

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910160765803321
Autore	De Simini Florinda
Titolo	Of gods and books : ritual and knowledge transmission in the manuscript cultures of premodern India // Florinda de Simini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2016] ©2016
ISBN	3-11-047776-9 3-11-047881-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 477 pages)
Collana	Studies in manuscript cultures ; ; Volume 8
Disciplina	294.5/92
Soggetti	Hinduism Hinduism - Rituals - History and criticism Tantric literature - History and criticism Manuscripts, Sanskrit - History Manuscripts, Kannada - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 443-470) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Manuscripts, Ritual, and the State in Indian Sources -- 2. The Task of Writing and the Art of Giving -- 3. Manuscripts, Ritual, and the Medieval Literature on Dharma -- 4. The Throne of Knowledge: Aspects of the Cult of the Book in the aiva and Vaiava Tantric Traditions -- Appendix 1 -- Appendix 2 -- Table A: Structure of the Chapters on the Gift of Knowledge in the Sanskrit Law-Digests -- References -- Index of Authors / Joseph, Kristen de -- Index of Works / Joseph, Kristen de
Sommario/riassunto	India has been the homeland of diverse manuscript traditions that do not cease to impress scholars for their imposing size and complexity. Nevertheless, many topics concerning the study of Indian manuscript cultures still remain to receive systematic examination. Of Gods and Books pays attention to one of these topics - the use of manuscripts as ritualistic tools. Literary sources deal quite extensively with rituals principally focused on manuscripts, whose worship, donation and preservation are duly prescribed. Around these activities, a specific

category of ritual gift is created, which finds attestations in pre-tantric, as well as in smrta and tantric, literature, and whose practice is also variously reflected in epigraphical documents. De Simini offers a first systematic study of the textual evidence on the topic of the worship and donation of knowledge. She gives account of possible implications for the relationships between religion and power. The book is indispensable for a deeper understanding of the cultural aspects of manuscript transmission in medieval India, and beyond.

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