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Hartsell-Gundy, Braunstein, and Golomb's "Digital Humanities in the Library: Challenges and Opportunities for Subject Specialists" (Book Review)

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Difficult Decisions: Closing & Merging Academic Libraries,

edited by S. Holder and A. B. Lannon, Chicago: ACRL, 2015.

253 pp. \$58.00. ISBN 9780838987919

*Reviewed by Ruth A. McGuire, Director of Library Services,
University of Northwestern – St. Paul, St. Paul, MN*

Holder and Lannon have compiled a group of case studies that are well-written, informative, and recount the authors' personal experiences working through academic library consolidations. The editors and chapter authors are mainly librarians (often in subject liaison or administrative roles), and all contributors, regardless of academic background, work in academic libraries. While the focus is on libraries at research universities, the case studies reveal a variety of methods, processes, and techniques for handling organizational change that are applicable to smaller settings. Because of the variety in emphases, readers will interact with useful narrative about impetus for change, about processes ranging from planning to implementation, and about the re-distribution of resources. Chapters disclose new approaches to the utilization of a library's various resources: personnel, collections, space/facility, and services. The reader will also discern helpful observations about leadership and their approach to the management of change, for better or worse.

Difficult Decisions is a useful collection of case studies that I recommend to those, particularly in library administration, wanting to stay abreast of changes in the academic library environment and current responses. This book will help you to consider ways of thinking, doing, and leading in a context of institutionally-supportive, transformative change.

**Digital Humanities in the Library: Challenges and
Opportunities for Subject Specialists,**

edited by Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Laura Braunstein, and Liorah Golomb. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 2015. 287 pp. \$68.00. ISBN 9780838987674

*Reviewed by Joshua M. Avery, Director of Library Services,
God's Bible School and College, Cincinnati, OH*

Digital Humanities is a burgeoning field in which digital tools are applied to the traditional objects and methods of the humanities. As with any emerging discipline, the potential benefits for collaboration, teaching, research and scholarship are not always clearly understood. In this context, *Digital Humanities in the Library* is a much needed addition to the literature. This work provides a useful introduction to the

field, advice for subject specialists on how to get started with digital humanities in their institutional context, and real-world examples and case studies of successful digital humanities initiatives.

The book is divided into four parts and fourteen chapters with more than 27 contributors, offering advice, both theoretical and practical, from a variety of institutional contexts. While the volume is primarily geared toward subject specialists/bibliographers and special collections professionals any librarian, or humanities scholar, interested in learning more about the particulars of digital humanities will find much to enjoy in this book. Additionally, readers will also be pleased to know that the book is available as an Open Access publication.

This book is recommended for graduate students, faculty, and professionals.

Early Syriac Theology, with special reference to the Maronite tradition,
by Chorbishop Seely Joseph Beggiani. Revised edition. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2014. 192 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 9780813227016

*Reviewed by Jonathan Loopstra, Associate Professor of History,
Capital University, Columbus, OH*

This is the second edition of Chorbishop Seely Joseph Beggiani's *Early Syriac Theology*. The first edition was published in 1983. As Beggiani explains in the Preface (pp. ix-x), his purpose is two-fold: to present a "complete but concise synthesis" of the theological insights of Ephrem and Jacob of Serugh and to show the reader "how Maronite theology can be delineated" using excerpts from the Maronite liturgy. The Maronites are a later branch of the Eastern Syriac Church with a significant historical presence in Lebanon. They have been in communion with Rome since the eleventh century.

In regard to both of the above aims, Beggiani's work remains a unique resource; no other comparable survey of early Syriac theology is so highly accessible to both beginners and scholars. This new edition provides additional evidence from the Divine Office to support his premise that themes from the Maronite liturgy find their theological context in the works of early Syriac writers.

The book is divided into twelve main themes, which Beggiani suggests represent "a complete but concise synthesis of the theology of St. Ephrem" (p. ix). These themes are God's hiddenness, creation, revelation, the Incarnation, redemption, divinization, the Church, Mary, baptism, Eucharist, eschatology, and faith. Yet, as Beggiani himself readily recognizes, any attempt to systematize early Syriac theology using Western