

The role of the subject specialist in British and American university libraries: A comparative study.



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The Role of the Subject Specialist in British and American University Libraries: A Comparative Study

RUSSELL DUINO

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The Role of the Subject Specialist in British and American University Libraries: A Comparative Study

by RUSSELL DUINO

Preface

This study is an attempt to compare the work of subject specialists in American university libraries with that of their counterparts in British universities, using comparative research methodology employing the following four steps:

1. Description
2. Interpretation
3. Juxtaposition
4. Simultaneous Comparison

The following functional checklist was developed for collecting data about subject specialists:

1. Liaison with Faculty
2. Book Selection
3. Reference
4. Cataloging

In Part 1, Description, data relating to both the U.S. and Britain on each of the above points are presented in the same order. These data are then analyzed in Part 2, Interpretation, in terms of:

- History of University Education
- History of Library Education
- Education of Subject Specialists

Part 3, Juxtaposition, is a side-by-side listing of salient facts pertaining to Britain and the U.S., taken from Parts 1 and 2, from which a hypothesis is made.

The author is Librarian, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio.

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