BnF Bibliothèque nationale de France

DDC at the BNF

Promoting the subject

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Overview

- History of DDC at the BnF
- The current mission
- BnF Objectives
- Problems or complexity ?
- Changes
- Challenges
- Perspectives

History of DDC at the BnF (1)

- 1975 : The serials file was based on UDC (numbers and captions)
- 1989 : Serials moved progressively to DDC and switched entirely to Dewey in 2002.
- 1992 : Open stack collections shelved according to DDC

History of DDC at the BnF (2)

- 2000 : Legal deposit for books indexed with DDC

- 2000 : Decision to use DDC as a classified frame in organizing

  . The National bibliography

  . Gallica

  . OAI sets

History of DDC at the BnF (3)

- 2000 : Creation of an authority file giving indexing production consistency and quality

- 2009 : See reference notes included into search access

- Today in France : DDC a scheme broadly widespread in local public libraries, university libraries

Current mission (1)

- A general DDC coordination
  - controls DDC indexing
  - manages the authority files
  - conducts retrospective correction works
  - supports a proximity network of coordinators

Current mission (2)

- Gives the staff two training sessions a year
- Provides indexing tools for cataloguers
- Deals with the successive translations (pre-and post edition work)
- Promotes the indexing policy : a high level of precision through built numbers

BnF Objectives *(1)*

- Revising progressively retrospective data files (numbers and captions)
- Up-dating or creating new application instructions

BnF Objectives*(2)*

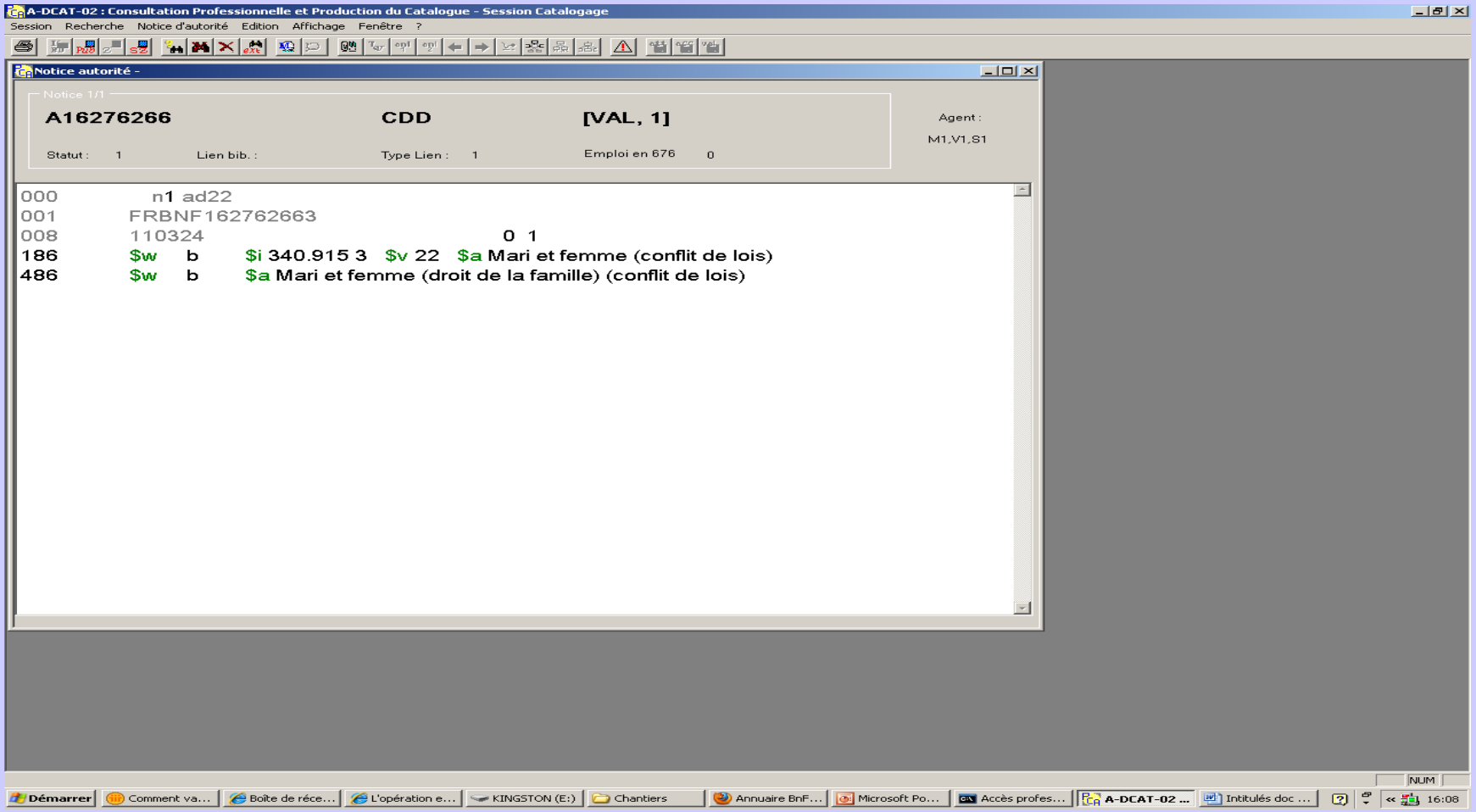
- *Examples :*

- Guidelines in scattered numbers in :

  Information Media Communication

  Biography

- Rules of headings transcription from DDC schedules into the authorities file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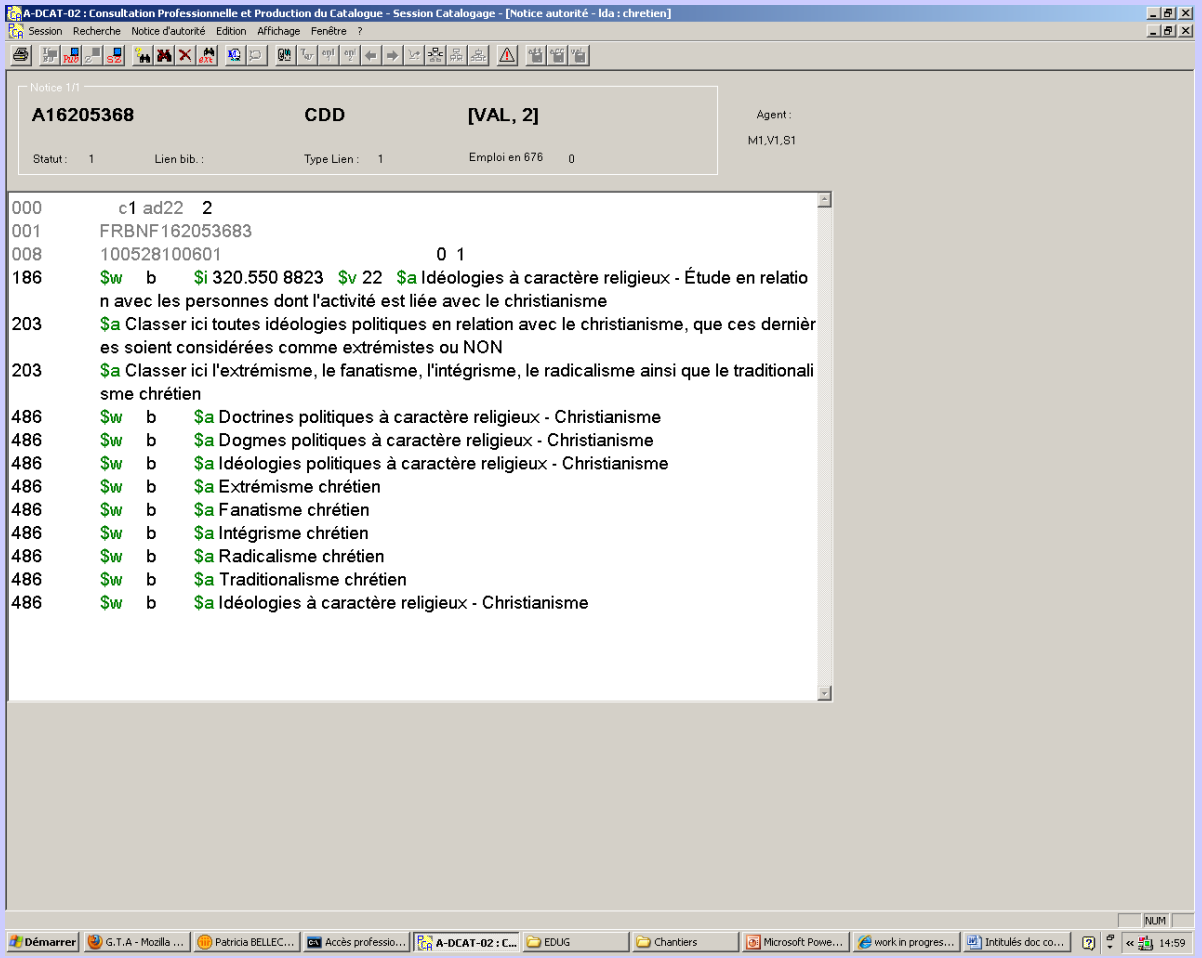
Problems or …complexity (1)?

- Complexity of building rules and application of some notes makes necessary specific instructions (in and outside of authority records)

- Quality of captions through a triple concern : schedules transcription - terminology - searchability as a work in progress *at the BnF*

Problems or …complexity (2)?



Problems or …complexity (3)?

- Epistemological quality in some parts in 100, 200, 300…questionable (out of date or ethnocentric)

  Except for historical works, a few notations are...embarrassing Ex. :

  179 Other ethical norms

  179.8 Vices, faults, failings

  Including anger, cheating, covetousness, envy, hatred, jealousy, pride, sloth

Change in functions (1)

- Are we justified in building long and precise numbers leaving the grouping logic on which our classifications were initially founded ?

Change in functions (2)

- What level of specificity in building numbers would be relevant to face interoperability and new conceptual models (FRSAD) ?
- What will be the complementarity between subject headings schemes and classifications (notation + caption) in the future ?

Change in economic context

- Means have been decreasing in public policies that affect the scope of our work

Challenge (1)

What goal does DDC at the BnF set in the digital environment ?

- Extend use in DDC indexing as a browsing capability and retrieval search
- Betting on the interoperability (crosswalks, mapping, FRSAD in perspective)

Challenge (2)

Therefore :

- Quality of local authority data will represent a part of requirements in a common environment
- Consistency of DDC schedules is an organic and basic condition
- Developing and revising progressively DDC schedules are means of larger distribution

Perspectives outside BnF (1)

- Sharing format and end-user interface will allow cooperation
- Through its double component DDC classification has got a major asset and a good machine-readability
- Through its structure a DDC notation can “sweep” different schemes only from its number

Perspectives outside BnF (2)

- A more coordinated indexing use of DDC among the users in a digital context ?

  For example : built numbers

- Beyond DDC Indexing we have needs of users in constant evolution

Conclusion

We have never had so many technological possibilities to pass on information and knowledge, as we do today. In the same time, we professionals, are wondering if public policies will maintain means to enforce it and to cooperate