

WELCOME

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A Research Room with a View: Reimagining a Library Space

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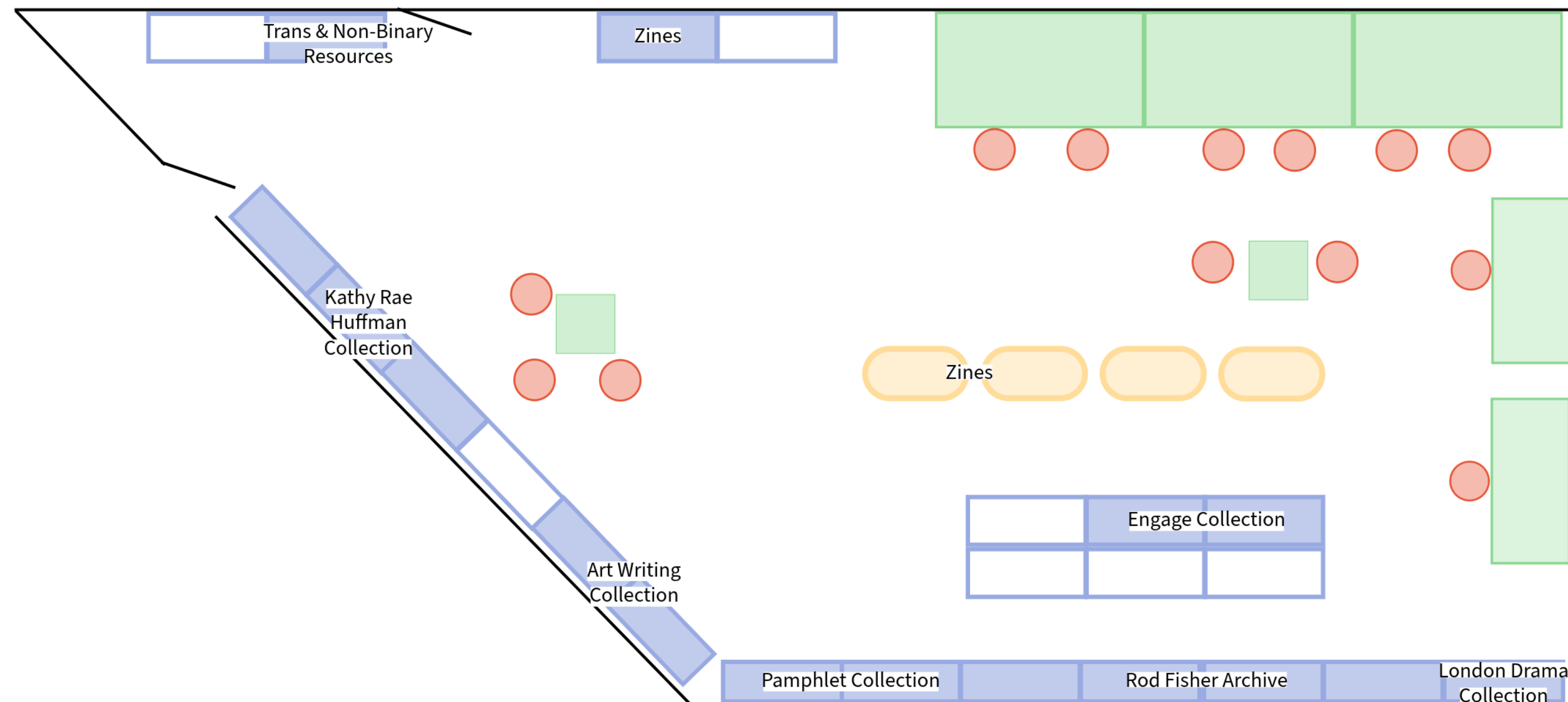


Background and context



Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End 2026

Original room layout



Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End 2026

Current issues

1. Shelving and furniture.
2. Underutilisation and lack of discoverability for collections.
3. Noise from new office next door.

Target users

1. Those looking for quieter but not silent study space.
2. Prospective postgraduate students.
3. Researchers and students looking for inspiration.

Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End 2026



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Research

1. Other university library research spaces.
2. User experience survey on room name.
3. Headcounts within room, March-May:

57%	40%	3%
sat in orange(left) zone	sat in yellow(top) zone	sat in pink (square) zone



Project overview



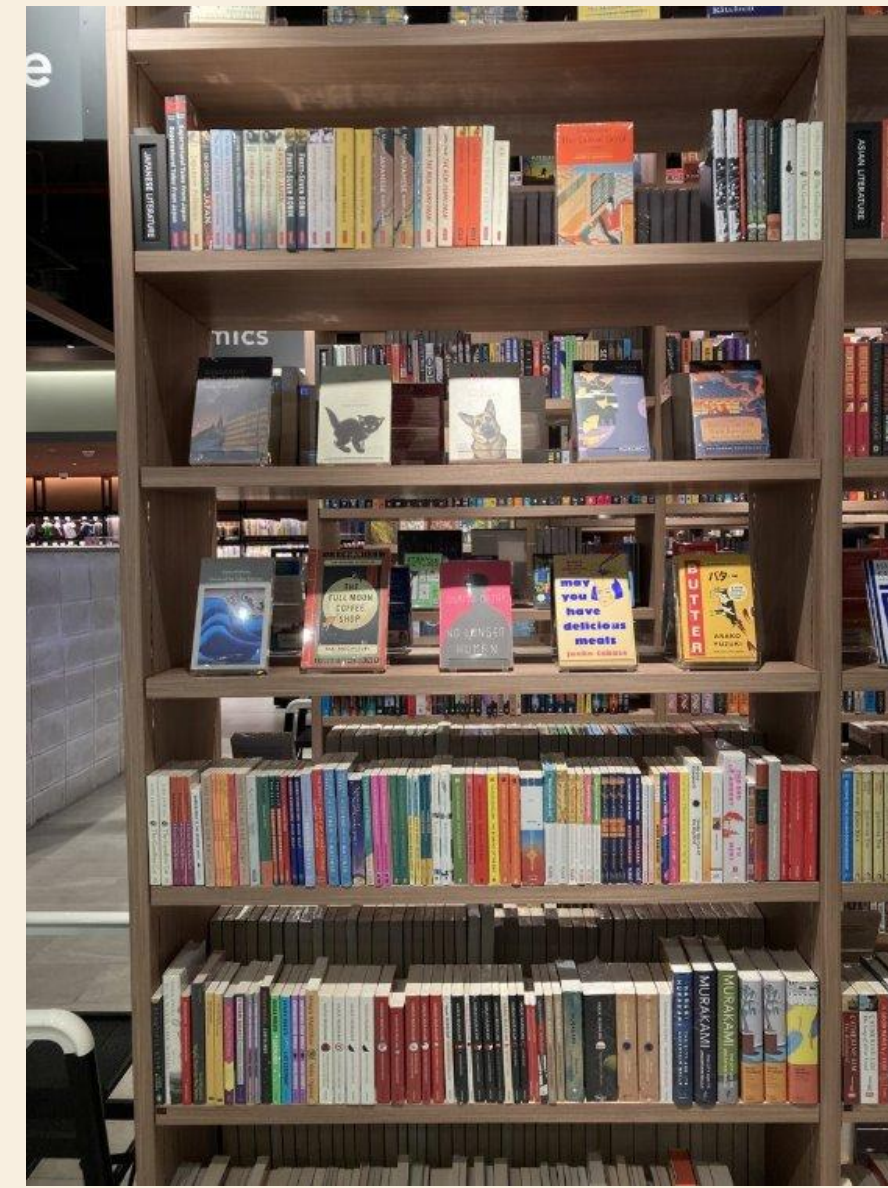
Redefining the room

1. Widening the focus to research in general.
2. Name change: Goldsmiths Research Room.
3. Opportunities to incorporate room in workshops/seminars.



Collections and display

1. Add research-related displays and collections: Goldsmiths Researchers, Goldsmiths Prize, Goldsmiths Press.
2. More front-facing displays using middle shelves of each bay.
3. Move journal display racks to just outside the room to create space, increase usage.
4. Acquire relevant print materials.



Furniture and technology

1. Add an OPAC with Goldsmiths' repository, [Goldsmiths Research Online](#), as homepage and a screensaver showcasing recent Open Access research.
2. Add a large table in the centre of the room with power socket.
3. Move low chairs to oversize/quartos section elsewhere in library.



Signage and promotion

1. Foam board collection signs on empty top shelves.
2. Updated collection information signs.
3. Bookmarks/leaflets.
4. Update room door.
5. Promotion outside room/library.

Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End 2026



Where are we now?

1. Making space for an Art Writing exhibition by students.
2. Moving collections in and around the room.
3. Designing promotional materials.

Next steps

1. Add new collections.
2. Add new furniture and OPAC.
3. Install signage.

Benefits so far

1. More granular data on library user experience.
2. Opportunities for colleagues to review related areas, e.g., print journals.
3. Physical space to support initiatives, e.g., Art Writing exhibition.
4. Greater user interest in moved new journals.



Inspired Ideas from the Sharp End 2026

“Continue the periodical section with more regular journals; The Paris Review, The Kenyon Review, the LRB, the NYRB, Poetry, Magma, Granta, and interdisciplinary ones like Bomb Magazine...Also writing and art pamphlets from small presses would be really great. I love this room!”

Lessons learned so far

- 1. Existing collection agreements with external donors.
- 2. Logistics of events incorporating the space.
- 3. Flexibility with timelines.
- 4. Displays vs. collections.
- 5. Stakeholders, stakeholders, stakeholders!



Stage 3. Installing displays and new collections						
Task	Notes	Hours	Stakeholders	Cost	Approx Due Date	Status
Plan new research room collections		15	Acquisitions; Cataloguing			
Relabelling Goldsmiths Press	Add GP to spine label					
Adding new location			Systems; Acquisitions		30-May-26	
Changing catalogue records	classmarks and location for GPress; checking out display items					
Acquiring Goldsmiths authors print only materials	Send spreadsheet with priorities		Acquisitions		1-May-26	Completed
Cataloguing and processing new acquisitions						
Plan research room displays		10	N/A			
				£3.47 excl VAT (smaller) Gresswell		
Book holders estimates - 106	who is our supplier?			£4.32 excl VAT (larger) Gresswell		In Progress
New display account			Systems; LibEx			
Acquire materials (book holders etc)		2				
Finalise displays		8				
Install new research room collections		2	N/A			
Install research room displays		2	N/A			
		Total 29				

THANKS

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