White Rose Libraries
Repositories Service Quarterly Report

October 2025 – December 2025

White Rose Reseach Online

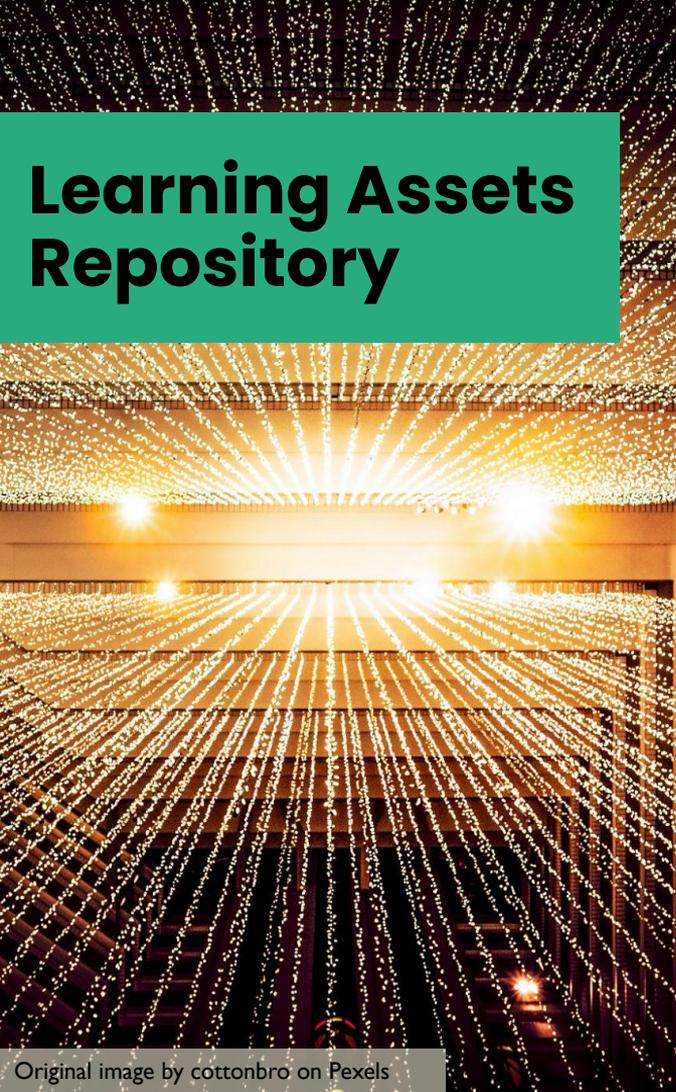White Rose Etheses Online

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Learning Assets Repository

WLR Executive Board discussed the detailed proposal for WROLAR, and approved the development of a beta version of the platform in EPrints. This should allow colleagues to engage with the proposed platform and give feedback. It is still expected that, if finally approved, this will be delivered via a light-touch model based on existing sector practice to minimise staff resource through detailed in-platform guidance.

The technical support model will be defined during the project phase, with any additional local services determined at institutional discretion. Feedback will inform a final version, and any future development roadmap.

The platform would be offered initially as a pilot, and this will be reviewed to see if it will become an ongoing service.

AI Traffic

Image by kindelmedia on pexels

Issues with AI bot traffic continue to fluctuate. Members have consulted their institutions on CC Signals, which serves as machine-readable guidance—a community code of conduct rather than an enforceable licence—and would not prevent AI use if ignored by bots. The Repositories Board will recommend to the WRL Executive Board that this should be implemented.

One further impact of Bot traffic is that it makes usage stats previously used in reporting and advocacy unreliable as figures are now significantly skewed. This, coupled with the withdrawal of the IRUS service by Jisc will make reporting and demonstrating impact more difficult.
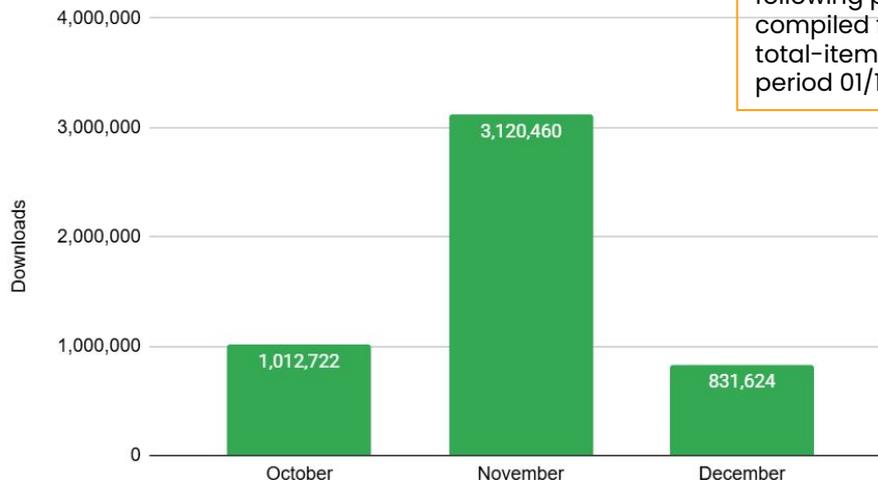
Membership Update

The WRL Repositories strand has experienced a change in sponsorship during this period. Josh Sendall (Acting Director of Library Services and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection , University of Leeds) will assume this role, as Masud Khokhar has moved to a new role as Chief Digital and Information Officer, University of Leeds)..

We would also like to thank Claire Knowles (Associate Director: Research and Digital Futures, University of Leeds) for stepping into the role on an interim basis.

WRRO - usage

From October – December 2025, there were total of **1,888,752** downloads from WRRO. This figure makes WRRO the **1st** repository in the UK.

WRRO Downloads

Month	Downloads
October	1,012,722
November	3,120,460
December	831,624

Top 5 most downloaded items Oct' 25 – Dec '25:

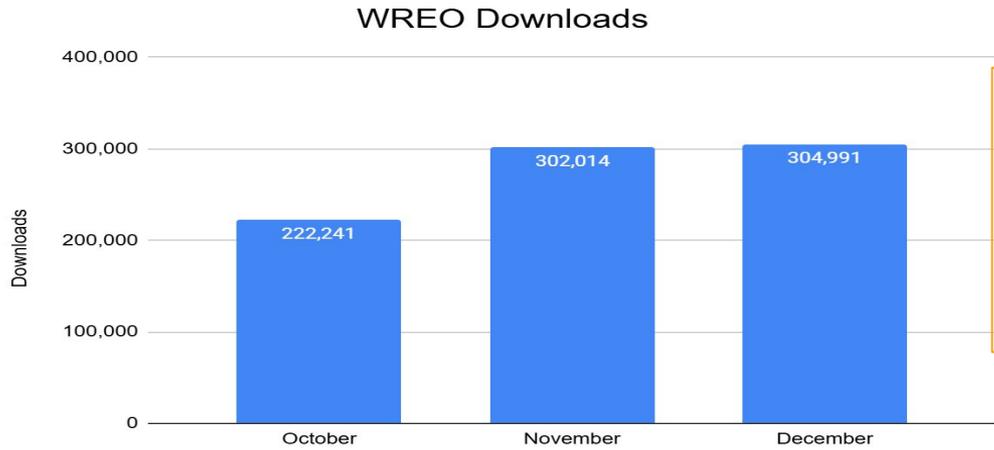| Item	Downloads
Joining up well-being and sexual misconduct data and policy in HE: 'to stand in the gap' as a feminist approach	**1,032,506 downloads**
Nuclear moments of indium isotopes reveal abrupt change at magic number 82	**829,469 downloads**
MRI software and cognitive fusion biopsies in people with suspected prostate cancer:a systematic review, network meta-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis	**352,705 downloads**
Is there a permanent campaign for online political advertising? Investigating partisan and non-party campaign activity in the UK between 2018–2021	**341,800 downloads**
An evaluation tool for Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Communities	**103,685 downloads**

WREO - usage

From Oct – Dec 2025, there were **676,886** total downloads from WREO. This puts WREO in the **top 8th most used** repositories in the UK.

WREO Downloads

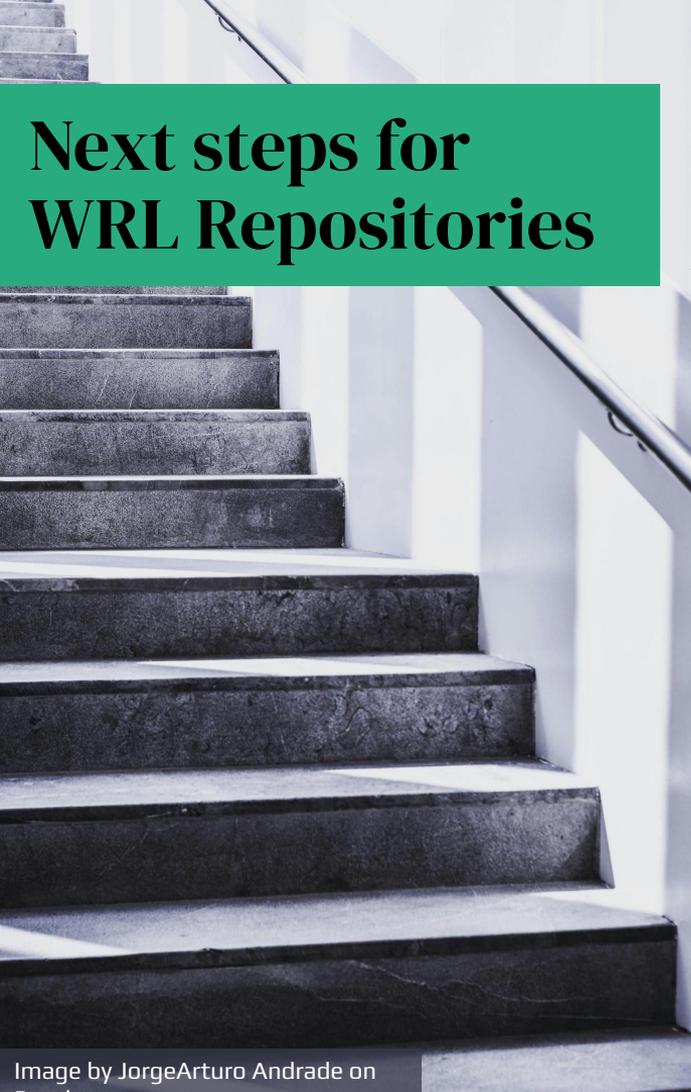## Top 5 most downloaded items Oct' 25 – Dec '25:

Item	Downloads
Outcomes measurement in psychiatry : a critical review of patient based outcomes measurement in psychiatric research and practice	**4,223 downloads**
Online discourse in a primary school setting	**2,126 downloads**
The Royalist Army in Northern England 1642-45.	**1,701 downloads**
An analysis of technical trading strategies	**1,113 downloads**
Forms of address in Jordanian Arabic with some additional references to speech fellowships	**999 downloads**

Photo - University of Sheffield

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 2,565,638** downloads.

See how they compare to the next top 5 most used repositories services:

Repository	Oct 2025 downloads	Nov 2025 downloads	Dec 2025 downloads	Total
WRRO	1,012,722	3,120,460	831,624	4,964,806
WREO	222,241	302,014	304,991	829,246
Oxford University Research Archive: ORA	407,147	645,770	664,696	1,717,613
UCL Discovery	762,044	635,008	0	1,397,052
LSE Research Online	309,164	395,353	423,344	1,127,861
University of Southampton - ePrints Soton	195,818	333,334	396,072	925,224
Loughborough figshare	776,343	265,855	248,296	262,192

Next steps for WRL Repositories

Repositories Board Away Day

Plans are underway for a Repositories Board away day to create space for broader discussions, particularly around the WRL Strategy and the forthcoming Learning Assets Repository. This will be taken forward in 2026, with the March meeting extended to support this.

Open Repositories 2026

It was agreed that WRL should submit a paper to the Open Repositories 2026 conference. As the event will be virtual, this provides an opportunity to present the technical aspects of the project and related work, including repository infrastructure updates.

Engaging with the EPrints community

There was agreement that the EPrints community should be re-energised through a steering group. Initial enthusiasm has since slowed, likely due to reduced resources, time pressures, and sector restructuring, and reconnecting with the EPrints steering group was identified as a key next step.