

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910819049503321
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Titolo	The written word in the medieval Arabic lands : a social and cultural history of reading practices // Konrad Hirschler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Edinburgh, : Edinburgh University Press, c2012
ISBN	0-7486-5421-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (257 p.)
Classificazione	NM 3500
Disciplina	028.909174927
Soggetti	Written communication - Arab countries - History - To 1500 Books and reading - Arab countries - History - To 1500
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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

