

White Rose Libraries

# Innovation and Collaboration Quarterly Report

October 2025 – December 2025



Photo: University of York



White Rose  
Libraries

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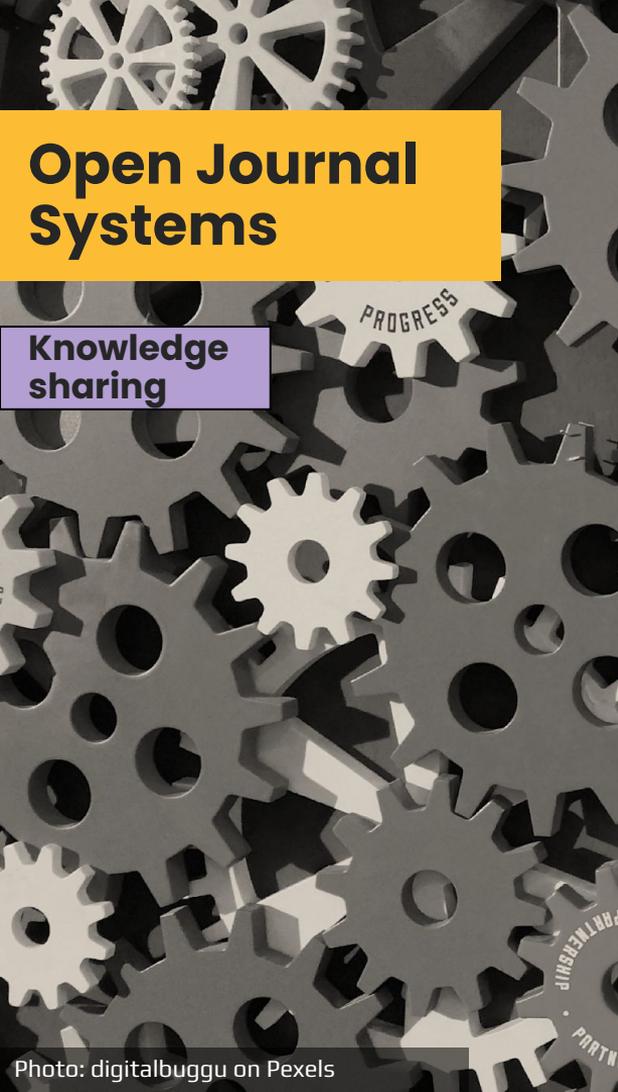
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# Open Journal Systems

Knowledge sharing

The Open Journal System continues to be explored with representation from Jane Saunders (University of Leeds), Kate Petherbridge (White Rose Libraries) and Ned Potter (University of York). The OJS group is making good progress, with representation from each institution.

The group are exploring both Open Journal Systems and Janeway as potential platform options.

The next meeting is scheduled for November, with the plan to prepare a paper for the WRL Exec Board in December 2025.

Further progress in exploring costings, different platform options, and resourcing requirements will continue into 2026.



# Digital Skills

Knowledge sharing

Events

Initial 2026 Digital Skills Session dates have been confirmed with the content due to be confirmed in January 2026. Later sessions will be set once the facilitator for these is confirmed.

The sessions continue to be well received. The Digital Skills “Spreadsheet Basics” session from October 2025 had had 19 cross-institution attendees and received a lot of positive feedback.

Based on the feedback from participants, moving forward the Digital Skills Sessions will focus on practical skills and complement local training. The sites will target advertising more clearly to maximise attendance. There will also be an emphasis on offering virtual sessions across the White Rose Libraries collaboration.

The Digital Skills programme will be reviewed during this cycle. It will also explore using a shared booking/information portal such as Spring Share.

# WRL AI Network

Knowledge sharing

The AI Network continue to offer sessions as part of the Digital Skills programme, learning from feedback. The GenAI Primer session (Jul 25) provided a useful insight into staff confidence and pointers for future planning, and also surfaced the importance of session description, especially in the area of AI.

A further AI Digital Skills session (Jan 2026) is expected to cover either Discovery & AI or Ethics/Responsibility, with future sessions planned on metadata, Content and Discovering AI. There is scope to cover all these areas across the Digital Skills series, with a balance of both practical and conceptual content.

All sessions will be promoted actively by local networks within the University of Leeds, Sheffield and York, to ensure the target audience appreciates these are relevant and supported by their institution.

White Rose Libraries will also develop a proposal for an AI-focused session at RLUK 2026, detailing the benefits of collaboration in this area.

## WRL strategy 2028-32

Knowledge  
sharing



The current WRL Strategy runs to 2027. Therefore, the collaboration is beginning work on the next iteration of strategic planning. This should allow sufficient time to ensure the WRL strategic priorities align with the local institutional strategies currently in development.

In the current strategy, the Key Results in this strand focus on establishing the Innovation and Collaboration strand and putting appropriate structures in place to support this. The next iteration of planning gives the opportunity to build on this and to explore specific areas of focus.

Innovation is a route to help the three sites navigate the current challenges creatively and, under the guidance of the White Rose Libraries Executive Board, the Innovation and Collaboration Board have the opportunity to define innovation contextually, with a focus on delivering value.



# WRL Reporting

Knowledge sharing

Now the White Rose Libraries team is back to full strength, the Quarterly and Annual reporting can be reinstated. These are key tools to share the work in the Innovation and Collaboration strand, and can be used by colleagues to showcase this great work to their wider institutional audiences. This is an important element of responsibility for Innovation and Collaboration Board members, and these reports support them in engaging their colleagues with the work of White Rose Libraries.

Raising awareness in this way will aid the facilitation of further collaboration, and help colleagues identify possible new areas of focus.

All reports are on the White Rose Libraries website, which also includes an overview of activity and achievements.