

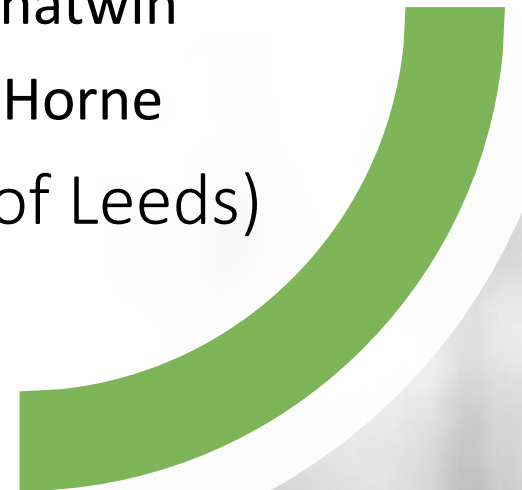
# Open Access: The Librarian's perspective

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# Session outline

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Background and outline of the Research Support Team and how the roles support open access at Leeds

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Importance of collaboration

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Repository processes and author obligations, output lifecycle from deposit to completion

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Broadening the remit from focusing on supporting REF requirements

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Impact of funder and publisher policies

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Looking to the future...



# A bit of background

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The Research Support team was formed in 2015 and consists of two main strands:

**Researcher support** where the focus is on literature searching, where to publish, bibliometrics and raising the visibility of research

**Open research/repository** team who focus on promoting open research including research data, and open access publications (originally with a strong REF/UKRI policy influence to the work)

White Rose Research Online [eprints.whiterose.ac.uk](https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk) (shared with York and Sheffield) has been around since 2005, but the HEFCE OA policy for the REF was the driver for expanding the team



# REF 2021

University of Leeds submitted 4000 outputs to the REF

There were 2147 which were in scope of the OA policy (journal articles and conference papers accepted after 1st April 2016)

Dedicated Library REF team consisting of 2 full time staff plus manager.

They finalised metadata, and checked and verified the open access status of a pool of 4909 outputs both in and out of scope.

# Library roles supporting open access

## Repository assistants (5FTE)

- User facing role
- Allocate deposits, make publications OA via Symplectic and WRRO
- Use SHERPA for publisher and © information, journal websites for metadata
- Items are checked for updates. E.g. embargo setting, or final metadata adding
- Answer queries on all aspects of research support, refer on when needed
- Meeting and workshop facilitation, helping with bookings and team admin.
- Involved in project work
- Individual areas of expertise, e.g. UX, user training

## Research Support Assistants (4 FTE)

- Administer article processing charge payments from block grants, approve the use of OA agreements / deals with publishers by UoL authors.
- Provide support for the thesis repository White Rose E-theses Online (WREO), e.g. responding to embargo extension requests
- Help develop repository processes and do user testing for updates to repository systems / the publications database.
- Support compliance with the REF OA Policy, e.g. providing regular reports to faculties, and participate in planning for future REF submissions.
- Produce guidance for authors and departmental OA contacts, and assist with OA-related comms and stats generally.

## Repositories Coordinator

- Manage the repository team, who administer all deposits into the White Rose Institutional Repository.
- Lead on repository for E-theses, White Rose E-theses online.
- Monitor repository throughput and ensure open access compliance and correct metadata
- Collaborate with colleagues in the Research Data team to streamline overlapping processes
- Support academics and departmental open access contacts to navigate the open access landscape through training sessions and advocacy

## APC Coordinator

- Manage a small team of Research Support Assistants who work on APC payments and OA agreements
- Responsibility for financial and compliance reporting to four funders the University receives an open access block grant from - UKRI, Wellcome Trust, British Heart Foundation, and Cancer Research UK
- Offer OA policy advice to academics supported by other funders – mainly EU and NIHR
- Deliver funding and policy outreach sessions to Schools and Faculties

## Research Support Advisers

- Worked with small team to deliver the Library side of REF2021
- Responsible for the research infrastructure systems used by Leeds researchers
- Collaborate with colleagues in the repository team, Leeds IT and RIS and White Rose partners.
- Focus on strategic development of our CRIS, and the eprints repository.
- Chair of Symplectic user group
- Working on implementing functionality to reflect aims of the Research Culture group in our systems, e.g. surfacing author contribution and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

# Collaboration is key!

## Open access contacts

- Network of colleagues based in Schools and Faculties providing support to users depositing research outputs in the CRIS
- Variation in type of support provided e.g. some do mediated deposit, some more of an advisory role
- Historically communicated via a mailing list, but more recently use a MS team

## Colleagues across the University

- IT -keep the CRIS (Symplectic elements) running smoothly, carry out system upgrades
- Research and Innovation Service - partnered on REF
- Research Culture group – strategic aims help to drive system development and shape priorities

## White Rose partnership

- Monthly White Rose Repository Services meetings **with colleagues from 3 sites**
- Collaborate on development and maintenance of the two repositories
- Mixture of technical, operational and strategic goals, e.g. Meeting UKRI policy requirements for the repository, for example use of PIDs

## Wider OA community

- Open Lunch series ([Introducing the University of Leeds Open Research Statement](#))
- Symplectic user group
- UKCoRR
- Jisc Repositories
- OA Good practice



# Repository processes and author obligations

Deposit on acceptance is a requirement at Leeds

Currently average around 100 / 150 deposits a week

Dedicated repository team handle all new deposits

Various checks are made on the item before it is made live in the repository



# Records and Useage

Total number of items in WRRO – 116, 279

Total number of Leeds items – 48, 936

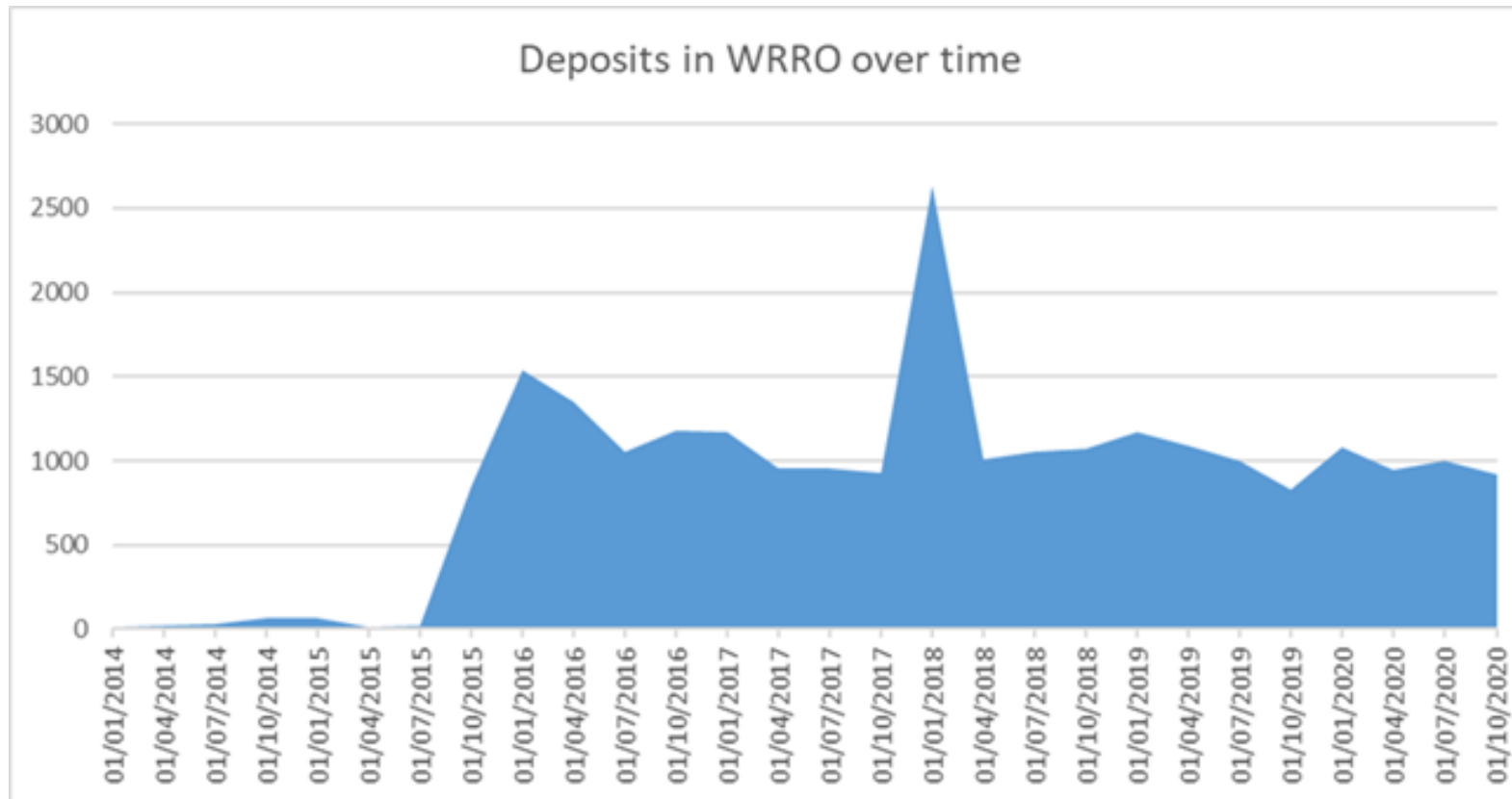
Total downloads across all institutions (Sept 22) – 347, 913

Total downloads for Leeds 151,367 (Sept 22)



# Deposit statistics

- Period 2014 - 2020





# Output lifecycle from deposit to completion

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- Inherently a complex and labour-intensive process
- Key stages – output is published online – embargo setting if needed
- Output is finally published – included in an issue with final metadata
- How do we manage our outputs through this process and keep track of them?



## In press and output updates

- Process called 'in press' - run every two weeks and allows us to identify outputs that are likely in need of an update / definitely in need of an update
- Ordered in terms of priority – 0 month items
- 1,524 accepted stage, 2,307 published online – total 3,831 requiring some manual intervention from the team

A stack of several books with various colored spines (yellow, red, blue, brown) is shown on a dark surface. A blue book is leaning against the stack on the right side.

# Broadening the range of output types

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- Not just focused on REF eligibility
- Majority of outputs are journal articles / conference papers
- Pre-prints / letters / reports / editorial comments / chapters
- Symplectic feeds in to author pages – raising visibility / dissemination
- Team is very much working towards a more holistic approach to the research lifecycle
- The emerging importance of underpinning research data and how we support this



## Communication and Advocacy

- Comprehensive library web pages regularly updated

[https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/14061/open\\_access/8/open\\_access\\_explained](https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/14061/open_access/8/open_access_explained)

- Bespoke sessions on key policy developments / changes (UKRI)
- Working to strengthen links with departments / OA contacts
- Open Lunch series to introduce and promote discussion around open access initiatives

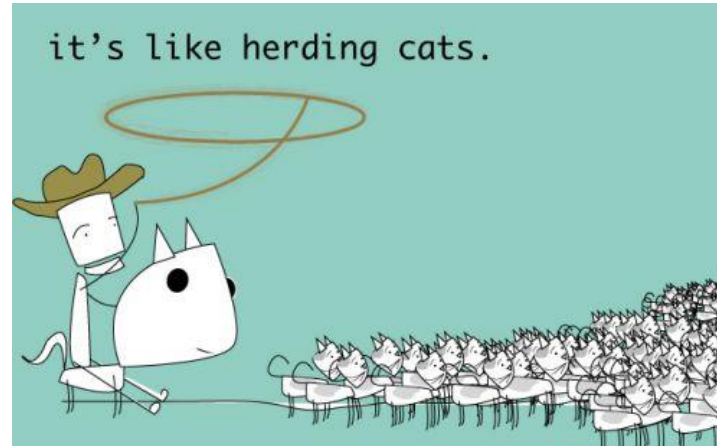




# Funders' and Publishers' OA Policies

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- A complex relationship with authors and institutions in the middle
- 6 major funders and 150+ publishers
- Commonality and consistency – progress?
- An ever-changing landscape – no room for complacency

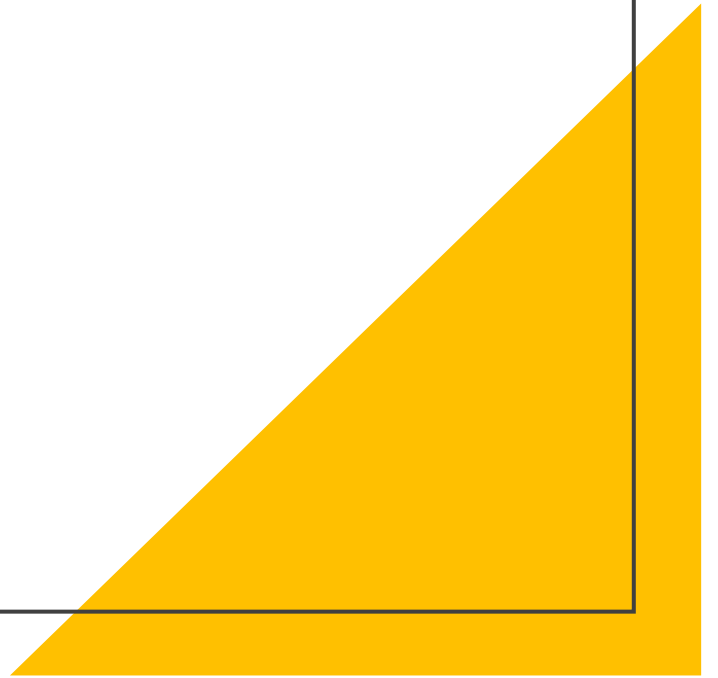


# My Perspective

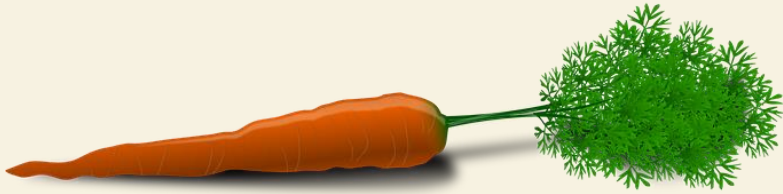


# How and Why?

- How is easier, unless they can't
- Lean on platforms such as Journal Checker Tool and SHERPA
- If in doubt, ask! Funders and publishers are responsive
- Don't get shot – link to the source
- Why is harder – we're all individuals with different motivations



# Advocacy & (Non-)Compliance



Vs.



- Fewer future funding opportunities
- Suspend institutional funding
- Future REF/RAE eligibility, and associated income
- Personal and institutional reputation
- Career progression

# Future of Open Access

- Monograph policy
- Support for transitional agreements
- Diamond open access initiatives
- White Rose University Press - <https://universitypress.whiterose.ac.uk/>
- Open Research

# Contacts

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- Open lunch [Introducing the University of Leeds Open Research Statement](#)