

# BA GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION: PRE-SESSIONAL READING LIST

Updated Tuesday, August 17, 2021

We do not currently prescribe textbooks for BA Graphic Communication students to buy. The University Library and the Department's reading room have an excellent range of resources that we encourage you to use.

However, there are a few resources that will help you understand our approach to the subject. So, we encourage you to look at a few of the following resources before you arrive.

## Online resources:

- Donald Jackson "Alphabet: The Story of Writing"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IUBqlyvt8o>
- Ellen Lupton "Thinking with type"  
<http://www.thinkingwithtype.com/>
- BBC "What does the funny squiggle mean?"  
<https://www.bbc.com/ideas/playlists/glyphs-what-does-that-funny-squiggle-mean>
- Eye Magazine, founded by Prof. Rick Poynor  
<http://www.eyemagazine.com>
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## General design and typography books:

- Paul Luna, *Very Short Introduction to Typography* ISBN 978-0199211296
- Phil Baines and Andrew Haslam, *Type & typography* ISBN 9781856694377
- Alistair Dabbs, *The digital designer's bible*, ISBN 978-0060588328
- Cristóbal Henestrosa, Laura Meseguer, José Scaglione, *How to create typefaces: from sketch to screen* ISBN 978-8493865436
- John Heskett, *Design: a very short introduction*, ISBN 978-0192854469
- Ellen Lupton, *Thinking with type*, 2nd edition, ISBN 978-1568989693
- Jan Middendorp, *Shaping text*, ISBN 978-9063692230
- Michael Twyman, *The British Library Guide to Printing*, ISBN 978-0802081797

## A book you will use every week

- Michael Mitchell, Susan Wightman, *Typographic Style Handbook*, ISBN 978-0857057532

## A more serious book to jump start an interest in design research

- Alison Black, Paul Luna, Ole Lund, Sue Walker, *Information Design: Research and Practice*, ISBN 978-0415786324

Don't worry if you cannot easily find these books before you get to Reading – they are all available on campus so you will be able to consult them over the course of the year.