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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Tables -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- 1 Reading and Writerly Culture -- 2 A City is Reading: Popular and Scholarly Reading Sessions -- 3 Learning to Read: Popularisation and the Written Word in Children's Schools -- 4 Local Endowed Libraries and their Readers -- 5 Popular Reading Practices -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Winner of the 2012 BRISMES book prize How the written text became accessible to wider audiences in medieval Egypt and Syria Medieval Islamic societies belonged to the most bookish cultures of their period. Using a wide variety of documentary, narrative and normative sources, Konrad Hirschler explores the growth of reading audiences in a pre-print culture. The uses of the written word grew significantly in Egypt and Syria between the 11th and the 15th centuries, and more groups within society started to participate in individual and communal reading acts. New audiences in reading sessions, school curricula, increasing numbers of endowed libraries and the appearance of popular written literature all bear witness to the profound transformation of cultural practices and their social contexts. Key Features A detailed and wide-ranging analysis of reading in the period Explores the key themes of literacy, orality and auralty Examines the accessibility and profile of libraries Looks at popular reading practices, often associated with the notion of the illicit

