

White Rose Libraries Strategy: 2023-2027



Vision

To support the delivery of the shared strategic objectives of the partner libraries and our parent universities, maximising the opportunities brought through collaboration; to influence regional and national debates, and develop initiatives and innovation using our collective experience.



Mission

- To add value to, and otherwise enhance, the services provided to our parent universities in ways that could not be achieved by the libraries separately.
- To support collaborative activity between the parent universities. To oversee the operation and development of existing shared services.
- To identify and evaluate opportunities for new shared services or collaborative projects.
- To inform the regional and national agenda in areas of key significance for WRL.
- To engender a supportive, inclusive and collaborative cross-institutional culture, providing networking and development opportunities for all colleagues.

Introduction

White Rose Libraries (WRL) is a long-standing collaboration between the university libraries of Leeds, Sheffield and York, focused on delivering practical outcomes to forward shared strategic objectives. Well-regarded as a pioneering partnership, WRL positions itself in the vanguard of sector development, having established groundbreaking repository services and launching White Rose University Press at the forefront of the new wave of University Presses. This sector-leading activity was rewarded with a **THELMA for Outstanding Library Team in 2018**.

The WRL Executive Board has responsibility for driving strategy, and for ensuring the activities supporting this strategy progress as needed and are appropriately resourced. This strategic plan runs until 2027, with a formal review expected in 2025.

This strategic plan is linked directly to the strategies of the partner libraries and their parent universities. In Leeds, [Knowledge for all: University of Leeds Libraries Vision for 2030](#) explicitly mentions White Rose University Press, and White Rose Libraries feature in the underpinning theme **Meaningful Partnerships**. In Sheffield, [The University Library's five year plan \(2022-2027\)](#) also features White Rose University Press and has a focus on collaboration. In York, the **Library, Archives and Learning Services: Purpose, Aim and Roadmap 2022-2030** includes White Rose University Press and WRL repositories in the section on Opening up knowledge and research.

WRL has **three strands** of activity, **White Rose University Press**, the **WRL Repository Services**, and **Innovation and Collaboration**. There is a strong WRL focus on supporting Open scholarship and on Digital skills across these strands, and we anticipate this to continue. We want to support our parent institutions in their work to increase Equality, Inclusion, Diversity and Belonging, creating environments where all colleagues feel welcomed, valued and appreciated as themselves. We also want to support the work around sustainability and minimising environmental impact. These principles will inform the work undertaken in our three strands of activity.

In implementing this strategy, we will also be looking at how we increase the effectiveness of our internal, cross-institutional and external communications to promote the work of WRL. This should increase the external visibility of the work of the three partner institutions through discussing WRL projects and achievements as widely as possible e.g. at conferences, by sharing our experience, via journal articles etc. It should also increase internal engagement from colleagues across WRL, fostering cross-institutional knowledge-sharing and discussion, leading to potential areas of new collaboration.

Strategic Objectives 2023-2027

- We will increase the throughput, sustainability, profile and recognition of **White Rose University Press**.
- We will provide a scalable **repositories infrastructure** that enhances the reach, sustainability and impact of research and learning assets.
- We will use the collaboration to **build staff capacity and capabilities**, to experiment with and accelerate new **shared developments and services**.

White Rose University Press



Strategic Objective

We will increase the throughput, sustainability, profile and recognition of White Rose University Press.

Key Operational Results

KR1: WRUP G5 Assistant role in place by March 2023

KR2: WRUP consultancy to deliver a draft Advocacy and Marketing plan by February 2023

KR3: Adoption and implementation of the WRUP Advocacy and Marketing plan, underway by June 2023

KR4: WRUP to reach 100 commissions and 50 titles in print by 2027

KR5: Completion of tender process for publishing services supplier by December 2023

KR6: Development of forward business plan for high capacity operating model by 2023

Repositories

Strategic Objective

We will provide a scalable repositories infrastructure that enhances the reach, sustainability and impact of research and learning assets.

Key Operational Results

KR1: Develop an ITT for refining the repositories requirements, leading to development of a final (tender) document for large scale procurement, by July 2023.

KR2: Complete an interoperable, modular upgrade to research repositories infrastructure by June 2026.

KR3: Conduct an options and benefits appraisal for a shared learning assets repository and associated policies by December 2023, and if agreed, develop processes, policies and platform by August 2026.

KR4: Develop an impact plan for the shared repositories highlighting the reach and citations of the research outputs by August 2024.

KR5: Investigate shared approach to adoption and implementation of IIIF by January 2024, developed by July 2025.

KR6: Migration and replatforming of existing repositories infrastructure to a sustainable, scalable and cost effective solution, completed by end July 2023.

Innovation and Collaboration



Strategic Objective

We will use the collaboration to build staff capacity and capabilities, to experiment with and accelerate new shared developments and services.

Key Operational Results

KR1: Expand the Innovation Board membership and remit to ensure the Board is well positioned to lead both on new collaboration and innovation, and connect out effectively into the institutions and wider sector, by the end of 2023. Review this annually.

KR2: Create a live action plan to detail specific projects and networks with related KRs, reporting on this annually to WRL Exec.

KR3: Deliver a regular programme of events, including an annual Away Day (which will be flexible in scale, scope and format).

KR4: Implement a knowledge sharing infrastructure, both within the Innovation and Collaboration Board meetings, and through specifically arranged sessions.

KR5: Draft a process to support the discussion of potential projects, including project proposal form, and implement, by Summer 2023.

Moving forward

White Rose Libraries is committed to delivering the Key Operational Results that underpin the Strategic Objectives in this five-year strategic plan. This will place White Rose Libraries in a strong position to continue its groundbreaking work at the forefront of the Information Sector, and support its drive to foster and encourage a culture of collaboration.

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