

White Rose Libraries

Repositories Service Annual Report

October 2023 – September 2024



White Rose
Research Online



White Rose
Etheses Online



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



University of
Sheffield



UNIVERSITY
of York

Repositories Renewal Project



As part of the collaboration between the university libraries of Leeds, Sheffield and York, WRL operates two shared repositories, White Rose Research Online (WRRO) and White Rose Etheses Online (WREO). The repositories currently use the open source EPrints software. In 2022, WRL launched the Repository Renewal Project which would: rescope the WRL repository requirements (2022-23), use these requirements to identify and secure the next iteration of software (2024) and then implement the next phase of the repository platform (by end 2025).



Repositories Renewal Project (continued)



Following a detailed examination of the repositories landscape, including working with external consultants, engaging with other institutions that used a range of platforms and hosting models, and a period of market testing, WRL was pleased to announce confirmation of its ongoing commitment to the EPrints platform in September. This commitment to EPrints will take us through the next REF cycle until at least 2029, giving stability for this vital period. This is an exciting phase in the development of the WRL repositories, which will see WRL renew its platform and move the service to Cloud infrastructure. WRL is also taking this opportunity to continue expanding its engagement with the wider repository sector to help drive discussions about the future of these platforms. This was announced publicly in the [Repositories Renewal Project news item](#) on the WRL website.



WRL branding updates

In line with [White Rose University Consortium](#), White Rose Libraries recently underwent some rebranding work. As part of this, the logos for WRRO and WREO have both been updated. The new branding will be added to the repositories in the coming months, as part of the renewal of the repositories' infrastructure. The [White Rose Libraries website](#) has also been updated with new and informative pages sharing repository activities.



AI and Repositories



As new developments are made in the field of AI, WRL recognise the importance of institutional library teams developing a strategy for engaging with emerging technologies and their implications.

Both the Repositories Strategic Board and Operational Group have discussed the impact of the harvesting of repository content by AI bots, the implications this has on research within the repositories, and how this can best be moderated to minimise disruption to the service. The institutional reps are working with teams at the three universities to develop an approach towards managing AI use of repository content.



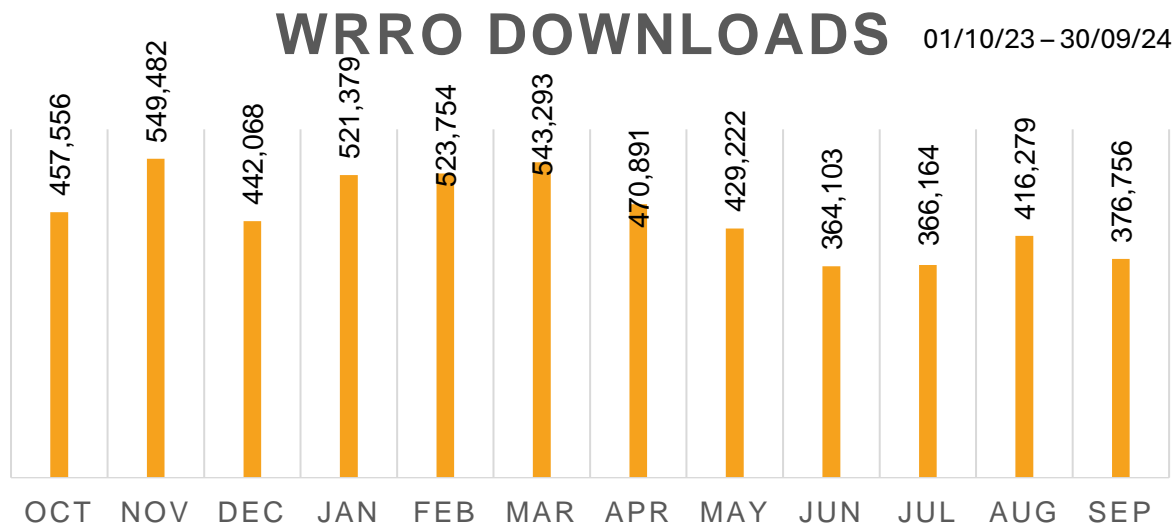
Engagement with the community

WRL is committed to engaging with the wider repository community, positioning the collaboration to contribute to current discussions and invest in the future of the repositories sector. WRL colleagues attended Open Repositories 2024 in June, an international conference which offered a range of workshops and keynote presentations on current and emerging technologies and policies. This was very useful in informing WRL's Repositories Renewal Project and also enabled WRL to build new relationships with other players in the sector. WRL is also investing in further engagement with the EPrints community through membership of the new EPrints Steering Group.

WRL colleagues also plan to attend the virtual British Library Open and Engaged conference for Open Access Week in October, which will feature discussion on the role of repository infrastructure in carrying out open scholarship practices.

WRRO - usage

Between October 2023 and September 2024, there were 5,460,947 total downloads from WRRO.

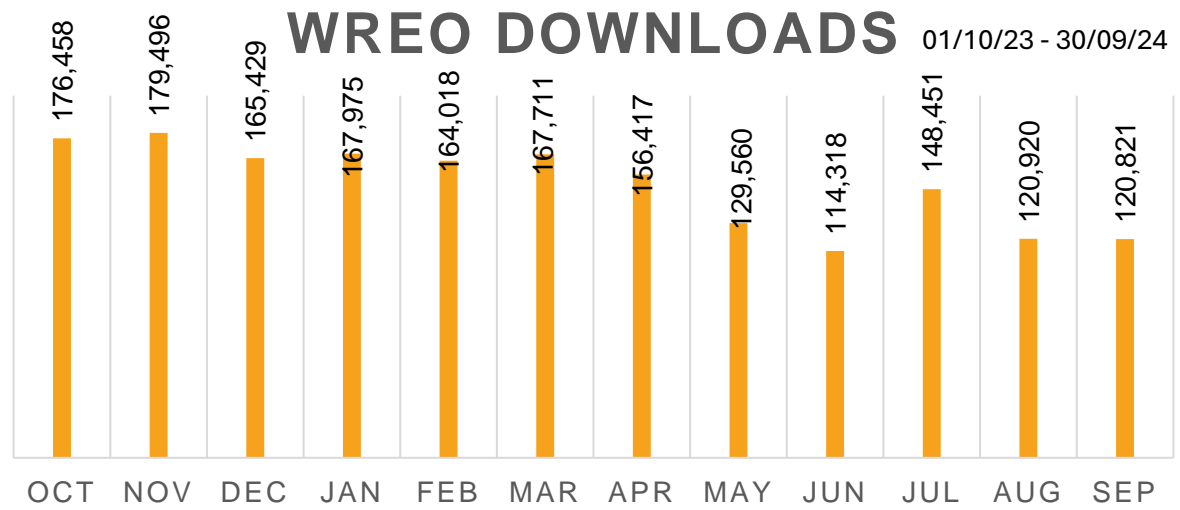


Top 5 most downloaded items from Oct '23 – Sept '24:

1. Regulators of cyclin-dependent kinases are crucial for maintaining genome integrity in S phase - **85,019**
2. Research in marketing strategy – **40,402**
3. Brother, Sister, Rape: Hebrew Bible and Popular Culture – **35,203**
4. Academic communities: the role of journals and open-access mega-journals in scholarly communication – **27,789**
5. PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation – **13,490**

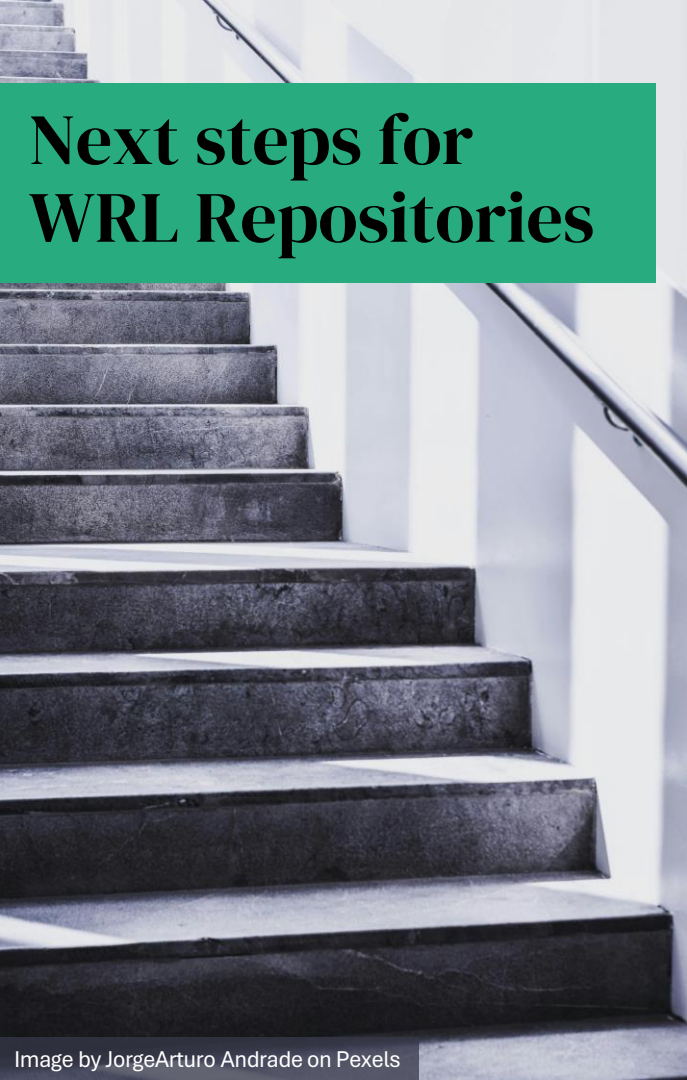
WREO - usage

Between October 2023 and September 2024, there were 1,811,575 total downloads from WREO



Top 5 most downloaded items of 2024:

1. Online discourse in a primary school setting – **38,164**
2. The design process in architecture: a pedagogic approach using interactive thinking – **11,870**
3. Forms of address in Jordanian Arabic with some additional references to speech fellowships – **11,790**
4. Strategy intervention to enhance reading comprehension of 15-year-old students in Mexico – **9,601**
5. An analysis of technical trading strategies – **8,135**



Next steps for WRL Repositories

Next phase of the Repositories Renewal Project

Implementation of the upgrade EPrints infrastructure is underway, with user testing to be undertaken in November and WREO to be migrated in December, followed by WRRO in the new year.

Artificial Intelligence

The Repositories teams will continue working with institutional colleagues to identify the best way of integrating and managing AI use of repository content

Multi Factor Authentication

The Repositories Board and Operational Group will continue assessing the potential for implementing MFA to enhance security in the repositories, and will explore the best way to manage this.

Community engagement

Following the Repositories Renewal Project, the Repositories Board will continue actively engaging with the repositories sector to drive and contribute to discussions around the next steps for repositories.