| . Record Nr. | UNISA996524968503316 |
|-------------------------|---|
| Titolo | Personal Manuscripts: Copying, Drafting, Taking Notes / / ed. by David Durand-Guédy, Jürgen Paul |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Berlin;; Boston:,: De Gruyter,, [2023] ©2023 |
| ISBN | 3-11-103719-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (VI, 547 p.) |
| Collana | Studies in Manuscript Cultures , , 2365-9696 ; ; 30 |
| Disciplina | 091 |
| Soggetti | LITERARY CRITICISM / General |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di contenuto | Frontmatter Contents Introduction Data Overload and Information Management in the Mamluk Period (1250–1517) Between Reading and Writing: Manuscript Collections of Excerpts in Eighteenth-Century Germany Raison d'être and Use of Stand-alone formulae in Early Medieval European Legal Manuscripts The Livre de Raison of Jean Teisseire The bay of Hindšh Naawn: A Collection of Excerpts from Mongol Iran a-afad's takira and its Holograph in Princeton University Library The Diary of a Shint Priest in Medieval Japan The Autograph Manuscripts of Mull adr (d. 1045 AH / 1635 CE): Classification and Preliminary Study User-Production of Hebrew Manuscripts Revisited: the Case of Manuscript Oxford, Bodleian Library, Huntington 200 Mufti Notebooks: Two ung Manuscripts from Late Nineteenth-Century Bukhara Legal Consultants in the Time of the Severan Dynasty: Papyri and the Emperor's Law Autographic Manuscripts of the Arabic Speaking World created for the Scribe's Own Use A Collector's Edition of the Past: Personal Collections of Mesopotamian Royal Inscriptions from the Old Babylonian Period Jewish Exemplars and Hebraist Copies of Hebrew Manuscripts The Types of Text Compiling as Practiced by aflareyi-zde Esad Efendi (1789–1848) List of Contributors Indexes |

Some manuscripts have been produced for the personal use of their scribe only; whereas a number of them are valued as autographs, most

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Sommario/riassunto

have been ephemeral and were discarded. Personal manuscripts were not written for a patron, commissioner, or client. They are personal copies, anthologies, florilegia, personal notes, excerpts, drafts and notebooks, as well as family books, accountancy notebooks and many others; these forms often being mixed with one another. This volume introduces a number of such manuscripts in a comparative perspective, from Japan to Europe through the Middle East, with a focus on the Near and Middle East. The main concern is the possibility of identifying typical features of such manuscripts in terms of materials, visual organization and content. In attempting this, both the conditions of production and traces of the manuscripts' use are taken into consideration, with particular attention to their material aspects.