

- Maintaining active and valid resolution links
- Updating metadata when content changes
- Correcting any inaccuracies promptly

5.6 Proper Identifier Use

MDOIs must be consistently displayed and used in publications, platforms, and communications to support **citation, linking, and interoperability**.

5.7 Interoperability and Linking

Members are encouraged to establish relationships between records through **referencing and metadata linking**, strengthening the MDOI knowledge network.

5.8 Preservation Responsibility

Members should take reasonable steps to ensure long-term preservation of their content, including the use of archival or repository services where appropriate.

6. Fees and Sustainability Model

The MDOI Foundation operates under a **not-for-profit, cost-recovery model** to ensure long-term sustainability.

Membership contributions include:

- Individual Dashboard: USD 3 per month
- Organisational Dashboard: USD 6 per month

These contributions support:

- Infrastructure maintenance and uptime
- Metadata storage and preservation
- Security and system reliability
- Continuous development of services

Failure to maintain required contributions may result in **suspension or termination of access**.

7. Intellectual Property and Metadata Use

Members retain ownership of their content and associated intellectual property.

By depositing metadata, Members grant the MDOI Foundation a **non-exclusive, global license** to:

- Store, process, and distribute metadata
- Enable identifier resolution and linking
- Support interoperability across systems

Metadata may be made available in **machine-readable formats** to enhance discoverability and integration within the global research ecosystem.

8. System Integrity and Enforcement

The MDOI Foundation reserves the right to:

- Review and monitor compliance with these Terms
- Suspend or restrict access in cases of misuse, fraud, or violation
- Correct, disable, or remove records that compromise system integrity

Members are expected to cooperate in maintaining a **trusted and reliable identifier infrastructure**.

9. Termination and Suspension

Membership may be:

- Terminated by the Member at any time
- Suspended or terminated by the Foundation for non-compliance

Upon termination:

- Previously registered identifiers and metadata may remain within the system
- The Foundation retains the right to maintain and resolve existing records
- Access to dashboard services may be withdrawn

10. Liability and Limitations

The MDOI Foundation provides its services on a **best-effort basis** and shall not be liable for:

- Indirect or consequential damages
- Loss of data beyond reasonable control
- Interruptions caused by external systems or networks

Members are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and legality of their registered content.

11. Data Protection and Compliance

Members must comply with all applicable **data protection, intellectual property, and regulatory requirements**.

By submitting data, Members confirm that:

- They have obtained necessary permissions
- Data has been collected lawfully
- Information may be processed within the MDOI infrastructure

12. Amendments

These Terms may be updated periodically to reflect:

- Technical advancements
- Policy improvements
- Community feedback

Continued use of the MDOI system constitutes acceptance of updated Terms.