1. Record Nr. UNINA9910458383303321 Autore Zboray Ronald J Titolo A fictive people [[electronic resource]]: antebellum economic development and the American reading public / / Ronald J. Zboray New York,: Oxford University Press, 1993 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-280-52623-8 9786610526239 0-19-534490-1 1-4294-0103-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (349 p.) Disciplina 028/.9/097309034 Soggetti Books and reading - United States - History - 19th century American literature - Appreciation - United States - History - 19th Book industries and trade - United States - History - 19th century Popular culture - United States - History - 19th century National characteristics, American Electronic books. United States Economic conditions To 1865 Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references (p. 269-304) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Contents; Tables, Maps, Illustrations; Introduction; 1. Reading and the Ironies of Technological Innovation; 2. The Publisher's Market; 3. The Book Peddler and Literary Dissemination; 4. The Transportation Revolution and Book Distribution; 5. The Railroad, the Community, and the Book; 6. Family, Church, and Academy; 7. The Common School and Other Institutions; 8. The Letter and the Reading Public; 9. Numeracy, the News, and Self-culture; 10. The Interior Organization of a Bookstore; 11. Gender and Boundlessness in Reading Patterns; 12. Time, Space, and Chaos Appendix 1: Regionalism, Literacy, and Economic DevelopmentAppendix 2: Categories in the Analytical Catalogue (1850) of the New York Society Library; Notes; Works Cited; Index; A; B; C; D;

E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y

## Sommario/riassunto

This text aims to explode two notions that are commonplace in American cultural histories of the 19th century: that the spread of literature was a simple force for the democratization of taste, and that there was a body of 19th-century literature that reflected ""a nation of readers"".