

White Rose Libraries

Innovation and Collaboration Quarterly report

January – March 2025



White Rose
Libraries



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



University of
Sheffield



UNIVERSITY
of York



Governance

Membership

The White Rose Libraries Innovation and Collaboration Board were pleased to welcome Ned Potter as a new representative for York. Faculty Engagement Manager for the University of York library, Ned brings particular expertise in online engagement and comms.

Action plan

The Innovation and Collaboration Board have developed an action plan to capture current activity in key areas. This details specific projects, networks, and events being run with their related Key Results.

A background image showing several colorful chess pawns (red, yellow, green) on a light-colored board with blue lines. The pawns are arranged in a way that suggests a game in progress.

Digital skills

Events

Knowledge
sharing

The latest Digital Skills events was run in February, inviting staff to explore 'What are makerspaces doing in libraries and what can libraries do with them?'. This event was led by colleagues from the University of Sheffield with presenters from all three institutions.

Further Digital Skills events are being arranged, with the next one taking place in May to explore multimedia and interactive presentation skills for librarians.

The Staff Digital Skills Development group is also working with the WRL AI Network group to compile a joint, annual, virtual skills offer, which will be advertised at the beginning of academic year 25/26.

WRL AI network

Events

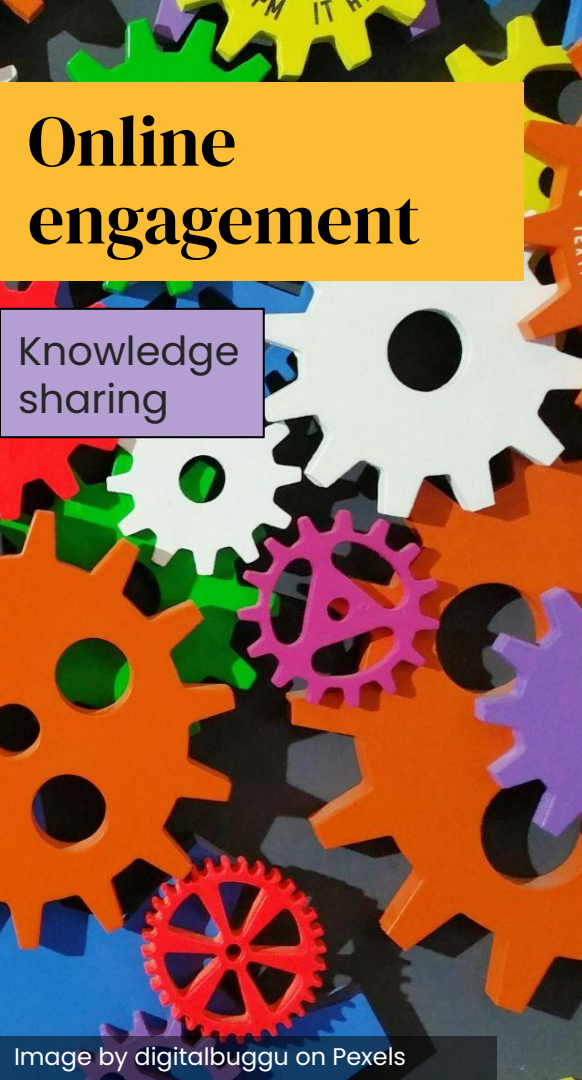
Knowledge
sharing

Led by Gavin Boyce (University of Sheffield), the WRL AI Network are continuing to meet every 6–8 weeks. Having identified metadata as a key area of shared focus and expanded the group membership to reflect this, the Network are now working on a draft outline for an AI in metadata workshop for related colleagues.

The group is also drafting a problem statement exploring the use of AI to address workflow problems in acquisitions.

Colleagues at the three institutions continue to explore collaborative approaches towards the International Image Interoperability Framework. These conversations will be expanded to include archive and curatorial staff.

There is also interest in a project bringing together materials related to Yorkshire ahead of the [IIIF Conference](#) taking place in Leeds in June.



Online engagement

Knowledge sharing

White Rose Libraries have been increasing their online presence to further encourage and identify opportunities for collaboration. This included the launch of the updated [White Rose Libraries website](#) in January, providing a space to share WRL reports and latest news.

WRL also launched a [BlueSky account](#) last year, and new LinkedIn pages for [White Rose Libraries](#) and [White Rose University Press](#) in February. The Bluesky account has seen significant engagement, gaining over 1,000 followers in the first 5 months of its launch.

Maintenance of these platforms is guided by a new WRL comms plan which has been developed to promote internal conversation and collaboration across the sector.



Next steps for innovation and collaboration

Digital Skills/AI Network

The Digital Skills Staff development group will be expanding Digital Skills events, working with the AI network to compile joint, annual, virtual skills offer of a digital or AI-related skills workshop for librarians every 4-6 weeks. The session content will be determined by feedback from colleagues and key strategic areas of development.

WRL Roadshow

WRL will engage with colleagues across the three sites, using their existing meeting structures to surface the work and relevance of WRL. This will be piloted in Leeds.

IIIF

Colleagues across the three institutions are continuing conversations around potential IIIF collaborative projects, linked to the IIIF conference in June.