1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910467169903321
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	Titolo	Authorizing words : speech, writing, and print in the English Renaissance / / Martin Elsky
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca ; ; London : , : Cornell University Press, , [1989] ©1989
	ISBN	1-5017-4574-3
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 232 pages)
	Disciplina	306.44221
	Soggetti	English language - Early modern, 1500-1700 - History Electronic books.
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Scholastic Logic and Grammar: The Inescapability of Speech -- 2. The Humanists: The Primacy of Speech -- 3. Elyot, As cham, Jonson, and the Frailty of Speech -- 4. Space and Textuality: Writing and Speech in the Idea of the Text -- 5. The Space of the Hieroglyph: George Herbert and Francis Bacon -- 6. Print and Manuscript: Bacon's Early Career and the Occasions of Writing -- 7. The Authority of Democritus junior -- Index
	Sommario/riassunto	Martin Elsky here illuminates the complex interplay of linguistic theory and textual representation in English Renaissance writing. Drawing on a wide range of materials, both literary and nonliterary, Elsky focuses on the impact of speech-oriented and writing-dominated theories of language on textual practice. Among the texts Elsky discusses are Herbert's The Temple, Bacon's Magna Instauratio, Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy, Jonson 's lyrics, and works by Lily, Colet, Ascham, and Elyot.In showing how speech, writing, and print suggest contrasting foundations for the authority of language, Elsky considers such topics as the competing concepts of textuality in humanist literature and in hieroglyphic poetry; the authenticity of writing and the distortions of speech in scientific prose works; the social context of printing scientific prose; and the use of print to create the infinitely expandable text of

philosophical skepticism.A provocative application of contemporary literary theory to the historical analysis of texts, Authorizing Words will interest readers in such disciplines as Renaissance studies, theory of language, historical linguistics, history of science, and the history of communication.