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

Joshua M. Avery
God's Bible School and College

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Difficult Decisions: Closing & Merging Academic Libraries, 
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_,

_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