

and at the same time includes a second special subject, which is taught at Berlin's Humboldt University.

The basic training for a librarian includes lectures and classes on library administration, history of libraries, bibliography and documentation, bibliology, development of the sciences, the cursory reading of foreign texts on library problems (in Russian, English, French, Latin), and a practical course lasting several weeks each year. The study of the special subject takes considerably more time. The selection of this subject depends on the inclination of the student as well as on the needs of the research libraries; today specialist librarians are trained for the various natural sciences, also an essential advantage of this type of training. If the trainee passes the State examinations in library science and his special subject, he is attached, as a university graduate, to a research library for a compulsory two-year period as assistant librarian. These two years serve the purpose of enhancing and extending his knowledge of library science; when it is finished, he has to hand in a thesis. Mainly, however, this period is to prove to what degree the assistant librarian is able to apply his command of library science theory to his practical work as a librarian.

Thus the study of library science in the German Democratic Republic is characterized by the combination of library science with a special subject chosen by the student. The linking of the study of library science with another branch of knowledge has been a national tradition in Germany. Its new quality is the systematic fusion of the two courses of study from the first day of university attendance (instead of the former habit of completing one training after the other, e.g., a five-year course of history at the university followed by a course in library science and practical librarianship in a library).

Since 1959, there is also the possibility of passing the State examination in library science, as guest examinees, for university graduates who have been employed by a research library after finishing a full course in a special subject at a university or an equivalent college, without having qualified for library science. This guest examination is arranged by the Institute of Library Science of Humboldt University, which contributes to the systematic preparation of the applicants by organizing periodic conferences and consultations.

2. *The Professional Assistant Librarian (Bibliothekar)*

The professional assistant librarian is usually expected to work in all the different departments of a research library; this frequent

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change of assignments is typical of his activities. Making his own decisions and instructing the non-professional staff, he heads branch offices of the accession department or works in the cataloging department, the binding division, the search division, the lending department, or the reading-room; he advises readers, and in general, supports the specialist librarian and helps him with all the tasks that come his way. His three-year professional training is provided at the library schools in Berlin (*Deutsche Staatsbibliothek*) and Leipzig (*Deutsche Bücherei*). These institutions train professional staff for research libraries, and their teaching programs include library administration, bibliography, cataloging, history of libraries, bibliology, instruction in four foreign languages (Russian, English, French, Latin), typewriting, and physical education. As this part of the staff, too, cannot do without a well-grounded general education, it is desirable that the student librarians have passed the school-leaving examination of the twelve-grade comprehensive school (roughly equivalent to matriculation examination). The curriculum of the library schools also includes social science, history of literature, and development of the sciences. The three-year course is composed of a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part (two years) is supplemented by prolonged periods of practical work in general and special research libraries as well as by an introduction to the peculiarities of public libraries. The professional training is completed by a certificate examination consisting of a minor thesis, a written examination, and oral tests.

In this case, too, library staff can sit for a guest examination. This possibility was instituted in accordance with a regulation on guest examinations at professional schools issued on December 15, 1960.¹

3. The Trained Sub-Professional Library Assistant (Bibliotheksfacharbeiter)

The vocational group of trained sub-professional library assistants in research libraries is a new one; it was created in 1951. The scope of work of these staff members includes sorting and arranging, all types of minor administrative work, and technical checks. Primarily, the trained library assistant is employed—and in this case often in a responsible position—in stack-rooms, delivery stations, reading-rooms, and periodical rooms; he helps in search procedures and does duplicating and easy cataloging. He supports and helps the assistant librarian in a variety of tasks, preferably with the large amount of

indexing to be done, which demands maximum attention and utmost accuracy.

After the trainee has successfully completed the eight- or ten-grade general school, he can start his vocational training which covers two years. It is based on articles of apprenticeship which can be entered into with any general research library and includes both the practical training and the theoretical instruction given by the library and by a vocational school. The schooling imparts to the apprentice general and special knowledge in library economy, the ability to type, and a second foreign language besides Russian. At the end of the period of apprenticeship, the trainees have to pass written and oral examinations.

For capable employees who have done excellent practical work, there is a possibility of rising from one staff group to the next one, i.e., from library assistant to assistant librarian, from assistant librarian to specialist librarian. Either grants or salaries are paid during all the various stages of training. University students and the trainees of the schools of library science are given grants in accordance with the legal provisions that apply to these educational institutions; the apprentices receive wages according to scale.

(The editors sought without success to obtain an article from West Germany.)

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1. *Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik*, 1960. Part II, No. 47, pp. 503-505.

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