

White Rose Libraries

Innovation and Collaboration Quarterly Report

October 2024 – December 2024



White Rose
Libraries



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



University of
Sheffield



UNIVERSITY
of York



Photo: University of York

Governance

This quarter's Innovation and Collaboration Board meeting was face-to-face at the University of York. This was the first meeting with Elly Cope (University of Leeds) as the incoming Chair of the Board. One early initiative was to focus updates and discussions more firmly around shared strategic priorities, using GenAI tools to surface themes from the three institutions' strategies.

This was also the last meeting for Sarah Thompson (Assistant Director, Content and Open Research) as a temporary representative for the University of York. The Board are very grateful to Sarah for all her contributions and look forward to welcoming a new representative for York in the new year.



Action plan

The Innovation and Collaboration Board has an action plan that details the practical activity of the Board, and the Groups and Networks it oversees. It is a live document, and shows the current activity in the areas of focus.

Where relevant, this Action Plan notes which of the I/C strategic Key Results (KRs) the activity relates to. This report updates on progress made in these areas from October to December 2024.



Knowledge Sharing

One of the Innovation and Collaboration Board's main focuses is on knowledge sharing and creating a framework to facilitate this between colleagues at the three institutions.

The Board oversees several networks which have been established as infrastructures to support knowledge sharing, including the ALMA Network and the OER Network. Where there are particular areas of focus in knowledge sharing, whether to share what each site is already doing in a particular area or with the aim of collaboratively developing and delivering training on a particular topic, groups like the WRL AI Network have been established to support this.

The Board has also been investigating tools to support wider cross-institutional discussions between colleagues, and has been evaluating the best infrastructure to support this.

Events



One aim of the Innovation and Collaboration Board is to develop relevant events as needed to support knowledge sharing and collaboration, as well as skills development through training and sessions for staff. Examples include Digital Skills sessions which have already been implemented and received positive feedback. Further sessions and other knowledge sharing events are also in development, including Sharing Experience sessions for staff at the three institutions.

Events are currently being delivered primarily virtually, and are designed to minimise the resources involved to deliver them, while giving maximum benefit for staff at all three institutions.



Current Activity

Digital Skills Staff Development

Knowledge sharing

Events

The Digital Skills group organised two staff development events this quarter. The first, hosted by York, focused on Getting to Grips with Data - Essential Spreadsheets, while the second, hosted by Leeds, explored Digital Accessibility. These two events allowed colleagues from all three sites to meet together virtually to share knowledge and develop skills. A 5 week data management online training course has also been opened up to colleagues from all three sites. Feedback from participants was very positive, and institutional teams reported that the collaborative approach reduced workloads internally.

The Staff Digital Skills Development group has agreed to continue to develop and offer joint workshop sessions every six weeks or so. These will cover a variety of topics based on feedback and suggestions from staff at the three institutions.

WRL AI Network

Knowledge sharing

The WRL AI Network continue to meet regularly to discuss current, ongoing, and potential future activities around Artificial Intelligence in libraries. This quarter was focused on identifying the aims and shared interests across the sites for areas of collaboration. The group identified metadata as a particular area of focus, and extended the group membership to include more colleagues involved in metadata as a result. The potential for future events concerning metadata and is currently being explored.

Gavin Boyce, University of Sheffield, is the liaison link between the AI Network and the Innovation and Collaboration Board.



IIIF

Knowledge
sharing

The Innovation and Collaboration Board has been exploring the potential for collaboration around the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF). The IIIF Annual Conference and Showcase will be held at the University of Leeds in June.

Dorothy Waugh (University of York) has been taking the lead on this, liaising with colleagues across the sites to align technical and non-technical aspects of IIIF.

Sharing Experience Days



The Board is continuing to explore potential formats for WRL Sharing Experience Days, to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration between frontline staff at the three sites. Sharing Experience days will allow teams to share their recent successes and challenges with one another, and to collaborate on solutions and learn from each other's experiences.

Lorna Bastow, University of Leeds, is leading on mapping out possible formats for this, and representatives from each site are working to identify relevant topics to focus on. WRL hopes to launch Sharing Experience days in the new year.



Next steps for Innovation and Collaboration

WRL AI Network

The Network will explore potential areas of collaboration in metadata and collections and will look at hosting a metadata-focused sharing day

Digital Skills Staff Development

The Digital Skills group will draw on suggestions from institutional library staff to organise relevant training sessions across the three sites

IIIF

The Board will continue to explore areas for innovation with IIIF, in preparation for the IIIF Conference in Leeds this June.