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Titolo	Fatal News : Reading and Information Overload in Early Eighteenth-Century Literature // Katherine E. Ellison
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Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 158 pages)
Collana	Literary criticism and cultural theory
Disciplina	823.5
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Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
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Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Information ad infinitum : Bunyan's lessons in careful reading in The pilgrim's progress -- Information as ambush : miscommunication and the post in Behn's The history of a nun -- Suffocation by information : collectivity and the secretary in Swift's A tale of a tub -- Infectious information : signs of collective intelligence in Defoe's A journal of the plague year.
Sommario/riassunto	What was "information" in the early eighteenth century, and what influence did the emergence of information, as potential physical and psychological threat, have on readers of the period? Recent scholarship in eighteenth-century print culture and in twenty-first-century media studies and theory offers a unique opportunity to reconsider how and why information is figuratively imagined during the eighteenth century as an abstract yet bodily entity that can flood, suffocate, and incapacitate readers. Focusing on 1678 to 1722 -- a period that experienced impressive innovations in communication -- this study reveals that the term "information" undergoes a significant transformation with social, cultural, and literary consequences. By investigating discussions of information and media that are evident in works by literary authors, the author finds that writers like John Bunyan, Aphra Behn, Jonathan Swift, and Daniel Defoe confront the idea of information overload and provide case studies in literacy reform that operate on institutional, generic, and consumer levels. For example,

while in Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year* information is infectious and citizens depend upon comets and phantoms to construct reader-controlled, decentralized media, in Swift's *Tale of a Tub* commonplace books and collections demonstrate a new type of organizational, or secretarial, impulse in society.
