Returning to the tendency of white people to co-opt intersectionality, there were definitely some points made by authors that are not limited to WoC. For instance, the chapter on tenure and promotion asked survey respondents about whether they were pressured to take on extra work, to reduce service activities, or otherwise change something because of their gender and racial identity. For the most part, the participants did not feel that their institution put extra pressure on them but that they put it on themselves. They experienced more ignorant micro-aggressions than outright hostility. Rest assured, many white women do find that they need to temper passions and that they take on too much service, to the detriment of their career. This is definitely a point of commonality. Finally, in a female-intensive profession, surely Men of Color also feel decentralized as well; it would be nice to hold a companion volume to fill that gap. Perhaps some MoC can respond.

Beyond recommending this book for any kind of library, it would make a great resource for a book group composed of academics or librarians or for a class on management in an LIS program. While it could be incorporated into a diversity class, relegating it as such might marginalize the ideas—ideas that need to be on the minds of everyone who works in a library. As the authors say, unintentional microaggressions happen all the time and are often never spoken of. We don’t have the words in our workplaces to deal with our feelings regarding race, but perhaps reading the words of these authors will give us a way to talk about what makes us uncomfortable. Finally, perhaps we can recognize ways to support them so that the next generation of librarians will be more representative of the many colors of the nation.—Jenny Bossaller, University of Missouri–Columbia


In this new release from Libraries Unlimited, the authors coin the phrase “engaging design.” Engaging design incorporates pieces of aesthetics, design thinking, and service design. The authors’ aim is to “parse [design] theories and make them understandable, easy to incorporate, and worthwhile to the reader.” The book is designed to be readable and usable by anyone working in academic, public, K–12, and/or special libraries.

As academic librarians, Emy Nelson Decker, NextGen Public Services Manager for the Georgia Tech Library, and Seth M. Porter, Head of the Stokes Library at Princeton University, have often focused on aesthetics and design as research interests, as well as communicating design principles to other librarians. Decker holds an MA in art history and is interested in visual thinking. Porter has served as an instruction librarian at Georgia Tech and the University of Alabama and is especially interested in innovation in higher education. The two authors “embrace this journey of helping to define what good design is in a library context and how its power can be harnessed toward the continued viability of all different types of libraries.”

Engaging Design begins with a thorough introduction to explain the premise of the book. Chapter 2 lays the foundation for the book, defining and discussing the three pieces of engaging design: aesthetic design, design thinking, and service design. The authors highly recommend reading this chapter as a foundation before reading any of the book’s other chapters. From
there, the book moves on to specific pieces of librarianship, demonstrating how engaging
design can be applied to each area. These include accessibility, physical spaces, instruction,
and online learning. Each chapter contains at least one Action Plan list with a short summary
of things to consider from the previous section of the chapter. Chapter 3, on accessibility,
discusses how to incorporate engaging design into both physical and virtual spaces in a way
that makes them usable by everyone. The chapter covers concepts such as universal design,
inclusive behaviors, and design by adaptation. There is an especially detailed section on on-
line course design. In chapter 4, the authors focus specifically on engaging design in physical
spaces. They give an overview of library design history and architectural principles, including
a deep dive into exterior spaces, and finish with a discussion of design for interior spaces.
The Action Plan checklists feel especially useful in this chapter, as they contain actual next
steps versus things to ponder.

The last two chapters apply engaging design to instruction and online learning. Chapter
5 applies engaging design to library instruction. The authors discuss creating an instruc-
tion cookbook, centered on learners, knowledge, assessment, and community. They cover
pedagogy, informed learning, and active learning techniques. Last, in chapter 6, information
about engaging design and online learning is presented. The chapter begins by defining some
foundational concepts and then discusses models of instructional design, design principles,
aesthetic learning, data visualization, and more. (This is the longest chapter in this short book.)

What is particularly interesting is that Engaging Design presents the entire concept through
the eyes of Jane, a fictional librarian who is currently the head of an academic library, although
she worked previously in a public library branch. Jane has the amazing opportunity to com-
pletely renovate her library and moves through this process during the course of the book.
The authors chose this method of case-study presentation to focus on Jane’s well-executed
and successful designs, versus using real-life examples where designs may not have always
gone as planned. Other than the Introduction, the entire book is written in the third person
from Jane’s point of view. Some readers may find this off-putting, as it adds unnecessary ver-
biage. There are also many extraneous details about Jane’s life—the reader is presented with
an entire treatise on how Jane makes coffee. I would have preferred a case-study story about
Jane interspersed with the content from each chapter written from the author’s perspective
instead of Jane’s.

Despite being a book about design, the book contains very little in the way of charts,
graphs, or other illustrations, except for one photo of a children’s librarian to accompany one
of the vignettes about Jane’s life. It does contain a thorough index. While the premise of engag-
ing design is thought-provoking, I recommend the book only for comprehensive collections
in this area. The treatment of each subject matter is not deep enough for someone intending
to reimagine that part of their library; it would require other, more extensive sources to fill in
the gaps.—Ruth Szpunar, DePauw University

G. Edward Evans and Holland Christie. Managerial Leadership for Librarians: Thriving in the
Managerial Leadership for Librarians: Thriving in the Public and Nonprofit World by G. Edward
Evans and Holland Christie is an excellent primer for library students and professionals who
are looking for a broad and comprehensive understanding of the role that leadership and man-