1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910300556803321
	Autore	Webb Stephen
	Titolo	Clash of Symbols : A ride through the riches of glyphs / / by Stephen Webb
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2018
	ISBN	3-319-71350-7
	Edizione	[1st ed. 2018.]
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (IX, 245 p. 45 illus.)
	Disciplina	530
	Soggetti	Physics Astronomy Mathematics Engineering Arts Computer science Physics and Astronomy Astronomy, Cosmology and Space Sciences Technology and Engineering Computer Science
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
	Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Character sketches -- Signs of the times -- Signs and wonders -- It's Greek to me -- Meaningless marks on paper -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index.
	Sommario/riassunto	From the ampersat and amerpsand, via smileys and runes to the ubiquitous presence of mathematical and other symbols in sciences and technology: both old and modern documents abound with many familiar as well as lesser known characters, symbols and other glyphs. Yet, who would be readily able to answer any question like: 'who chose to represent the ratio of a circle's diameter to its circumference?' or 'what's the reasoning behind having a key on my computer keyboard?' This book is precisely for those who have always asked themselves this sort of questions. So, here are the stories behind one hundred glyphs, the book being evenly divided into five parts, with

each featuring 20 symbols. Part 1, called Character sketches, looks at some of the glyphs we use in writing. Part 2, called Signs of the times, discusses some glyphs used in pol-itics, religion, and other areas of everyday life. Some of these symbols are common; others are used only rarely. Some are modern inventions; others, which seem contemporary, can be traced back many hundreds of years. Part 3, called Signs and wonders, explores some of the symbols people have developed for use in describing the heavens. These are some of the most visually striking glyphs in the book, and many of them date back to ancient times. Nevertheless their use — at least in professional arenas — is diminishing. Part 4, called It's Greek to me, examines some symbols used in various branches of science. A number of these symbols are employed routinely by professional scientists and are also familiar to the general public; others are no longer applied in a serious fashion by anyone — but the reader might still meet them, from time to time, in older works. The final part of the book, Meaningless marks on paper, looks at some of the characters used in mathematics, the history of which one can easily appreciate with only a basic knowledge of mathematics. There are obviously countless others symbols. In recent years the computing industry has devel-oped Unicode and it currently contains more than 135 000 entries. This book would like to encourage the curious reader to take a stroll through Unicode, to meet many characters that will delight the eye and, researching their history, to gain some fascinating insights.