

White Rose Libraries

# Innovation and Collaboration Quarterly Report

April 2025 – June 2025

Photo: University of York



White Rose  
Libraries

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# Open Journal Systems

Knowledge sharing

## Exploring Open Journal Systems (OJS)

The Board is exploring a WRL instance of Open Journal Systems (OJS), an initiative previously discussed but now a shared priority across all three sites. The [proposal](#) recommends forming a task and finish group to identify cross-site use cases and assess whether OJS meets shared requirements. If viable, the group will evaluate the service model, delivery approach, and resource implications, and present a concrete proposal to WRL Executive.

Consideration will also be given to how OJS would relate to and complement WRUP journals. OJS has been identified as well suited to hosting non-commissioned journals (e.g. internal, student, or departmental), with longer-term potential to support a fully Diamond model for Press journals and provide infrastructure for Open Educational Resources (OERs).

# Digital Skills Staff Development

Knowledge sharing

Events

## Digital Skills

Digital skills activity has been added to the WRL Action Plan, with three workshops delivered so far this year and the next session scheduled for 8 May. Sessions are planned through to July, with workshops running every 4–6 weeks and AI-focused content to be introduced.

To address attendance challenges, sessions are recorded and an annual calendar is being developed. There have been requests for repeat and tiered sessions, and discussion highlighted potential collaborative exploration of Power BI and the need to engage managers in shaping digital skills priorities. More information on sessions can be found here: [White Rose Libraries - suggested schedule for Digital Skills Workshops for librarians](#).

## WRL sharing experience bite size sessions

A paper has been finalised and shared for the WRL Sharing Experience Bitesize sessions proposal. The Board will need to make a decision on who can take a lead on the Sharing Experience Days going forwards.

# WRL AI Network

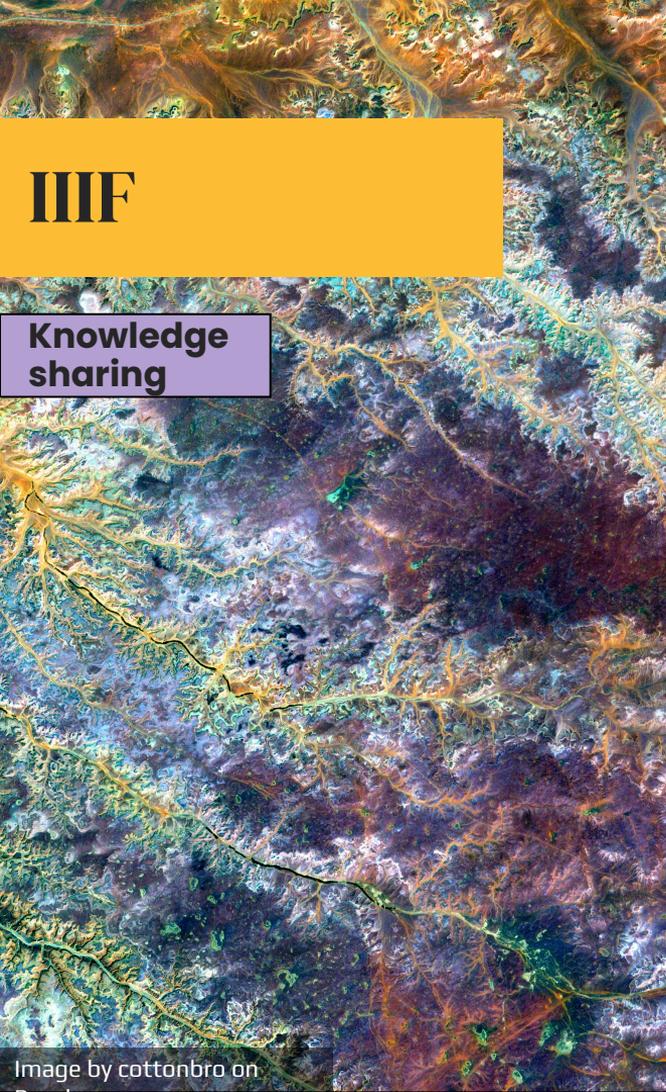
Knowledge sharing

Events

## WRL AI Network

Engagement in the WRL AI Network has improved, with Laura de Silva (Leeds) and Anthony Sinnott (York) taking on greater responsibility alongside Gavin Boyce (Sheffield). The Leeds Metadata team will present their current AI activity on 24 April, which will inform planning for a cross-institutional AI training workshop. The group is also exploring the potential use of AI in acquisitions, with a problem statement being developed for sharing with the Board. Gavin Boyce (Sheffield) confirmed satisfaction with the group's current momentum.

Next steps include closer alignment with the digital skills training programme and development of an AI session focused on demystifying concepts, balancing strategic context with practical relevance, and clearly linking content to staff roles. Attention is being given to accessibility and attendance, particularly for lower-graded staff, with emphasis on clear session descriptions, examples of relevance, and management support to encourage participation.

An aerial photograph of a river network, showing a dense web of waterways in various colors (yellow, orange, blue, green) against a textured, brownish background. A yellow banner is at the top, and a purple box is on the left side.

# IIIF

## Knowledge sharing

A joint WRL project focused on Yorkshire collections is under discussion, potentially using IIIF to showcase these in time for the IIIF conference in Leeds, which took place in early June and received excellent feedback. While activity has so far been informal, plans are underway to capture and share progress more widely. Opportunities for collaboration with the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society are being explored, with coordination between Dorothy Waugh (York) and Jane Saunders (Leeds) once project plans are more concrete.

Next steps include confirming commitment to the Yorkshire collections project, assessing capacity across all sites, and maintaining momentum at a manageable pace. A relaxed timeline with clear support is suggested to balance appetite, capacity, and progress, while ensuring the group retains ownership of the project.



# Knowledge Sharing

## WRL Roadshow: Updated Approach

The White Rose Libraries Roadshow has been refreshed, with members developing an updated approach for Leeds. This will be presented at a Leeds leadership meeting in June to explore next steps and allow local colleagues to shape the initiative.

The trial in Leeds will inform adaptations for York and Sheffield, ensuring relevance to each site. The Roadshow aims to raise awareness of WRL's purpose and activities across teams, building engagement through local collaboration. Kate Petherbridge (White Rose Libraries) will provide updates on progress by email, and future rollout across sites can continue without further Board discussion unless significant changes arise.

# WRL Staffing



During this period, the White Rose Libraries Innovation and Collaboration Board experienced several changes in membership. The Board was sorry to see Helena Mellows (WRL Admin Assistant) and Dorothy Waugh (York) step down and extends its sincere thanks for their commitment and valued contributions to the Board's work.

The Board is pleased to welcome Peter Barr as the new representative for Sheffield, replacing Amy Haworth, who left earlier this year, and Dan Pullinger from Leeds, who joins the Board in place of Lorna Bastow. The Board looks forward to working with Peter and Dan as they take up their roles.

As part of KRI, the Innovation Board is aiming to expand its membership and remit to ensure it is well positioned to lead on both collaboration and innovation.