

# Creating a Shared Institutional Repository for the White Rose Consortium

Rachel Proudfoot, University of Leeds

## Thinking of Creating a Shared Repository?

### Potential Advantages

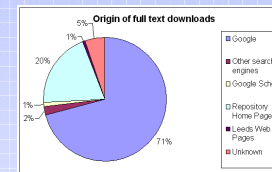
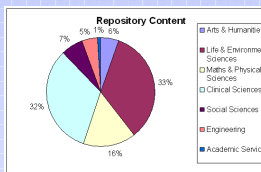
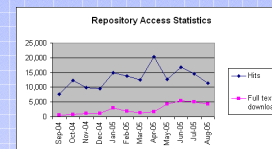
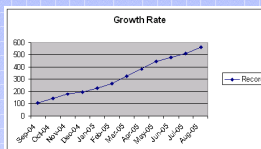
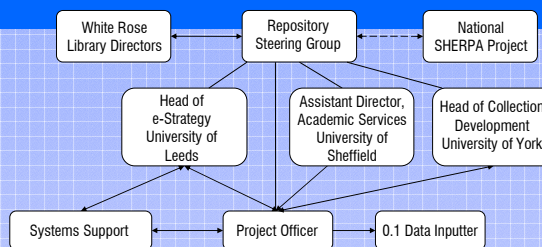
- Shared software installation; shared technical support.
- Pooled financial resources: e.g. the White Rose partnership was able to create a full-time Project Officer post.
- Shared policies and documents e.g. one deposit licence (but will it need approval from each partner's legal department?)
- Shared experience and expertise: a lesson learnt by one partner can be applied immediately to all partners
- If institutions are from the same geographical region, the repository may be useful for identifying "local" researchers and promoting regional research collaboration.
- Demonstrates cooperation between partners.
- Can capitalise on an established "brand" or collaborative model – as with the "White Rose" grouping. E.g. the Research Pro-Vice Chancellors from the three White Rose partners meet regularly.

### Some issues to consider

- Where will the software be installed? Who will provide technical support?
- URL, name, "brand".
- Is it sufficient to run your repository on the basis of "good will" cooperation between the partners or is a more formal consortium agreement required?
- Who will makes key management decisions about the repository?
- How will any differences in opinion between the partners be resolved?
- How will advocacy be co-ordinated across all the partners?
- What sort of validation checks will be needed? How can you ensure that only researchers from the partner institutions upload work?
- Will it cause any political problems if one partner makes much greater use of the repository than the others; or if one partner has much less content in the repository than the others?
- How will researchers feel about a shared repository? Will they feel the same "ownership" of the system as if it were dedicated to their own, local institution?
- Will it be possible to extract and export data for one (or more) partners if they wish to create their own repository?
- Will publishers accept the shared system as an "institutional repository"? (NB to date, this has not been a problem with the White Rose repository – publishers seem happy to accept the consortium repository as the exact equivalent of a locally based institutional repository).

	Leeds	Sheffield	York	Total
Students	32,241	25,526	10,877	68,644
Staff (total)	7,581	5,569	2,845	15,995
Staff (academics and researchers)	2,300	2,212	1,042	5,554
Total academic units (including Research Institutes)	153	124	46	323

### Consortium Structure



ABSTRACT

The White Rose Consortium is a partnership between three leading, research based universities from the Yorkshire region of the UK: University of Leeds, University of Sheffield and University of York. The University Libraries of Leeds, Sheffield and York have cooperated to build a joint, institutional repository of research output, the White Rose Consortium ePrints Repository (<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>). The repository was created as part of the national SHERPA project (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>).

This presentation illustrates the structure of the consortium, includes statistical information about the three universities and summarises some pros and cons of the consortium model. Examples of advocacy activities are listed. The graphs show the growth of the repository since summer 2004 and the breakdown of the repository by subject area.

## Summary of advocacy activities

We adopted a hybrid strategy of top-down and bottom-up advocacy activities. Had we adopted a solely top-down approach, it is likely that we would have gathered significantly less content for the repository over the last few months.

### Top-Down Advocacy

Presentations have been made at all three institutions to senior level committees with a view to achieving a university policy encouraging researchers to deposit their work in the White Rose repository. E.g.

- University Research Committee/Board
- Information Committee
- Faculty / Departmental Research Committees
- Faculty Policy Committees

As well as moving towards institutional positions on open access and repository development, the process of taking papers to various University committees has been useful in a number of ways. In particular, it brought the repository to the attention of a range of research active staff, exposed some of the key questions for academics (helpful in developing the repository FAQ section) and also lead to follow up work with the most interested Faculties / individuals.

Information about the repository has also been channelled via Consortium level routes:

- White Rose Research PVC Meeting
- White Rose Consortium Chief Executive and Officers

### Bottom-up Advocacy

This has been the key route to obtaining content for the system - particularly important in the early stages of repository development. Although active gathering of repository content is not comprehensive, it is a quick way to gain some papers for the system which can be used for demonstration purposes and also, importantly, to generate access statistics. Our access statistics have been very helpful in advocacy with individual and departments as well as with University Committees. Some methods used:

- Identification of "green" content. Research papers from publishers allowing the re-use of the published PDF are the most readily obtainable and addable. A number of academics and disciplines can be targeted in this way.
- Opt-in email. All academics need to do is indicate their willingness to have any of their research output added to the repository. The Project Officer adds papers on their behalf. A note of caution – this generates much work for the Project Officer and is best used with one department or faculty at a time. However, it is an easy way for academics to start to become involved with the repository.
- Meetings with individual academics who have expressed an interest in the repository.

### Our general advocacy activities have included:

- external speakers
- information about open access on library web sites
- repository presentations / demonstrations to Library Reps / Library Committees
- presentations to / discussions with Subject Librarians
- presentations on open access in the Library staff training programme
- presentations on open access in researcher training sessions
- presentations to specific academic departments e.g. at training events, committee meetings
- open access displays (posters and handouts)
- emails to academic staff e.g. publicity email to Heads of Department
- Email updates for academics who have deposited work in the repository (e.g. download statistics, publisher policy announcements, major national or international developments)
- Information in the White Rose Consortium newsletter