The Warburg Library online
Transforming a unique print research library into the digital sphere

The Warburg Library
A unique collection for art and cultural history
Brought from Hamburg to London in 1933
Unique classification system to create ‘good neighbours’ in subjects in an open stack library with rare and modern books

New digital strategy began in 2014
2015-2019: 3 new staff positions of digital librarian, e-resources librarian, digitization scanner operator
Two innovative digital projects: Warburg Digital Library and Warburg Library Commons

Warburg Digital Library (2016-)
Digitised monographs from Warburg collections
Integrated standards-based metadata scheme
Entirely in-house production

Warburg Library Commons (2017-)
Green open-access repository for global Warburg community
Based on Warburg classification system adapted to online retrieval

Other Developments
• Expanded acquisition of subscription databases
• New library management system
• Libguides web portal
• New social media presences on Twitter/Facebook
• Digital training for staff and students in teaching and research programmes.
• Collaboration with other libraries in the university including involvement in digital working groups and joint acquisition of e-resources.

Outcomes
Ease of access to electronic resources for staff and students
Less need to use some physical books including rare books, but increased interest
Digitally available material mitigated impact of shutdown during COVID pandemic (2020-21) and during library refurbishment/closed storage of materials (2022-23)
Collections opened to wider world
Fully interoperable metadata allows sharing of resources
Experience in use of tools like Libguides/Libcal eased reopening

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