White Rose Libraries

Repositories Service Quarterly Report

January - March 2026



Photo: University of York

White Rose Reseach Online

White Rose Etheses Online

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of Sheffield

UNIVERSITY of York

AI Bots

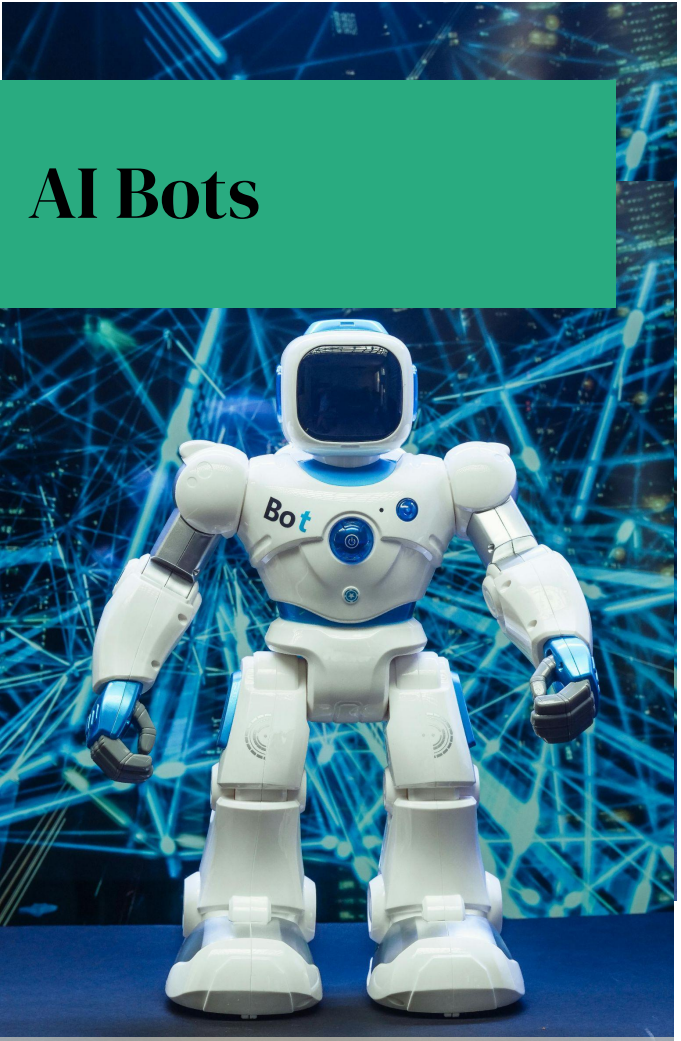


Image by kindelmedia on Pexels

AI Bots continue to be an issue for WRRO and WREO platforms, as this impacts on the platforms White Rose Libraries offers and those offered across the sector.

The Repositories Board is exploring mitigations, the implementation of which would improve things for White Rose eTheses Online and White Rose Research Online in terms of platform stability under the weight of AI Bot traffic.

A wider White Rose Libraries collaborative approach is being explored to tackle AI Bots, including IT and Library staff from the University of Sheffield, University of York and the University of Leeds.

Multi Factor Authentication



Image by Fauxels on Pexels

Following the successful upgrade to the repositories infrastructure, the WRL Technical Officer took forward the implementation of MFA via institutional Single Sign On for each site. This involves working with local IT teams to ensure the repositories work with the different local systems effectively.

This will improve the security of accounts in WRRO and WREO, and of the platform itself.

Multi Factor Authentication via institutional Single Sign On will also feature within the White Rose Online Learning Assets Repository, currently in development.

CC Signals

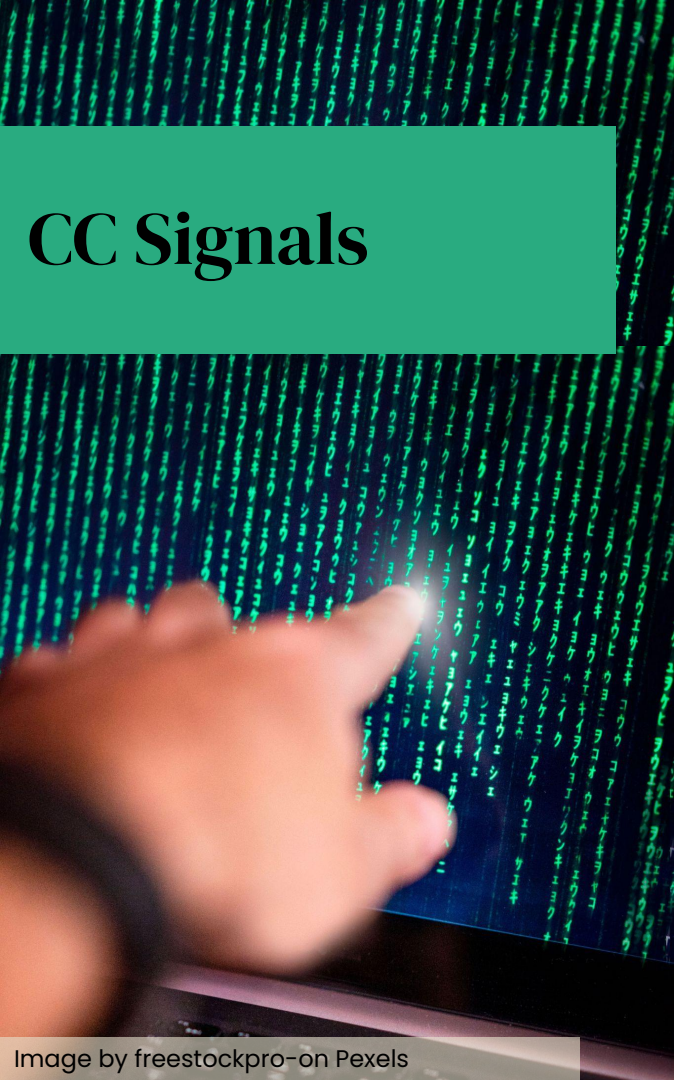


Image by freestockpro-on Pexels

White Rose Libraries are looking at implementing CC Signals into their repositories WRRO and WREO to assist with educating AI Tools in terms of what access the platform would choose to offer.

Initial discussions are establishing the level of work, and resources, required to implement this.

White Rose Libraries aspires to become a leading adopter of this initiative in the education sector and to explore the technical implications of adoption.

Learning Assets Repository

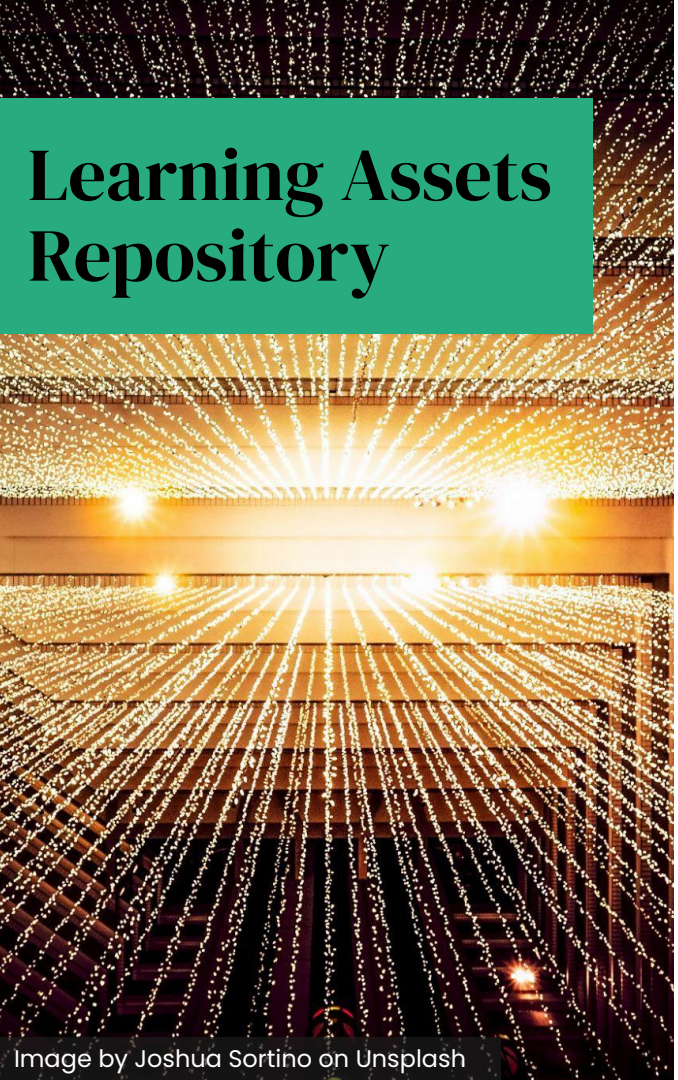


Image by Joshua Sortino on Unsplash

White Rose Libraries Learning Assets Repository (WROLAR) is progressing and is likely to run on EPrints like the other repositories, WRRO and WREO.

An initial demonstration and feedback session has been scheduled for April 2026.

Single Sign-on and Multifactor authentication will be implemented as part of the development of this platform.

A communications plan is underway to ensure the platform is rolled out at all sites cohesively.

Repositories Impact Plan



Image by Gabby K on Pexels

The Repositories Board has reviewed the planned deliverable under the strategic area of focus to surface the impact and value of the repositories. The removal of the sector-wide IRUS stats service will severely limit the ability of services to benchmark against their peer.

Therefore, the Repositories Board will propose to refocus this area of work on surfing the impact and value of repository services in general. This ties to the approach of steering more academics to green OA routes.

This proposed repositioning will be presented to the WRL Executive Board in June for approval.

Open Repositories Conference 2026



Image by stem-list On Unsplash

The Open Repositories Conference is taking place between the 8th and 11th June 2026. Colleagues from the Repositories Board drafted two separate proposals for papers, both resulting from the Repositories Renewal Project.

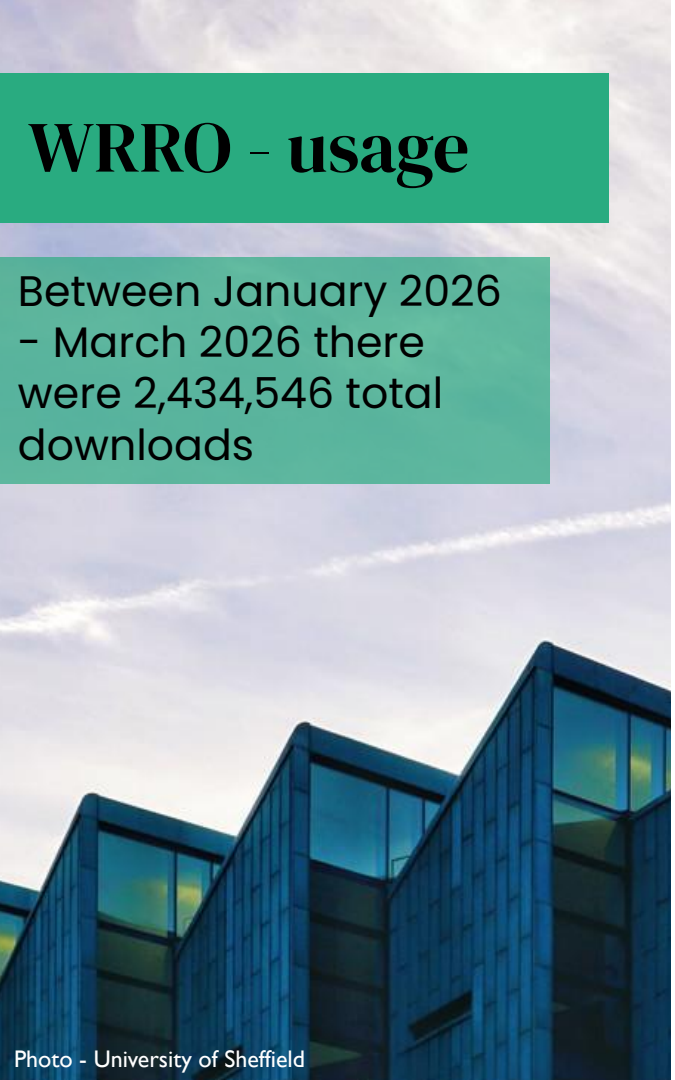
Sally Dalton (University of Leeds), working with Claire Knowles (University of Leeds), submitted a paper that would act as a provocation to the sector about the next phase of repository provision and what that should look like.

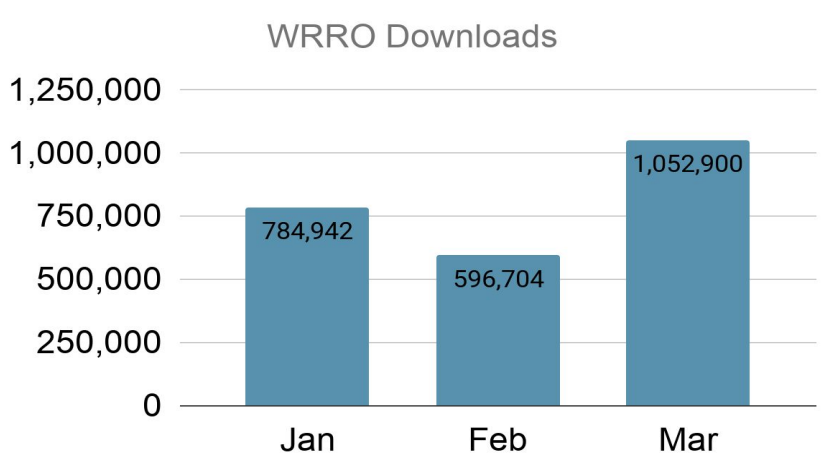
John Salter (University of Leeds) and Andy Bussey (University of Sheffield) submitted a paper detailing the technical aspects of implementing the updates to the repository platform

Unfortunately, the paper from John and Andy was not accepted, and the paper from Sally and Claire was accepted, but as a lightning talk which they felt was an inappropriate format for that topic. Therefore WRL will not present at this conference, though some colleagues will attend as delegates.

WRRO - usage

Between January 2026 - March 2026 there were 2,434,546 total downloads





1/1/2026 - 31/3/2026
Statistics extracted from JISC IRUS-UK

Top 5 most downloaded items from Jan '26 – March '26:

Brother, Sister, Rape: Hebrew Bible and Popular Culture	12,835 downloads
Solvent effects in palladium catalysed cross-coupling reactions	8,646 downloads
Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework	5,859 downloads
Cracking Android Pattern Lock in Five Attempts	4,391 downloads
Procrastination and the Priority of Short-Term Mood Regulation: Consequences for Future Self	3,197 downloads

WREO - usage

Between January 2026 - March 2026, there were 932,666 total downloads from WREO

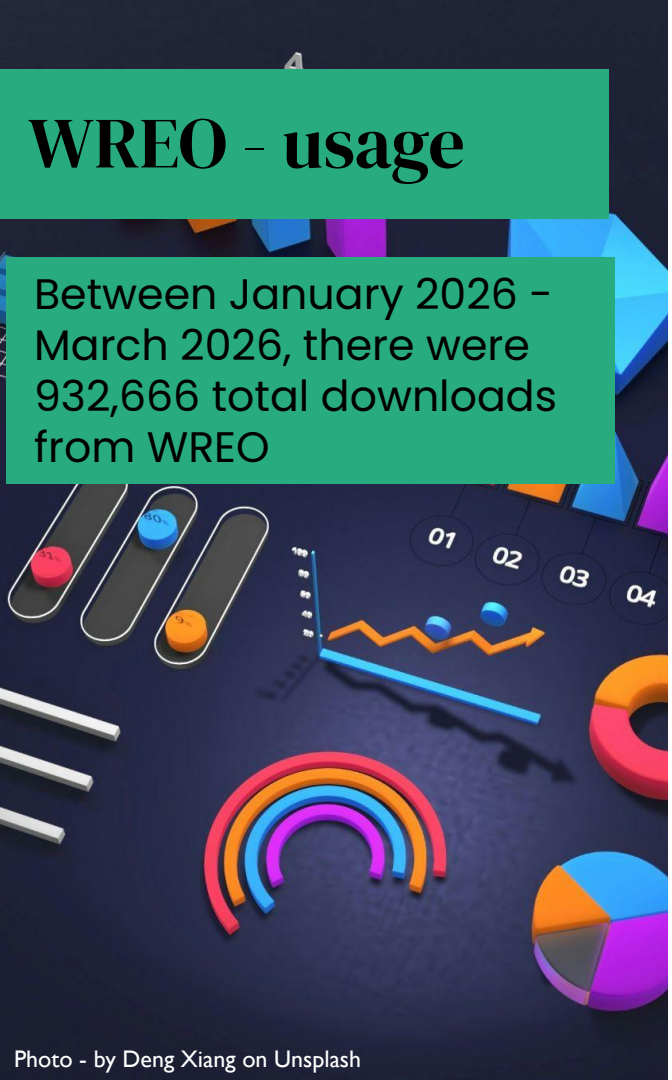
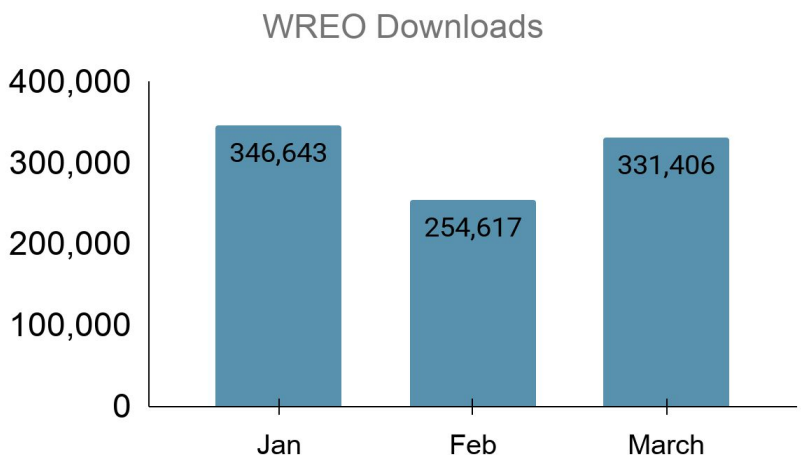


Photo - by Deng Xiang on Unsplash

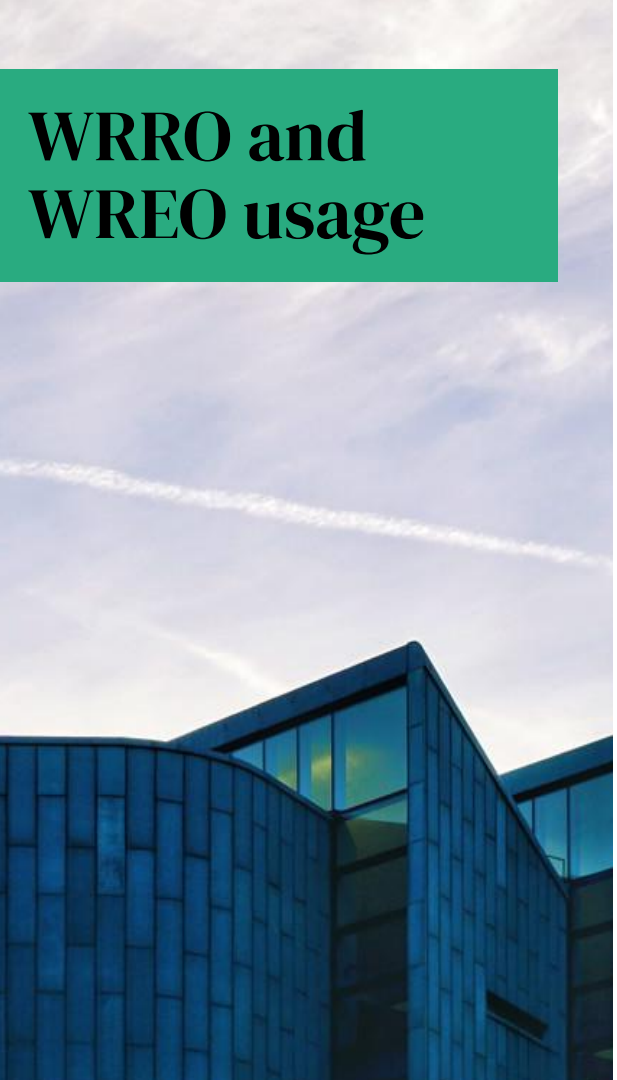


1/1/2026 - 31/3/2026
Statistics extracted from JISC IRUS-UK

Top 5 most downloaded items of Jan '26 - March '26:

Online discourse in a primary school setting	3,420 downloads
SYNTHESIS OF PIPERIDINES USING ORGANOMETALLIC CHEMISTRY	1,926 downloads
Synthesising complex chiral amines through resolution-racemisation-recycle	1,670 downloads
Exploring constructs of ADHD: A reflexive thematic analysis of teacher accounts	936 downloads
The Satanic Cult Conspiracy: How online conspiracy theory discourses construct moral panic	852 downloads

WRRO and WREO usage



*On a national scale, WRRO and WREO's combined download totals make them the first most used repository platform in the UK, with a **combined total of 4,164,390** downloads.*

See how they compare to the next top 5 most used repositories services: WRRO 1st and WREO 8th in this quarter.

Repository	Jan 2026 downloads	Feb 2026 downloads	Mar 2026 downloads	Total downloads
WRRO	968,205	697,481	1,263,407	2,929,093
WREO	431,426	384,936	418,935	1,235,297
Oxford University Research Archive: ORA	912794	654,004	876,481	2,443,279
UCL Discovery	1,184,808	0	868,491	316,317
University of Southampton - ePrints Soton	1,077,221	274,246	233,853	569,122
Kent Academic Repository - KAR	761,412	287,340	198,265	275,807
Edinburgh Research Explorer	753,858	289,171	216,607	248,080

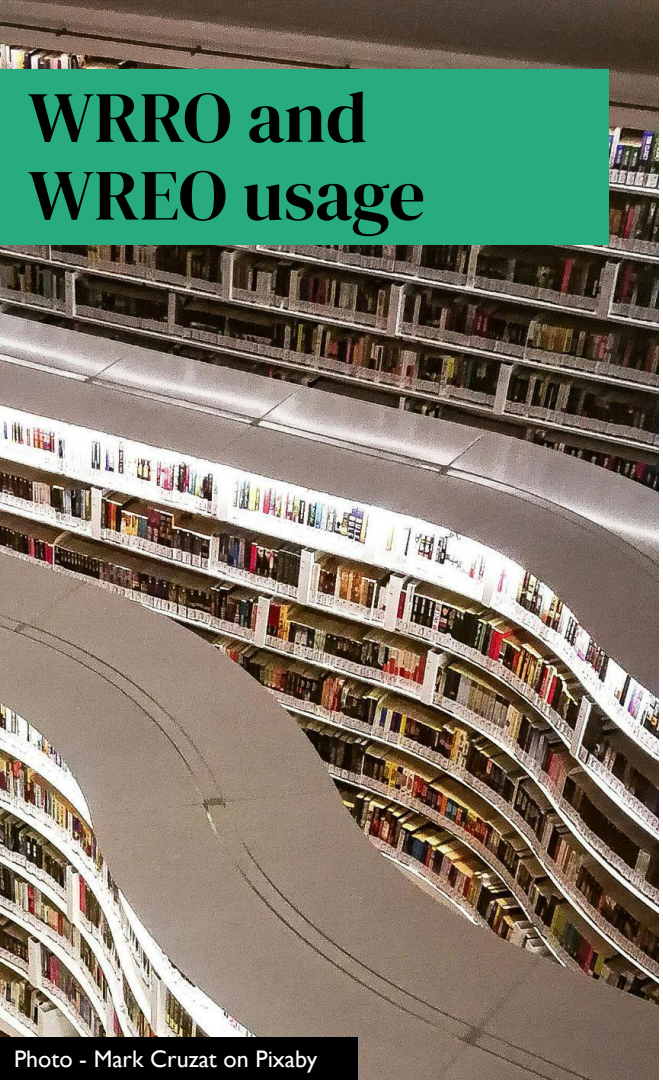


Photo - Mark Cruzat on Pixaby

WRRO and WREO usage

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Next steps for WRL Repositories

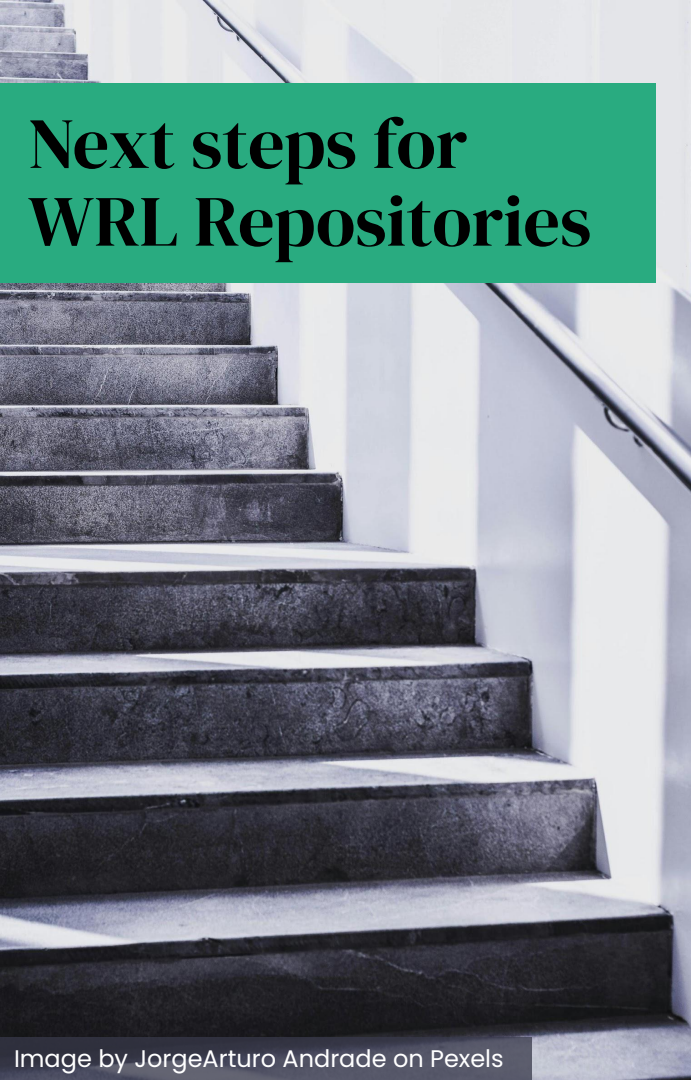


Image by JorgeArturo Andrade on Pexels

White Rose Libraries Strategy
The conversation has started to turn to the next strategy for White Rose Libraries and the Repositories Strand, this will be based on current and future aspirations for the service.

Advocacy of White Rose Repositories
Advocacy is going to be a large part of the future strategy and will focus on further presence in the community and enhancing the EPrints network.

Enhanced Green OA
The Repositories operational group are exploring Enhanced Green OA and how this can link to the sustainability agenda