

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910797649203321
Autore	Eggert Katherine
Titolo	Disknowledge : literature, alchemy, and the end of humanism in Renaissance England // Katherine Eggert
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : published in cooperation with Folger Shakespeare Library, University of Pennsylvania Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-8122-9188-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (364 p.)
Disciplina	001.0942/09031
Soggetti	Ignorance (Theory of knowledge) Knowledge, Theory of - England - History - 16th century Knowledge, Theory of - England - History - 17th century Alchemy - England - 16th century Alchemy - England - 17th century Alchemy in literature Religion and science - England - History - 16th century Religion and science - England - History - 17th century Science, Renaissance
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Notes on Texts, Biblical Quotations, and Bibliography -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. How to Sustain Humanism -- Chapter 2. How to Forget Transubstantiation -- Chapter 3. How to Skim Kabbalah -- Chapter 4. How to Avoid Gynecology -- Chapter 5. How to Make Fiction -- Afterword -- Notes -- Select Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	"Disknowledge": knowing something isn't true, but believing it anyway. In Disknowledge: Literature, Alchemy, and the End of Humanism in Renaissance England, Katherine Eggert explores the crumbling state of learning in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Even as the shortcomings of Renaissance humanism became plain to see, many intellectuals of the age had little choice but to treat their familiar knowledge systems as though they still held. Humanism thus came to

share the status of alchemy: a way of thinking simultaneously productive and suspect, reasonable and wrongheaded. Eggert argues that English writers used alchemy to signal how to avoid or camouflage pressing but discomfiting topics in an age of rapid intellectual change. *Disknowledge* describes how John Donne, George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, John Dee, Christopher Marlowe, William Harvey, Helkiah Crooke, Edmund Spenser, and William Shakespeare used alchemical imagery, rhetoric, and habits of thought to shunt aside three difficult questions: how theories of matter shared their physics with Roman Catholic transubstantiation; how Christian Hermeticism depended on Jewish Kabbalah; and how new anatomical learning acknowledged women's role in human reproduction. *Disknowledge* further shows how Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, and Margaret Cavendish used the language of alchemy to castigate humanism for its blind spots and to invent a new, post-humanist mode of knowledge: writing fiction. Covering a wide range of authors and topics, *Disknowledge* is the first book to analyze how English Renaissance literature employed alchemy to probe the nature and limits of learning. The concept of disknowledge—willfully adhering to something we know is wrong—resonates across literary and cultural studies as an urgent issue of our own era.
