



White Rose Libraries Repositories Service Quarterly Report

April 2025 – June 2025



White Rose
Research Online



White Rose
Etheses Online



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Governance

Evolving institutional pressures, including rising costs and the need for greater collaboration, have triggered a review of the Board's scope and membership. This may extend to shared infrastructure, further strengthening the repositories as a shared service, with cost reduction as a key driver.

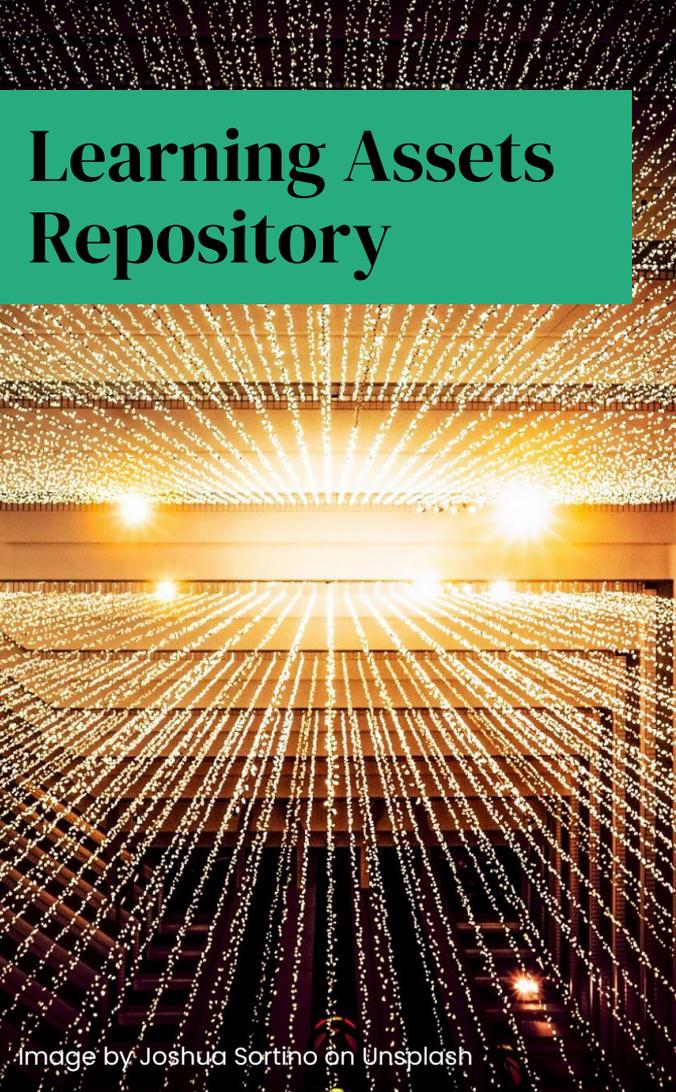
The outcome of this resulted in a report which made recommendations as to how to the White Rose Libraries Executive Board might want to shape the future of the Repositories Strategic Board and the strand it oversees.

Repositories Renewal Project



Since 2022, WRL have been in the process of reviewing and updating their repository platform. A four-year project resulted in WRL recommitting to [EPrints](#) and to migrating to the latest version of the software. The project also concluded that WRL would try and drive the sector-wide conversation about the development of next generation repositories, and also look to support the reinvigoration of the EPrints community.

WRRO and WREO have now been migrated to new infrastructure and upgraded to the latest version of EPrints. Once snagging is complete, recovery planning and testing will be undertaken, marking the close of the project.



Learning Assets Repository

Shared Pressbooks Exploration – Update

There is appetite across the partnership to explore a shared instance of Pressbooks. Initial discussions are underway with relevant colleagues at each institution.

Open Learning Assets Repository

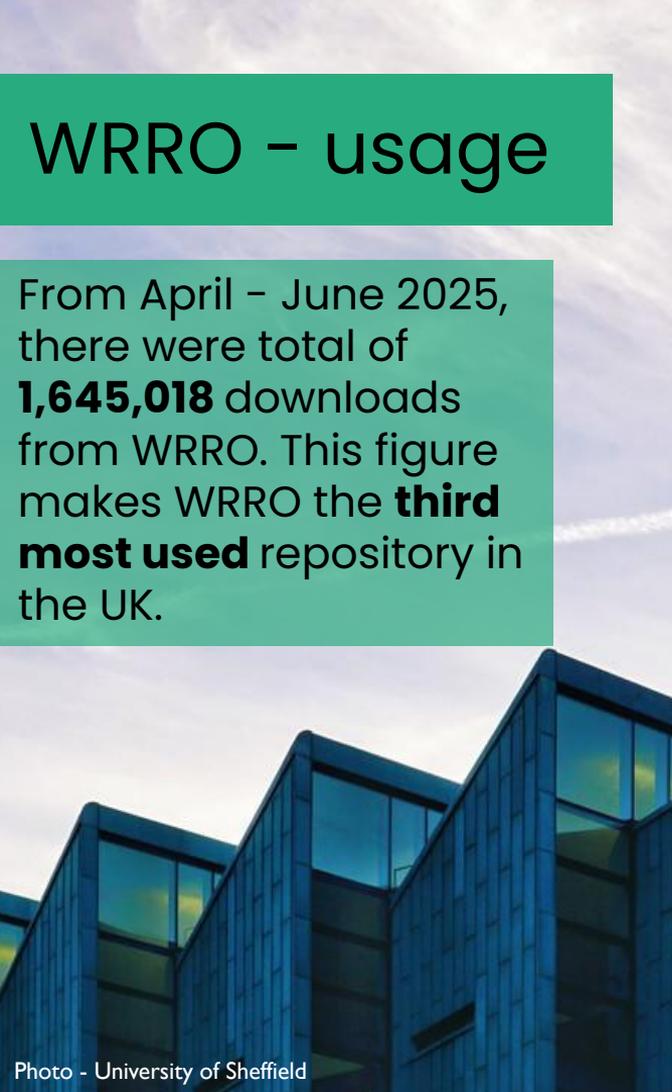
The Board endorsed the exploration of an Open Learning Assets Repository. Follow-up discussions will take place to progress this work, including confirming governance groups, scope, and documentation. This will also include defining success criteria and decision points for determining whether the new repository should become an ongoing service.

AI Traffic



Non-human-seeming traffic is impacting platform performance, particularly search functionality, and appears to fall between legitimate use and denial-of-service activity. This is a sector-wide issue, and is impacting on many institutions globally. Work is underway with internal teams and external partners to better understand the issue and identify possible mitigation options.

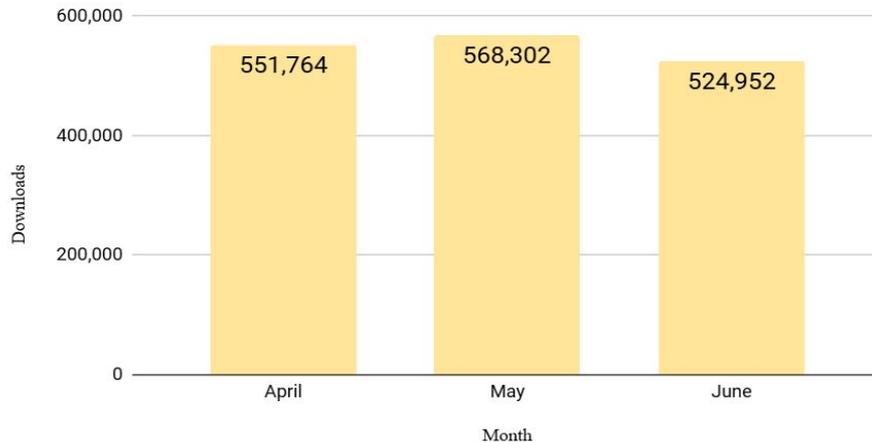
Potential responses include sector guidance and behaviour-based filtering services. CAPTCHA may be considered, but solutions should avoid blocking legitimate automated use and remain environmentally sustainable, aligned with institutional AI and ethics frameworks.



WRRO - usage

From April - June 2025, there were total of **1,645,018** downloads from WRRO. This figure makes WRRO the **third most used** repository in the UK.

WRRO Downloads



All statistics on this and following pages are compiled from [IRUS UK](#): total-item-requests for period 01/04/25 -30/06/25

Top 5 most downloaded items April - June 25:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| A survey of outlier detection methodologies | 43,691 downloads |
| Enforced Diaspora: The Fate of Italian Prisoners of War during the Second World War | 43,326 downloads |
| Brother, Sister, Rape: Hebrew Bible and Popular Culture | 34,498 downloads |
| A Corpus-Based Analysis of Deontic Modality of Obligation and Prohibition in Arabic/English Constitutions (Un análisis de corpus de la modalidad deóntica de obligación y prohibición en las constituciones árabes/inglesas) | 6,821 downloads |
| PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation | 3,898 downloads |

WREO - usage

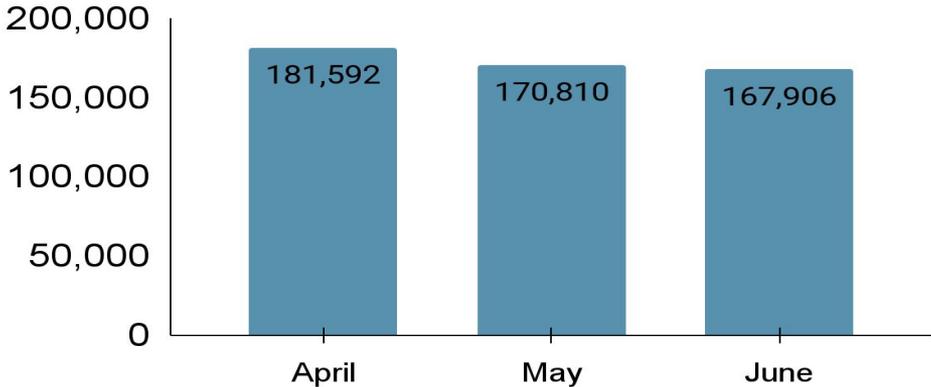
From April - June 2025, there were **520,248** total downloads from WREO. This puts WREO in the **top 14 most used** repositories in the UK



Photo - University of Sheffield

WREO Downloads

01/04/25 - 30/06/25



Top 5 most downloaded items Oct' 24 - Dec '24:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| An analysis of technical trading strategies | 1,196 downloads |
| Online discourse in a primary school setting | 1,156 downloads |
| Understanding non-response in psychotherapy: a meta-synthesis | 1,064 downloads |
| How to even the score: an investigation into how native and Arab non-native teachers of English rate essays containing short and long sentences. | 832 downloads |
| Forms of address in Jordanian Arabic with some additional references to speech fellowships | 777 downloads |

WRRO and WREO usage

On a national scale, WRRO and WREO's combined download totals make them the third most used repository platform in the UK, with a **combined total of 2,165,266** downloads.

See how they compare to the next top 5 most used repositories services: WREO 14th WRRO 3rd in this quarter.

| Repository | April 2025 downloads | May 2025 downloads | June 2025 downloads | Total |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| WRRO | 551,764 | 568,302 | 524,952 | 1,645,018 |
| WREO | 181,568 | 170,789 | 167,891 | 520,248 |
| UCL Discovery | 586,308 | 614,296 | 680,022 | 1,880,62 |
| Oxford University Research Archive: ORA | 477,005 | 454,573 | 558,546 | 1,490,124 |
| White Rose Research Online | 551,764 | 568,302 | 524,952 | 1,645,018 |
| Apollo - University of Cambridge Repository | 280,019 | 178,906 | 279,100 | 738,025 |
| Edinburgh Research Explorer | 228,300 | 206,836 | 245,983 | 681,119 |

Next steps for WRL Repositories



Future planning for post 2030

WRL needs to proactively engage with the sector to inform the next iteration of provision. A project will begin in 2027, with the aim of implementing a new solution by 2030, post-REF.

Investigation into cloud infrastructure

An investigation into cloud infrastructure explored the implications of a potential move to the cloud, including costs and the wider sector context. White Rose Libraries concluded that there is no pressing driver at present to move to cloud infrastructure, due to high and unpredictable costs, which could be exacerbated by increased bot activity. Cloud infrastructure will instead be considered as part of post-2030 repository provision.