

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910819547603321
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Titolo	A short history of French literature // Sarah Kay, Terence Cave, Malcolm Bowie
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 2006
ISBN	1-383-00673-3 1-280-75655-1 0-19-151845-X 0-19-151622-8 1-4294-7109-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (357 p.)
Collana	Oxford scholarship online
Altri autori (Persone)	CaveTerence BowieMalcolm <1943-2007.>
Disciplina	840.9
Soggetti	French literature - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally published in 2003.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [317]-324) and index.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS; INTRODUCTION: THE LONG VIEW; PART I. THE MIDDLE AGES: FROM THE EARLIEST TEXTS TO 1470; OVERVIEW OF THE PERIOD; THE PERIOD IN CLOSE-UP; PART II. THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD: 1470-1789; OVERVIEW OF THE PERIOD; THE PERIOD IN CLOSE-UP; PART III. THE MODERN PERIOD: 1789-2000; OVERVIEW OF THE PERIOD; THE PERIOD IN CLOSE-UP; POSTFACE; SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING; SOURCES OF QUOTATIONS; INDEX; B; C; D; F; H; L; M; P; R; S; T; Z
Sommario/riassunto	This text traces the history of French literature from its beginnings to the modern day - from the oral works of the Middle Ages via the print culture in the Renaissance, through to the attempted codification of genres and styles in the 19th century and the resourceful experimentation of the 20th.