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Nota di contenuto	Part 1. Approaches to Middle English local documents -- Local documents as source material for the study of late medieval English -- Grouping and regrouping Middle English documents -- The categorization of Middle English documents: Interactions of function, form and language -- The geography of Middle English documentary texts -- Part 2. Text communities and geographical variation -- Regional variation and supralocalization in late medieval English: Comparing administrative and literary texts -- Cambridge: A university town -- Knutsford and Nantwich: Scribal variation in late medieval Cheshire -- Land documents as a source of word geography -- Part 3. Social and pragmatic variation -- The pragmatics of punctuation in Middle English documentary texts -- Ventriloquism or individual voice: Formulaic language in heresy abjurations -- Multilingual practices in Middle English documents.
Sommario/riassunto	"English local documents - leases, wills, accounts, letters and the like - provide a unique resource for historical sociolinguistics. Abundant from the early fifteenth century, they represent the language and concerns of people from a wide range of social, institutional and geographical backgrounds. However, as relatively few documents have been available digitally or in print, they have been an underresearched resource. This

volume shows the tremendous potential of late- and post-medieval English local documents: highly variable in language, often colourful, including developing formulae as well as glimpses of actual recorded speech. The volume contains eleven chapters relating to a new resource, A Corpus of Middle English Local Documents (MELD). The first four chapters outline a theoretical and methodological approach to the study of local documents. The remaining seven present studies of different aspects of the material, including supralocalization, local patterns of spelling and morphology, land terminology, punctuation, formulaicness and multilingualism"--
