White Rose Libraries

Innovation and Collaboration Quarterly report

January - March 2026



Photo: University of York

White Rose Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of Sheffield

UNIVERSITY of York

Governance



Photo: diva plavalaguna on Pexels

Membership

This quarter saw Elly Cope (Leeds) leave her role as Chair of the Innovation and Collaboration Board as she moved to a new post at the Bodleian Libraries in Oxford. White Rose Libraries are grateful to Elly Cope for her significant contribution to this strand of work.

The Innovation and Collaboration Board will be looking for a new Chair in the next quarter.

Innovation & Collaboration Strategy

The Innovation and Collaboration Board will schedule discussions regarding the next iteration of WRL strategy when the new Chair is in place.

Digital skills



Events

Knowledge sharing

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Digital Skills continues to be a focus for WRL, with events planned throughout 2026. The Staff Digital Skills Development group continues to work with the WRL AI Network to ensure AI training is included in the cycle of training offered.

To support further engagement, the White Rose Libraries Digital Skills team and Steve Mould (University of Sheffield) are exploring systems to support wider sharing of resources and training.

The group is also reviewing more efficient delivery models, including recording sessions that would have ongoing relevance, and curating an annual programme of core digital library skills content.

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WRL AI network

Events

Knowledge sharing

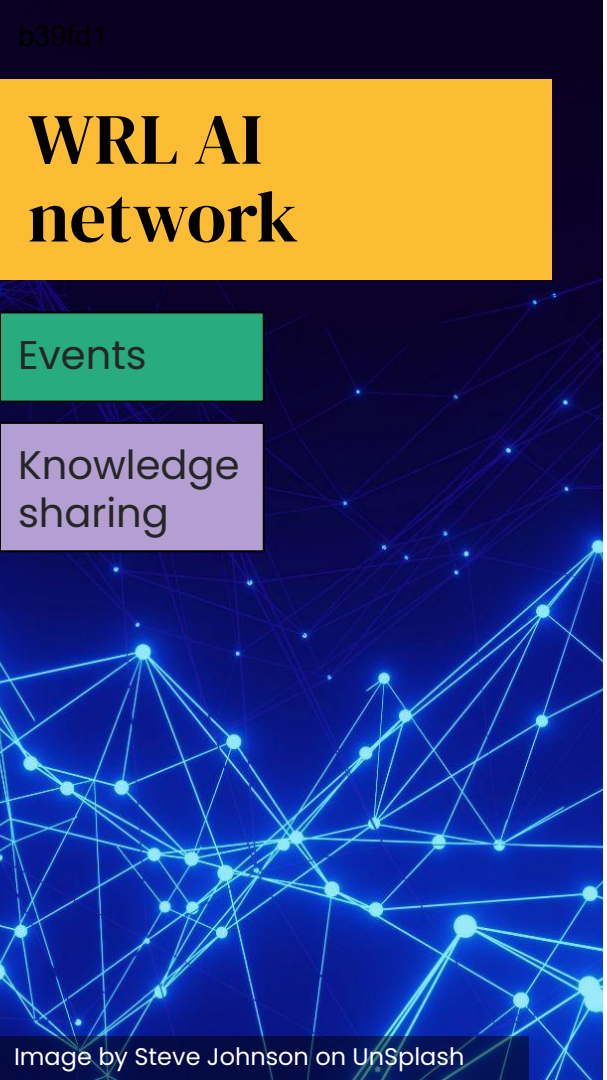
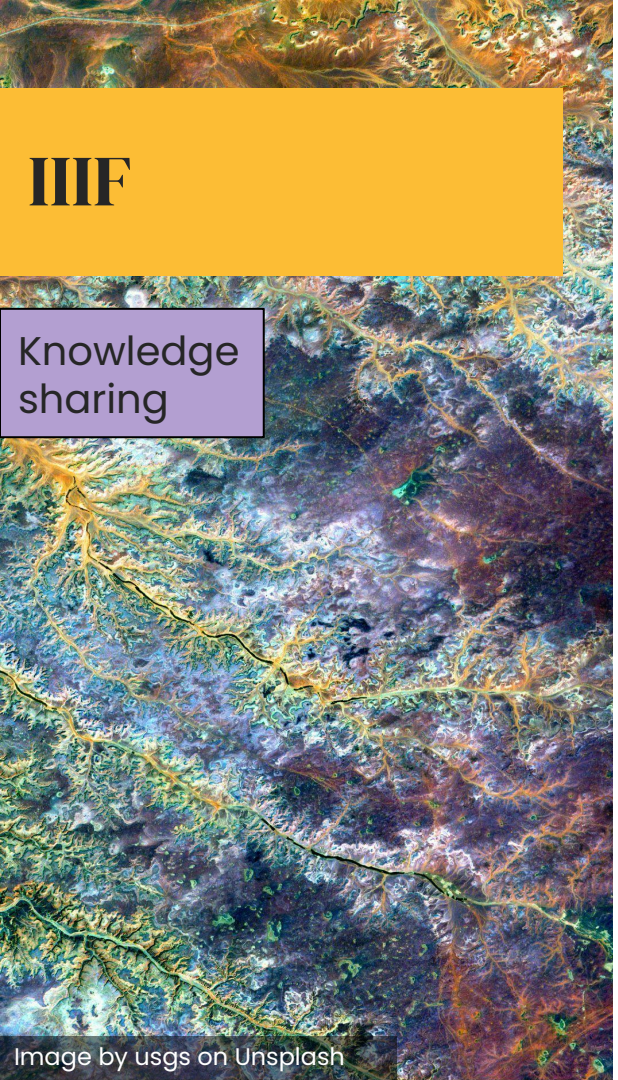


Image by Steve Johnson on UnSplash

Led by Gavin Boyce (University of Sheffield), the WRL AI Network continues to meet every 6-8 weeks, and is drafting an outline for an AI in metadata workshop for interested colleagues, collaborating with the Digital Skills team at the University of York.

Further Digital Skills events have been arranged across the year, with ‘GenAI in Discovery’ running in January 2026.

The University of Sheffield is also jointly leading the development a Critical AI Literacy OER, on behalf of the International Association of University Libraries.



IIIF

Knowledge sharing

There is still interest in a project bringing together materials related to Yorkshire building on discussions that followed the IIIF Conference held in Leeds in June 2025.

Changes in staffing at the three sites, and change of representation on the WRL Strategic Boards mean that this work will be refreshed as new colleagues join the discussions. These will focus on how to used IIIF to share, and increase engagement with, collections.

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Next steps for Innovation and Collaboration



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Digital skills

An AI Tutorial is being developed as a mandatory graduation requirement for students, similar to the Academic Integrity awareness tool.

OJS

The Innovation and Collaboration Board continues to explore Open Journal Systems (OJS) for managing internal academic journals. Further work will assess the most cost-effective option and associated resourcing needs.

Sustainability

Reflections from the Green Libraries Conference will inform discussions around possible collaboration in the area of Sustainability and if a shared approach can feature in the next White Rose Libraries Strategy, particularly in relation to community engagement and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.