White Rose Libraries
Innovation and Collaboration Quarterly Report

July 2025 - September 2025

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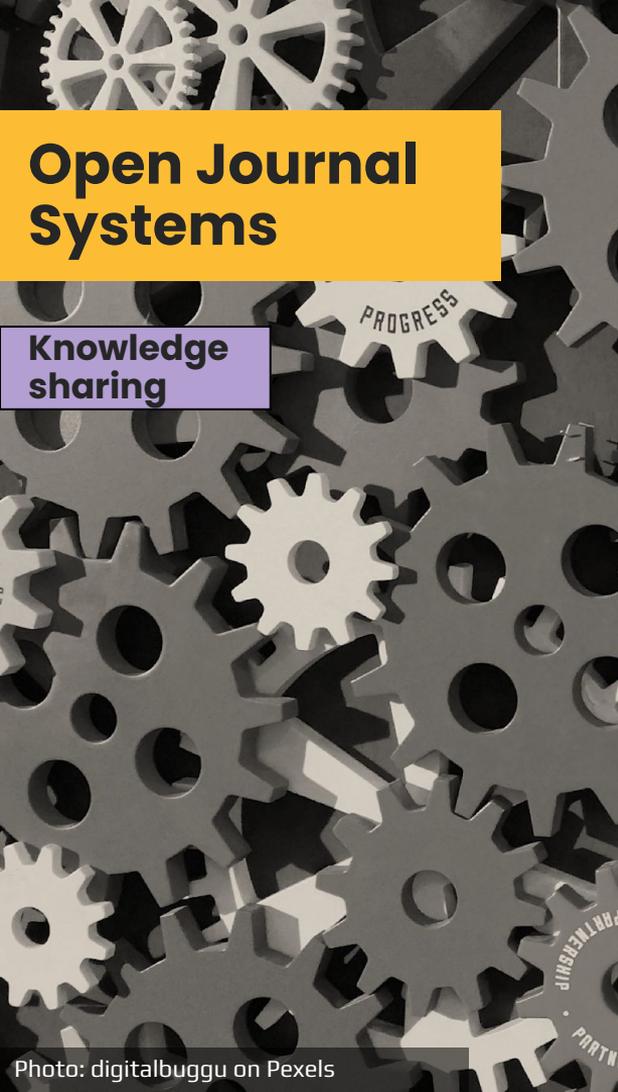
White Rose Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of Sheffield

UNIVERSITY of York

Open Journal Systems

Knowledge sharing

Open Journal Systems (OJS) is currently being explored as potential infrastructure to support student and departmental journals. The T&F group, chaired by Sally Dalton, has begun assessing the feasibility of both OJS and Janeway as platform options. Representatives are exploring whether there is appetite across departments and identifying both potential and active use cases ahead of 1 August.

The aim is to ensure that infrastructure supports and enables sustainable journal development. The group will next consider feasibility findings and identify any blockers, as well as any support required from Innovation and Collaboration members.

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Digital Skills

Knowledge sharing

Events

Feedback on digital skills sessions delivered in this period have been positive, and planning for next year is underway. The Board expect to publish confirmed dates through to January during August, with the first session likely to be a follow-up spreadsheets primer in response to participant feedback. The inclusion of the AI group continues to strengthen and broaden the overall programme.

Slides and recordings from completed sessions are available. A short form will be circulated soon to gather further topic suggestions. Key priorities include increasing live engagement from front desk staff, improving promotion and advance information to support bookings, and ensuring AI sessions are pitched at different levels with practical, role-focused elements. Structuring sessions to enable team-based follow-up discussions may also help embed learning and increase impact.
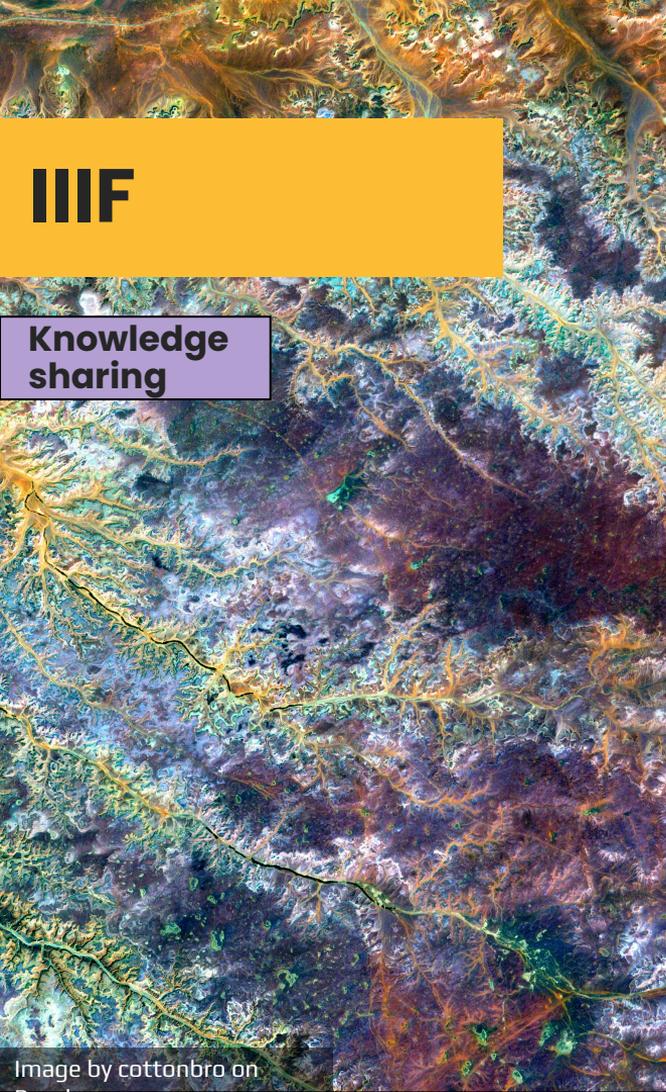
WRL AI Network

Knowledge sharing

Events

A recent cross-WRL grouping, involving Gavin Boyce, Laura de Silva and Anthony Sinnott, is now meeting regularly following an initial settling-in period. The group is planning an upcoming AI session and may refine the session description to ensure it clearly reflects the intended focus. While different approaches to AI and metadata are emerging across sites, this remains an area for discussion rather than an immediate training priority. A tailored, non-technical primer is being developed to suit attendees' needs.

There is some consideration around attendance from lower-graded staff, with timing and positioning potentially influencing uptake. The session needs to balance practical, role-focused relevance with the wider strategic and ethical issues AI raises. Clear context, links to day-to-day responsibilities, and examples of why attendance matters—such as AI in supplier products and student use—will be key to engagement.

IIIF

Knowledge sharing

The IIIF conference hosted in Leeds in early June was well attended and received very positive feedback. As a result, this has been the main focus recently and no further IIIF meetings have taken place, although there has been some discussion around membership. A follow-up meeting now needs to be scheduled.

There is clear appetite to collaborate on Yorkshire collections, but capacity across sites remains a key consideration. An update from Claire Knowles is needed to assess whether progress is feasible given current resource constraints, particularly at York and potentially also at Leeds and Sheffield. While momentum is strong, progress may need to move at a measured pace. Establishing a supportive, realistic timeline would help maintain direction while recognising both enthusiasm and capacity across the partnership.

Image by cottonbro on

WRL Collaboration Building

An update on WRL activity was shared at the August Leeds Library Leadership Team meeting regarding. This was well received and has led WRL to schedule other more focused knowledge sharing sessions for specific teams in Leeds.

The plan is to for a WRL update to be a regular feature in the Leeds Library Leadership Team meeting, with Kate Petherbridge joining a meeting to share an update roughly every 9 months.

WRL updates are regularly included in York All staff briefings, and discussions continue as to how best to mirror this in Sheffield.

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