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Evans and Alire's "Management basics for information professionals" (Book Review)

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language within a trilogy of books. Crystal achieves his goal with a characteristic balance of accessibility and thoroughness. Not content merely to explain the development of punctuation in the English language, Crystal sows assistance for educators throughout the volume. The book is interesting not only by virtue of the information he imparts, but also due to the visual appeal of the graphics and chapter-ending “interludes” that he has included. I can foresee this book making a splash with the more bookish types of college and seminary students. As one who took secondary school English teacher training in the United Kingdom, I can offer a firsthand guarantee of Professor Crystal’s efficacy in teaching the vagaries of the English language via the written word.

Reviewer

Mark Tubbs, Pacific Life Bible College

Evans, G.E., & Alire, C.A. (2013). *Management basics for information professionals*. Chicago: Neal-Schuman. 577 pp. \$88.00. ISBN 9781555709099

The newest edition of Evan and Alire’s volume comprehensively covers management theory and strategies for LIS professionals. The twenty-one chapters discuss the managerial environment, management skills, human resources, finances, facilities, managerial ethics, and career planning. Each chapter begins with thought-provoking quotations, and each ends with “Key Points to Remember,” a reference list, and a distinctive “Launching Pad” of resources for further reading. When compared with a competitor volume (the 8th edition of *Library and Information Center Management*, by Barbara Moran, Robert Stueart, and Claudia Morner), *Management Basics for Information Professionals* exhibits noticeable advantages. It includes four chapters with supplemental topics – on legal issues (chapter 3), diversity issues (chapter 15), technology (chapter 18), and career planning (chapter 21). These extra materials are welcome additions in our diverse, technological, and litigious workplace-culture. On the other hand, Evans and Alire include far fewer figures and tables than Moran, Stueart, and Morner (34 as opposed to 102). Therefore, visually-inclined readers may prefer *Library and Information Center Management*. The Evans and Alire volume, however, does include multiple text-boxes covering “Authors’ Experience,” “Advisory Board Experience,” “Check This Out,” “For Further Thought” “From the Authors,” “Important to Note,” “Key Points to Remember,” “Something to Consider,” “Tip,” and “Try This” vignettes. These text-boxes often illustrate the book’s abstract principles with concrete and real-life examples. The library experience of both Evans and Alire is limited to academic libraries alone. But the “Advisory Board” snippets provide some balance with a number of public library and specialty

library examples. Finally, this new edition of *Management Basics* reflects the “new normal” of financial constraints, by including practical guidance in facing budgetary freezes and fiscal cut-backs. This revised volume should serve commendably (and expensively) as a standard in LIS education, but also as an orientation resource for newly appointed library managers.

Reviewer

Paul Hartog, Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary

Sweet, L. (2014). *Me and we: God's new social gospel*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. 173 pp. \$17.99. ISBN 9781426757761

In this oddly titled book, Sweet attempts to redefine the old social gospel into something he calls “God’s new social gospel,” which is the subtitle of the book. The old social gospel was an early-twentieth-century movement that concentrated on transforming social structures – rather than changing hearts which would change the world, it attempted to change the world which it thought would then change the world. Sweet says, “The first social gospel movement was more about institutionalizing social Christianity than about incarnating a Jesus faith. Its naïve view of sin and optimistic outlook on the betterment of human nature failed to look up close and see that evil is real and personal. Evil is not just impersonal systemic forces but hurting people hurting people” (p. 3). The problem is, according to Sweet, the latest incarnation of the social gospel in the last 25 years is a “social justice” movement being pushed by Evangelicals. “It’s as if evangelicals showed up a hundred years late to the social gospel party, and they are making many of the same mistakes that the first social gospelers made” (p. 4). The problem with advocating for Jesus’ justice in the world “rather than Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection as the framing story, what you end up with is everything ‘social’ and nothing ‘gospel’” (p. 5). This book is designed to be a corrective to that approach.

The Me/We combo is necessary because an emphasis on the self is empty. Discipleship is a “We Garden ... a story lived together” (p. 11). For Jesus, salvation was not “transformation of social structures but healing of mind, body, and spirit; reclamation of relationships and restoration to community. Social systems, institutions, and structures are human-built mechanisms” (p. 12), like institutional churches, which can leave people without a savior. “The Christian life is not a code of moralisms, doctrinal creeds, or a semantic/semiotic system. It’s a daily indwelling of a Jesus spirit and outcropping of a Jesus life story. You can’t save a system. You can only save a people ... Holding hands is true community, not holding meetings” (p. 18).