

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788202503321
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Titolo	Out of sorts [[electronic resource]] : on typography and print culture / / Joseph A. Dane
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2011
ISBN	1-283-89017-8 0-8122-0363-1
Descrizione fisica	xii, 242 p. : ill
Collana	Material texts
Disciplina	002/.09
Soggetti	Bibliography - Methodology Bibliography - Methodology - History Type and type-founding - History Type and type-founding - Historiography Printing - History Printing - Historiography Incunabula - Bibliography - Methodology Early printed books - Methodology Bibliography, Critical Transmission of texts
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 index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- Illustrations -- Introduction -- PART I Out of Sorts -- Chapter one. On the Continuity of Continuity: Print Culture Mythology and the Type of the Gutenberg Bible (B42) -- Chapter two. Gottfried Zedler and the Twentieth- Century History of DK Type -- Chapter three. The Voodoo Economics of Space: From Gothic to Roman -- Chapter four. The Typographical Gothic: A Cautionary Note on the Title Page to Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry -- Interlude: At the Typographical Altar: Interlude for Randall McLeod -- PART II Images and Texts -- Chapter five. Fists and Filiations in Early Chaucer Folios, 1532-1602 -- Chapter six. Editorial and Typographical Diplomacy in the Piers Plowman Archive -- Chapter seven. The Representation of Representation: Versions of Linear

Sommario/riassunto

The new history of the book has constituted a vibrant academic field in recent years, and theories of print culture have moved to the center of much scholarly discourse. One might think typography would be a basic element in the construction of these theories, yet if only we would pay careful attention to detail, Joseph A. Dane argues, we would find something else entirely: that a careful consideration of typography serves not as a material support to prevailing theories of print but, rather, as a recalcitrant counter-voice to them. In *Out of Sorts* Dane continues his examination of the ways in which the grand narratives of book history mask what we might actually learn by looking at books themselves. He considers the differences between internal and external evidence for the nature of the type used by Gutenberg and the curious disconnection between the two, and he explores how descriptions of typesetting devices from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have been projected back onto the fifteenth to make the earlier period not more accessible but less. In subsequent chapters, he considers topics that include the modern mythologies of so-called gothic typefaces, the presence of nontypographical elements in typographical form, and the assumptions that underlie the electronic editions of a medieval poem or the visual representation of typographical history in nineteenth-century studies of the subject. Is Dane one of the most original or most traditional of historians of print? In *Out of Sorts* he demonstrates that it may well be possible to be both things at once.
