

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910792431403321
Autore	Chrisomalis Stephen <1974->
Titolo	Numerical notation : a comparative history // Stephen Chrisomalis [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2010
ISBN	1-107-21088-7 1-316-09961-X 1-282-53592-7 9786612535925 0-511-67809-6 0-511-67683-2 0-511-68132-1 0-511-68330-8 0-511-67606-9 0-511-67934-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 486 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	510
Soggetti	Mathematical notation - History
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	Introduction -- Hieroglyphic systems -- Levantine systems -- Italic systems -- Alphabetic systems -- South Asian systems -- Mesopotamian systems -- East Asian systems -- Mesoamerican systems -- Miscellaneous systems -- Cognitive and structural analysis -- Social and historical analysis -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book is a cross-cultural reference volume of all attested numerical notation systems (graphic, non-phonetic systems for representing numbers), encompassing more than 100 such systems used over the past 5,500 years. Using a typology that defies progressive, unilinear evolutionary models of change, Stephen Chrisomalis identifies five basic types of numerical notation systems, using a cultural phylogenetic framework to show relationships between systems and to create a general theory of change in numerical systems. Numerical

notation systems are primarily representational systems, not computational technologies. Cognitive factors that help explain how numerical systems change relate to general principles, such as conciseness or avoidance of ambiguity, which apply also to writing systems. The transformation and replacement of numerical notation systems relates to specific social, economic, and technological changes, such as the development of the printing press or the expansion of the global world-system.

---