

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910792052303321
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Titolo	Writing and society : an introduction / / Florian Coulmas [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-61037-6 1-107-23518-9 1-139-61595-5 1-107-25434-5 1-139-62525-X 1-139-61223-9 1-139-06106-2 1-299-27643-1 1-139-62153-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 180 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Key topics in sociolinguistics
Classificazione	LAN009000
Disciplina	302.2/244
Soggetti	Writing - Social aspects Written communication - Social aspects Literacy - Social aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1. The tyranny of writing; 2. The past in the present and the seeds of the public sphere; 3. Written and unwritten language; 4. Literacy and inequality; 5. The society of letters; 6. Writing reform; 7. Writing and literacy in the digitalized world.
Sommario/riassunto	How does writing relate to speech? What impact does it have on social organisation and development? How do unwritten languages differ from those that have a written form and tradition? This book is a general account of the place of writing in society. Drawing on contemporary and historical examples, from clay tablets to touchscreen displays, the book explores the functions of writing and written language, analysing its consequences for language, society, economy and politics. It examines the social causes of illiteracy, demonstrating that institutions

of central importance to modern society are built upon writing and written texts, and are characterised by specific forms of communication. It explores the social dimensions of spelling and writing reform, as well as of digital literacy, a new mode of expression and communication posing novel challenges to the student of language in society.
