

# The Warburg Library online

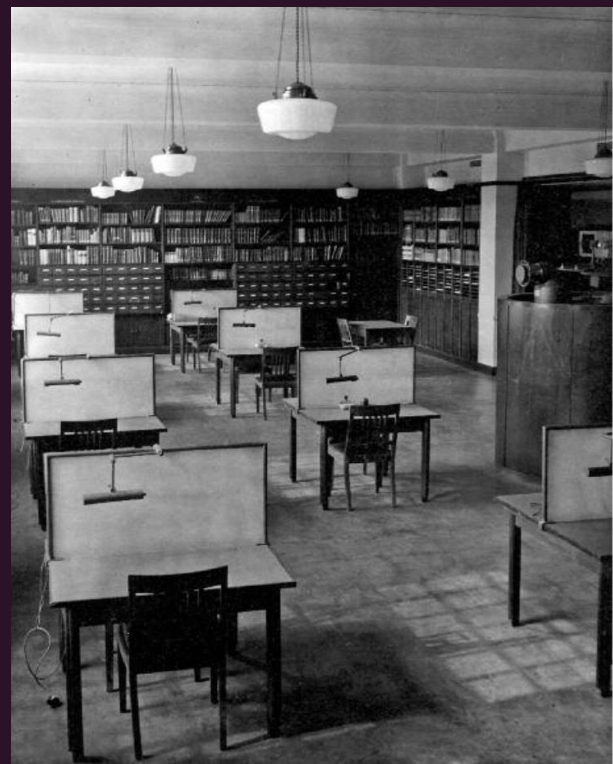
## Transforming a unique print research library into the digital sphere

### The Warburg Library

A unique collection for art and cultural history

Brought from Hamburg to London in 1933

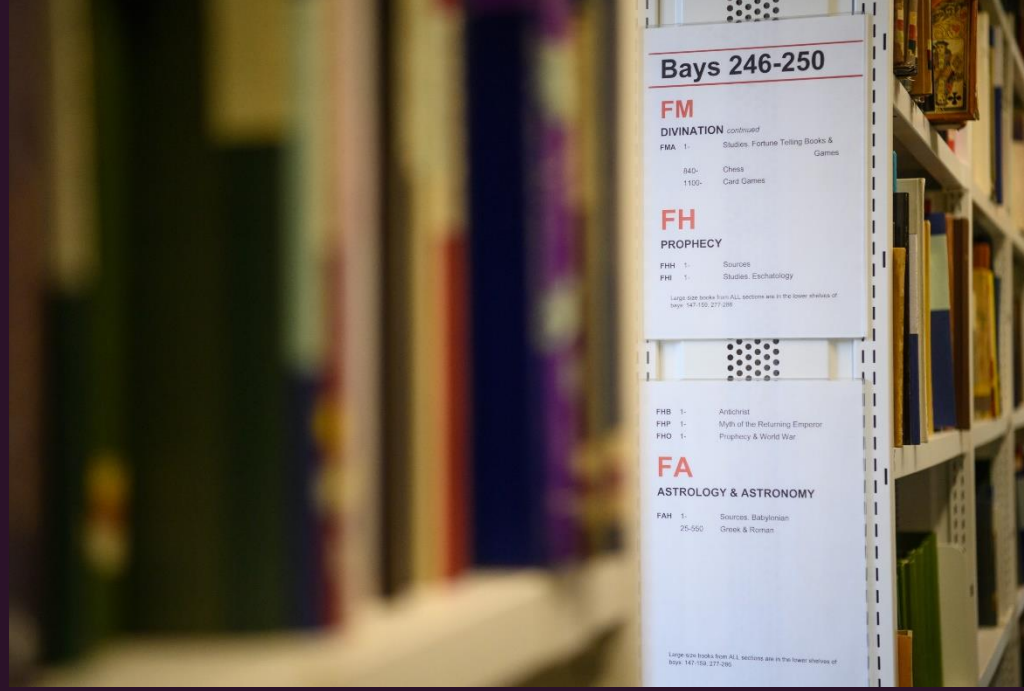
Unique classification system to create ‘good neighbours’ in subjects in an open stack library with rare and modern books



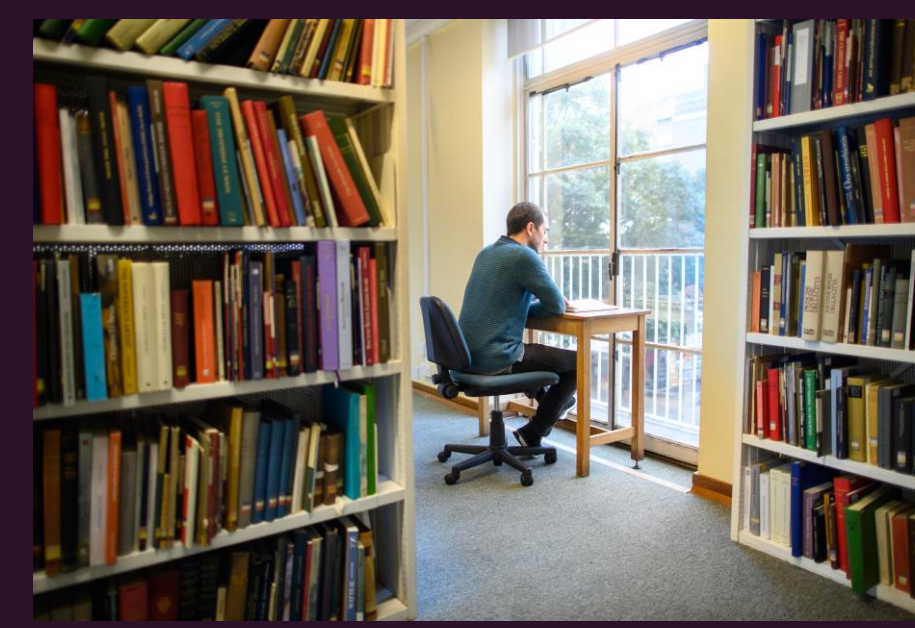
*The Warburg Library in the 1950s in London, before it was permanently located in Woburn Square, Bloomsbury*



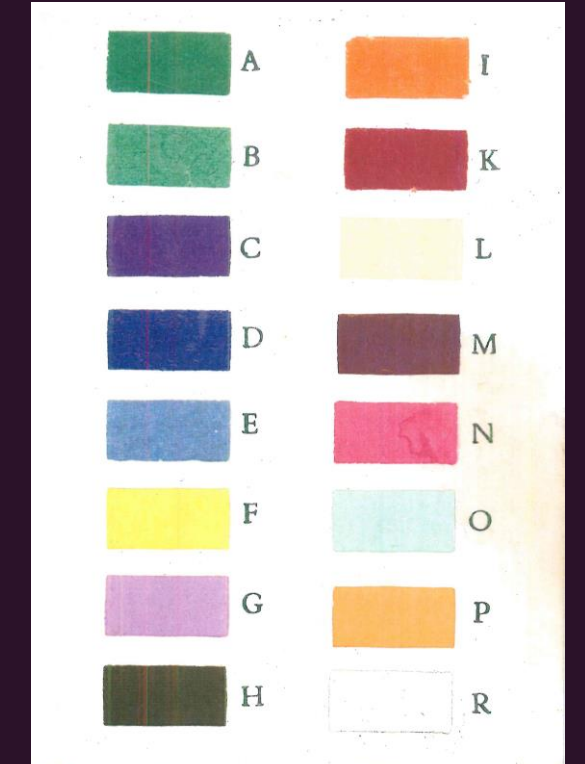
*Open stack shelves at the Warburg Library, 2021, showing view of Woburn Place*



*Open stack shelves at the Warburg Library, 2021*



*A reader working in the Warburg Library's open stacks, 2021*



*Original colour scheme to correspond to letters in the Warburg Institute's unique classification system, composed of numbers and letters*

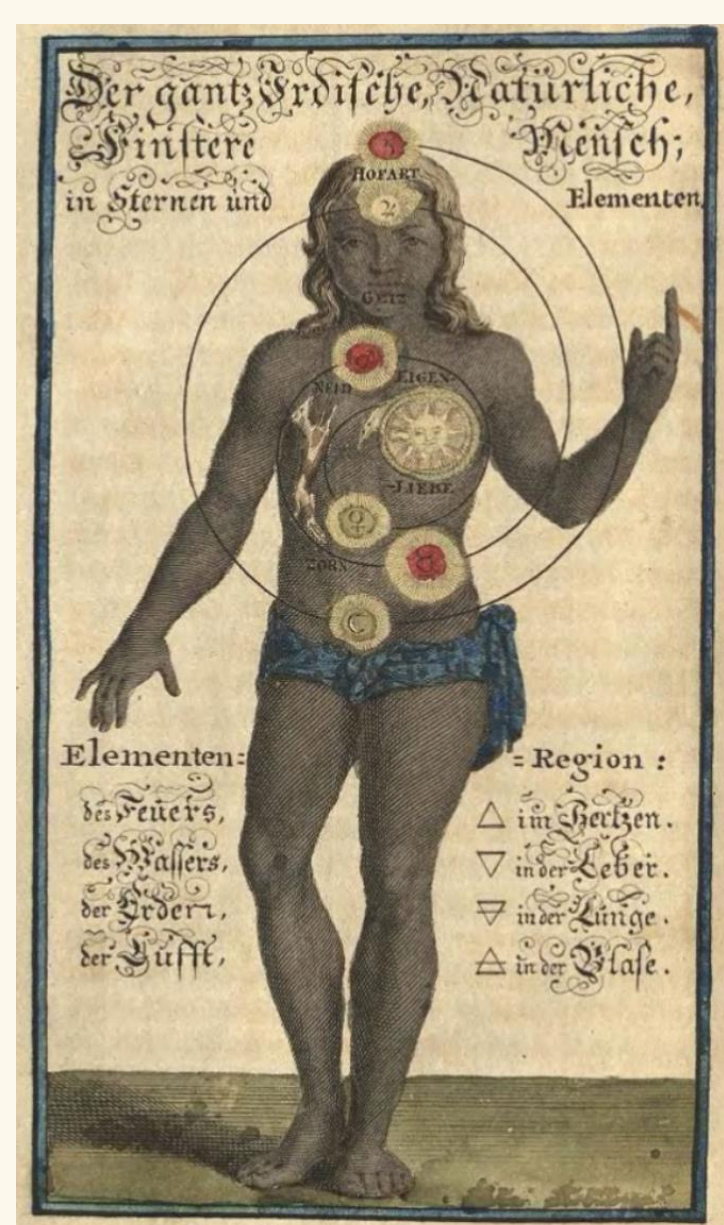
## New digital strategy began in 2014

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



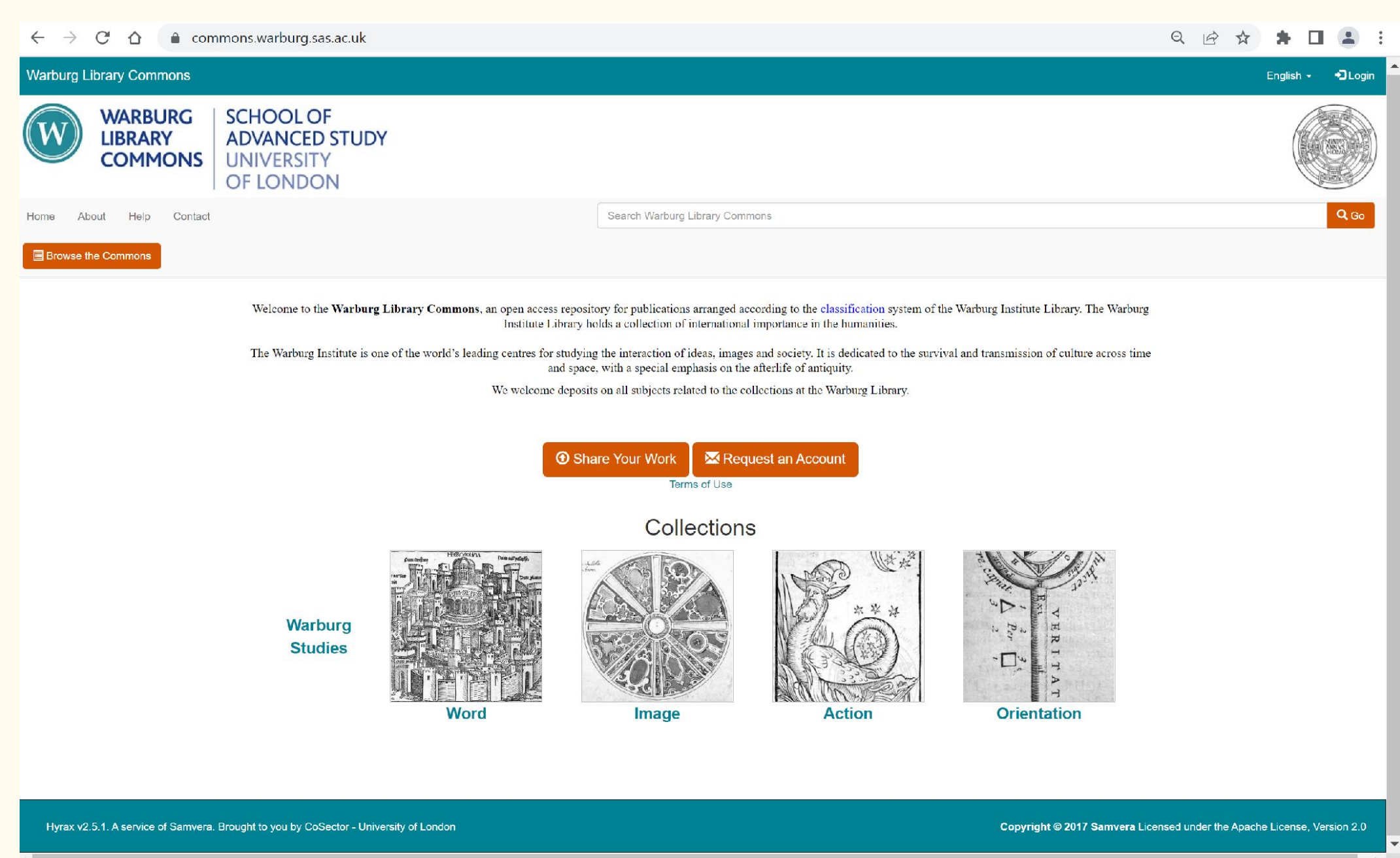
*Illustration from Johan George Graber, Eine kurze Eröffnung und Anweisung der dreyen Principien und Welten im Menschen (1723)*



*Frontispiece, Cassel's Household guide (London: Cassel, 19--)*

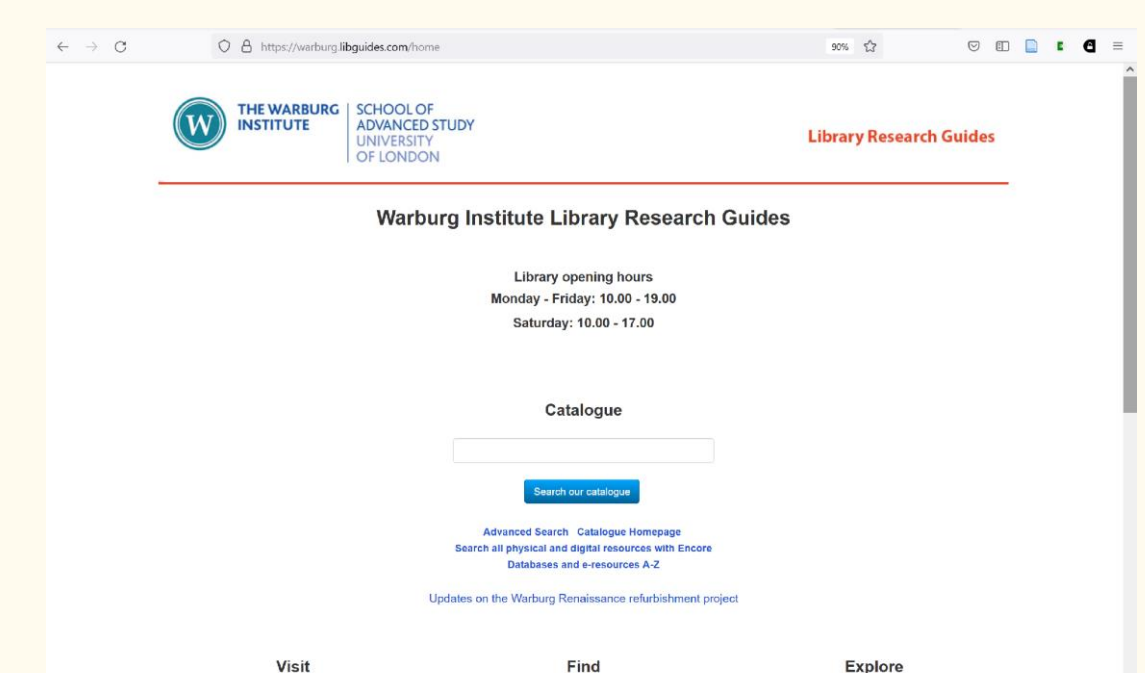
### Warburg Library Commons (2017-)

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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