



Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks)

From Cornell University Press

 Download

 Read Online

 Get Print Book

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press

Standardization is one of the defining aspects of modern life, its presence so pervasive that it is usually taken for granted. However cumbersome, onerous, or simply puzzling certain standards may be, their fundamental purpose in streamlining procedures, regulating behaviors, and predicting results is rarely questioned. Indeed, the invisibility of infrastructure and the imperative of standardizing processes signify their absolute necessity. Increasingly, however, social scientists are beginning to examine the origins and effects of the standards that underpin the technology and practices of everyday life. *Standards and Their Stories* explores how we interact with the network of standards that shape our lives in ways both obvious and invisible. The main chapters analyze standardization in biomedical research, government bureaucracies, the insurance industry, labor markets, and computer technology, providing detailed accounts of the invention of "standard humans" for medical testing and life insurance actuarial tables, the imposition of chronological age as a biographical determinant, the accepted means of determining labor productivity, the creation of international standards for the preservation and access of metadata, and the global consequences of "ASCII imperialism" and the use of English as the lingua franca of the Internet. Accompanying these in-depth critiques are a series of examples that depict an almost infinite variety of standards, from the controversies surrounding the European Union's supposed regulation of banana curvature to the minimum health requirements for immigrants at Ellis Island, conflicting (and ever-increasing) food portion sizes, and the impact of standardized punishment metrics like "Three Strikes" laws. The volume begins with a pioneering essay from Susan Leigh Star and Martha Lampland on the nature of standards in everyday life that brings together strands from the several fields represented in the book. In an appendix, the editors provide a guide for teaching courses in this emerging interdisciplinary field, which they term "infrastructure studies," making *Standards and Their Stories* ideal for scholars, students, and those curious about why coffins are becoming wider, for instance, or why the Financial Accounting Standards Board refused to classify September 11 as an "extraordinary" event.

 [Download Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Clas ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Cl ...pdf](#)

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks)

From Cornell University Press

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press

Standardization is one of the defining aspects of modern life, its presence so pervasive that it is usually taken for granted. However cumbersome, onerous, or simply puzzling certain standards may be, their fundamental purpose in streamlining procedures, regulating behaviors, and predicting results is rarely questioned. Indeed, the invisibility of infrastructure and the imperative of standardizing processes signify their absolute necessity. Increasingly, however, social scientists are beginning to examine the origins and effects of the standards that underpin the technology and practices of everyday life. *Standards and Their Stories* explores how we interact with the network of standards that shape our lives in ways both obvious and invisible. The main chapters analyze standardization in biomedical research, government bureaucracies, the insurance industry, labor markets, and computer technology, providing detailed accounts of the invention of "standard humans" for medical testing and life insurance actuarial tables, the imposition of chronological age as a biographical determinant, the accepted means of determining labor productivity, the creation of international standards for the preservation and access of metadata, and the global consequences of "ASCII imperialism" and the use of English as the lingua franca of the Internet. Accompanying these in-depth critiques are a series of examples that depict an almost infinite variety of standards, from the controversies surrounding the European Union's supposed regulation of banana curvature to the minimum health requirements for immigrants at Ellis Island, conflicting (and ever-increasing) food portion sizes, and the impact of standardized punishment metrics like "Three Strikes" laws. The volume begins with a pioneering essay from Susan Leigh Star and Martha Lampland on the nature of standards in everyday life that brings together strands from the several fields represented in the book. In an appendix, the editors provide a guide for teaching courses in this emerging interdisciplinary field, which they term "infrastructure studies," making *Standards and Their Stories* ideal for scholars, students, and those curious about why coffins are becoming wider, for instance, or why the Financial Accounting Standards Board refused to classify September 11 as an "extraordinary" event.

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #857149 in Books
- Published on: 2008-12-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.24" h x .61" w x 6.48" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 264 pages

 [Download Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Clas ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Cl ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press

Editorial Review

Review

"Standards and Their Stories is an important, well-written, and extraordinarily provocative examination of a part of the world usually hidden from any sort of public view. The authors show how much of what we take for granted is the result of negotiation, compromise, and occasionally coercion. They do so by inventing a suite of new and innovative research methods. As a result, this book is likely to become not only 'the standard' for studies of this sort but also the starting point for new ways of investigating sociotechnical processes."—Lawrence Busch, Michigan State University

"I sat down to read the book, read the first page, and paused while my face broke into a smile and a comfortable warm feeling came over my body. Yup, this was going to be a great book. Further reading confirmed the impression. Standards rule our lives. Yeah, standards, that dull, frustrating, topic studied by 'The Society of People Interested in Boring Things.' But this book proves that far from being dull, the stories behind standards are interesting, insightful, and revealing of the workings of bureaucracy. Standards are essential for different stuff made by different companies in different countries to work well together. Whether it is bananas or chocolate, application forms for terrorist training, or the sizes of people's rear ends (critical for airline seats), standards are essential part of life today (all these are covered in the book). This engaging book serves several purposes. It explains much of the history, rationale, and politics of standards. It shows why they have huge social impact, far beyond what most of us realize, often far beyond what was intended. And best of all, it is fun to read."—Don Norman, Northwestern University, author of *The Design of Future Things*

From the Back Cover

"Standards and Their Stories is an important, well-written, and extraordinarily provocative examination of a part of the world usually hidden from any sort of public view. The authors show how much of what we take for granted is the result of negotiation, compromise, and occasionally coercion. They do so by inventing a suite of new and innovative research methods. As a result, this book is likely to become not only 'the standard' for studies of this sort but also the starting point for new ways of investigating sociotechnical processes."—Lawrence Busch, Michigan State University

About the Author

Susan Leigh Star was Doreen Boyce Chair for Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary McKay:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want experience happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. *The Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape*

Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) is kind of publication which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Pete Plaisance:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, quick story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not seeking Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) that give your entertainment preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading behavior all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world considerably better than how they react towards the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for all you who want to start reading as your good habit, you may pick Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) become your own personal starter.

Liliana Stevens:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) guide written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still question Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) as good book not merely by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Randy Acevedo:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside with friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book really can hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

Download and Read Online Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press

#0PEH6IU1NJY

Read Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press for online ebook

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press books to read online.

Online Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press ebook PDF download

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press Doc

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press Mobipocket

Standards and Their Stories: How Quantifying, Classifying, and Formalizing Practices Shape Everyday Life (Cornell Paperbacks) From Cornell University Press EPub