

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463259903321
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Titolo	The life of Benjamin Franklin [[electronic resource]] . Volume 1 : journalist 1706-1730 // J.A. Leo Lemay
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pa., : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2006-
ISBN	0-8122-0911-7
Descrizione fisica	xiv, 549 p. : ill., port., facsimis., maps, music
Collana	The Life of Benjamin Franklin ; ; Volume 1
Disciplina	973.3/092
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Soggetti	Statesmen - United States Scientists - United States Inventors - United States Printers - United States Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Part I. Boston: Youth 1706-1723 -- Prologue. Quandary -- One. Boston -- Two. Child to Adolescent -- Three. Printer's Devil -- Four. Massachusetts Controversies, 1716-1723 -- Five. Nathaniel Gardner and the Couranteers -- Six. James Franklin: America's First Newspaperman -- Seven. Silence Dogood in Context -- Eight. "Saucy and Provoking": Franklin Takes Charge -- Nine. Assessing Franklin as a Youth, to Age Seventeen -- Part II. Adrift: Age Seventeen to Twenty-four 1723-1730 -- Ten. The Runaway -- Eleven. The Water American: London Escapades -- Twelve. At Sea, 1726 -- Thirteen. Merchant to Master Printer, 1726-1728 -- Fourteen. The Junto -- Fifteen. Business, 1728-1730, and "Articles of Religion" -- Sixteen. The Busy-Body -- Seventeen. Paper Currency -- Eighteen. Journalist -- Nineteen. Assessing Franklin, Age Seventeen to Twenty-four -- Appendix: New Attributions -- Sources and Documentation -- Abbreviations -- Notes -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	Named "one of the best books of 2006" by The New York SunDescribed by Carl Van Doren as "a harmonious human multitude," Benjamin

Franklin was the most famous American of his time, of perhaps any time. His life and careers were so varied and successful that he remains, even today, the epitome of the self-made man. Born into a humble tradesman's family, this adaptable genius rose to become an architect of the world's first democracy, a leading light in Enlightenment science, and a major creator of what has come to be known as the American character. Journalist, musician, politician, scientist, humorist, inventor, civic leader, printer, writer, publisher, businessman, founding father, and philosopher, Franklin is a touchstone for America's egalitarianism. The first volume traces young Franklin's life to his marriage in 1730. It traces the New England religious, political, and cultural contexts, exploring previously unknown influences on his philosophy and writing, and attributing new writings to him. After his move to Philadelphia, made famous in his Autobiography, Franklin became the Water American in London in 1725, where he was welcomed into that city's circle of freethinkers. Upon his return to the colonies, the sociable Franklin created a group of young friends, the Junto, devoted to self-improvement and philanthropy. He also started his own press and began to edit and publish the Pennsylvania Gazette, which became the most popular American paper of its day and the first to consistently feature American news.
