



White Rose Libraries
**Repositories Service
Quarterly Report**

July 2025 – September 2025



White Rose
Research Online



White Rose
Etheses Online



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



University of
Sheffield

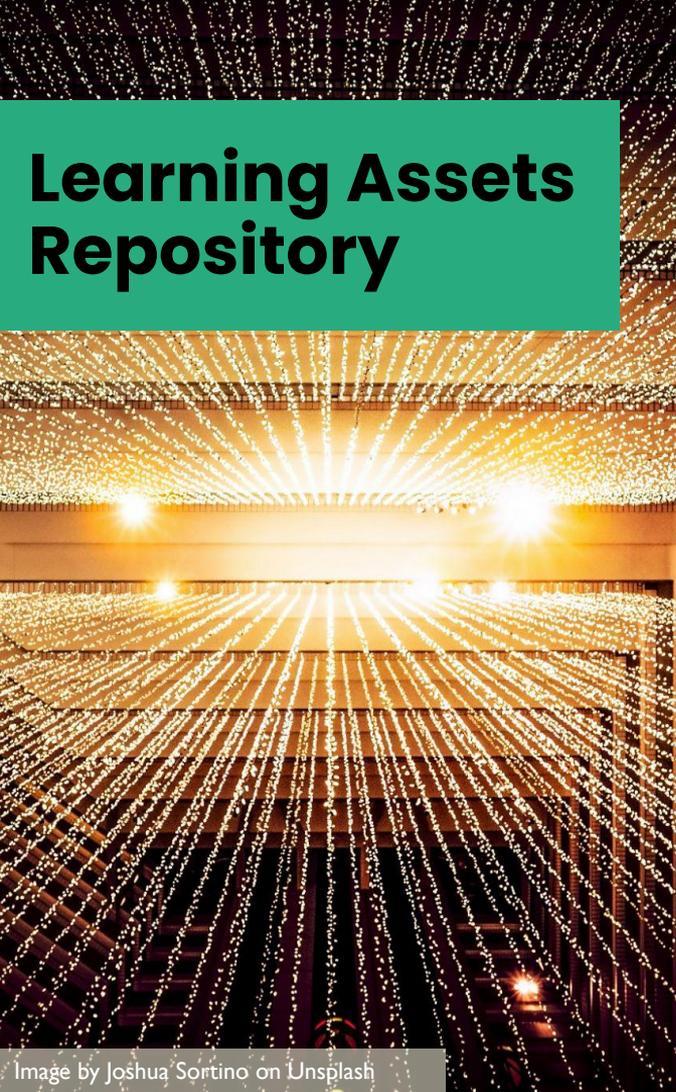


UNIVERSITY
of York

Governance

Masud Khokhar has changed role and is now Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds. This will result in a change to WRL Executive Board membership, with Josh Sendall now the Leeds representative as Acting University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection. Josh is also expected to be the new sponsor for the repositories strand.

WRL Executive Board are also reviewing the recommendations about the future of this strand, and will decide on a way forward by the end of the year.



Learning Assets Repository

Further discussions are underway regarding the Learning Assets Repository. Andy Bussey and Kate Petherbridge have prepared a proposal for WROLAR (White Rose Open Learning Assets Repository).

The proposal outlines two platform options: EPrints or the EPrints-based EdShare, a commercial version supported by EPrints services.

The suggested light-touch model draws on the approach used at the University of Glasgow, with guidance delivered via the platform to minimise staff resource requirements.

Feedback will be shared as a priority to enable the paper to be submitted to the December WRL Executive Board for a final decision.

MFA & IIF

MultiFactor Authentication

MFA is progressing well, with current efforts focused on communications planning. Implementation is likely to begin with WRRO, as this will impact fewer users who upload content directly. WREO will follow, with a longer transition period to support users who are partway through their submissions. Overall implementation is scheduled for January 2026.

IIF

To date, there has been limited appetite for shared IIF infrastructure, although this may be revisited in future. The WRL Innovation and Collaboration Board is also exploring the potential for a shared digital exhibition with a Yorkshire theme, these discussions are linked to preparations for the IIF conference in June. The current focus will remain on IIF knowledge sharing and content-focused projects rather than infrastructure.

AI Traffic



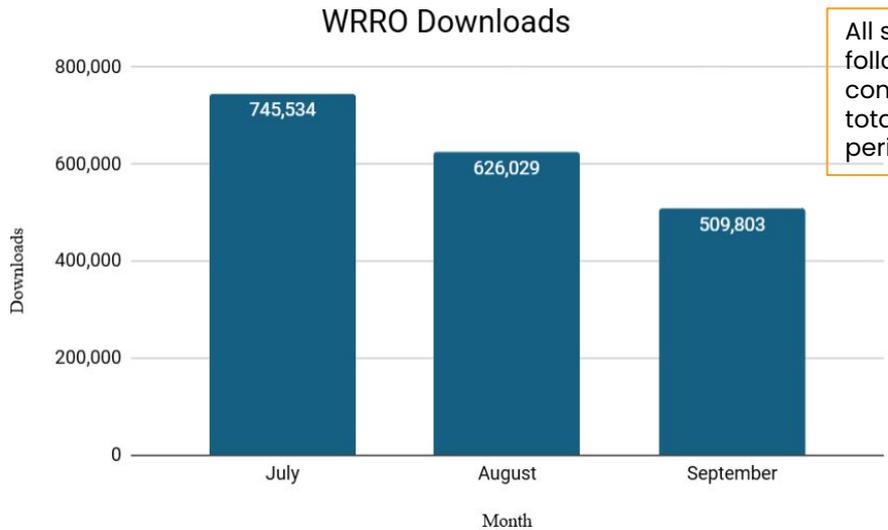
The sector has been affected by high levels of bot traffic, which, while not necessarily intentional, is causing significant disruption. Patterns observed include repeated searches at scale—for example, 16,000 searches for the same terms from a significant number of different IP addresses.

Work is ongoing with IT colleagues to identify emerging patterns and mitigate negative impacts. The rollout of new monitoring infrastructure will improve visibility, but in the meantime, only large-scale activity can be tracked. Balancing effective mitigation with continued user access remains a key priority.

CC Signals is being considered by the Board to indicate how AI crawlers can use internet content. This could guide well-behaved AI agents, though it would not prevent malicious actors. The Board is consulting with the parent institutions to gather local perspectives and feedback.

WRRO - usage

From July - September 2025, there were total of **1,881,366** downloads from WRRO. This figure makes WRRO the **second most used** repository in the UK.



All statistics on this and following pages are compiled from [IRUS UK](#): total-item-requests for period 01/07/25-30/09/25

Top 5 most downloaded items July 25 - Sept 25:

An evaluation tool for Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities	217,576 downloads
A survey of outlier detection methodologies	18,282 downloads
Enforced Diaspora: The Fate of Italian Prisoners of War during the Second World War	15,257 downloads
Brother, Sister, Rape: Hebrew Bible and Popular Culture	11,108 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)	6,949 downloads

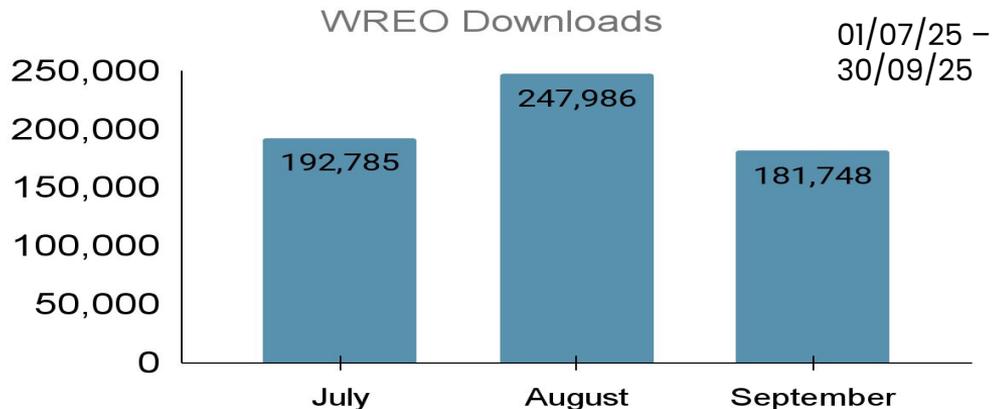
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Photo - University of Sheffield

WREO - usage

From July – Sep 2025, there were **622,495** total downloads from WREO. This puts WREO in the **top 16 most used** repositories in the UK



Top 5 most downloaded items July 25 – Sept 25:

SYNTHESIS OF PIPERIDINES USING ORGANOMETALLIC CHEMISTRY	2,316 downloads
Online discourse in a primary school setting	2,286 downloads
The Royalist Army in Northern England 1642-45	1,668 downloads
The application of Green Chemistry to Organic Syntheses and Mass-Based Reaction Metrics	1,340 downloads
Synthesis of Novel Polyfunctional 3D Scaffolds for Drug Discovery	1,288 downloads

WRRO and WREO usage

On a national scale, WRRO and WREO's combined download totals make them the second most used repository platform in the UK, with a **combined total of 1,740,225** downloads.

See how they compare to the next top 5 most used repositories services: WREO 16th WRRO 2nd in this quarter.

Repository	July 2025 ⁴ downloads	Aug 2025 downloads	Sept 2025 downloads	Total
WRRO	745,534	626,029	509,803	1,881,366
WREO	192,810	247,986	181,748	622,544
<i>UCL Discovery</i>	663,967	690,865	606,145	1,960,97
<i>White Rose Research Online</i>	473,702	432,007	384,578	,290,287
Oxford University Research Archive: ORA	419,904	454,933	319,363	1,194,200
Loughborough figshare	197,340	342,695	300,605	840,640
Edinburgh Research Explorer	219,769	239,483	189,031	648,283

Next steps for WRL Repositories

WRRO and WREO have now migrated to new infrastructure and have been upgraded to the latest available version of EPrints. It was also confirmed that two papers will be submitted to the Open Repositories Conference, taking place from 8–11 June 2026, with a submission deadline of 11 January 2026. The submissions will comprise one technical paper and one provocation.

Repositories impact plan

Following a survey on institutional priorities for repository services and data, an impact plan is being developed. Changes to sector infrastructure may limit the ability to benchmark externally. The planned use of IRUS data may no longer be viable, and while OpenAIRE offers some comparative visibility, its lower granularity restricts external benchmarking. Internal and longitudinal benchmarking will remain possible, and alternative ways to demonstrate impact will be explored.