

DDC: modifications for the archaeology of the Celtic regions – open access library (Swiss National Library)

In the year 2000 my colleague Denise Kaspar and I were offered the opportunity to select and classify the books on archaeology in Switzerland for our open-shelf/open-access library. It soon became apparent that the DDC classes provided for the archaeology of Celtic regions were not specific enough for the 300 to 400 documents to be classified.

936.4 Celtic regions to 486

- .401** Earliest Period to 125 B.C.
- .402** Gallo-roman period, 125 B.C.-486 A.D.

We then decided to classify the books according to DDC (the notation figures in the US-MARC field 082 04), and to use a “home-made” modification of the DDC notation for the call number.

We introduced specific prehistorical periods based on the periods in 930.11-930.16, e.g.: 936.4012 Paleolithic Age in the Celtic regions is based on 930.12 Paleolithic Age; 936.4016 Iron Age in the Celtic regions is based on 930.16 Iron Age etc.

Since Swiss archaeology is particularly rich in findings from the Iron Age we added further specific numbers, namely for the Hallstatt period (936.4017) and the La Tène period (936.4018).

At that point nothing could stop us and we rather dizzily went on to add call numbers for the archaeology of the Middle Ages (a well represented branch of archaeology in Switzerland), rather than shelve them with books on Swiss mediaeval history where they would have been lost to archaeology so to speak.

I must confess that we were also sorely tempted to add notations from Table 2 to these DDC call numbers, taking thus into account the geographical aspects – every single canton has its own archaeological service – but we renounced this idea.

One must bear in mind, that in 2000 we were not very experienced in the DDC classification, so here, for what it's worth, is the result of our efforts.

Archaeology of the Celtic regions: modifications for the call number

936.4 Celtic regions to 486
Class here comprehensive works on the prehistory and the archaeology of the Celtic regions.

.401 Earliest period to 125 B.C.

Class here comprehensive works on the prehistory of the Celtic regions

.4012 Paleolithic Age

Class here comprehensive works on Stone Ages of the Celtic regions

For Mesolithic Age of the Celtic regions, see 936.4013; for Neolithic Ages of the Celtic regions, see 936.4014

.4013 Mesolithic Age

.4014 Neolithic Age

.4015 Copper and Bronze Age

.4016 Iron Age

For specific periods, see 936.4017-936.4018

> **936.4017-936.4018 Specific periods of the Iron Age**

Class comprehensive works of the Iron Age in 936.4016

.4017 Hallstatt period

.4018 La Tène period

.402 Gallo-Roman period, 125 B.C.-486 B.C.

.403 Middle Ages, ca. 500-1500

Class here the archaeology of the Middle Ages of the Celtic regions

For specific periods, see 936.404-936.406

> **936.404-936.406 Specific periods of the Middle Ages**

Class comprehensive works in 936.403

.404 Early Middle Ages, ca. 500-900

.405 Middle Ages, ca. 900-1250

.406 Late Middle Ages, ca. 1250-1500

Further comments on DDC 930

I completely agree with Magdalens Svanberg's estimation of the problems and her proposals.

- There should be a more detailed classification not only for the chronological but also for the geographical aspects of 930.
- Perhaps the 930.1 schedule (for archaeological methods and methodology) ought to be slightly expanded or at least it needs to be clarified.
- The archaeology of the Middle Ages and of later periods remains the big problem. Either you include it in the 930-939 schedule (changing the heading to something like this: 930 "History of the Ancient World & Archaeology (up to the Middle Ages or later)") Or, one might introduce a specific subdivision to the 930-990 schedule for archaeological treatment (e.g. excavation reports).

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