French Shipping at the end of the Old Regime. The Navigocorpus database and the Idex program NAVI-GO.

Quantitative and qualitative approaches in economic history

Silvia Marzagalli

Université Côte d’Azur, Nice, France
Institut Universitaire de France
Navigocorpus
(ANR, Corpus 2007)

- An international program coordinated by:
  - Silvia Marzagalli
    (Centre de la Méditerranée moderne et contemporaine, Nice)
  - Pierrick Pourchassee
    (Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique)
  - Jean-Pierre Dedieu - pôle « méthodes »
    (Laboratoire de recherche historique Rhône-Alpes)
Navigocorpus original goals:

- To preserve individual researchers’ existing databases on shipping and maritime trade.
- To promote a potentially endless input of new sources into a common data-base, possibly in collaboration with other existing projects.
- To provide a series of tools to facilitate queries (codes, cartography, etc.) without predetermining the nature of possible queries.
- To make this database available on-line and to insure its preservation over time.
Navigocorpus online

The database's content

On the 1 January 2016, the online database contains:

- a total of 184594 points. A point is defined as a place through which a ship sailed, characterized by a date and an action (clearance, arrival, passage, capture, loss, etc).
- a total of 75469 documentary units. A documentary unit is defined as a single entry in a given source.
- 1522 different navigation points.
- 20700 different ships (recently added data are still being processed). Ships are defined here as identified vessels which can pass though many points.
- 20400 different captains (recently added data are still being processed). Captains are defined here as identified individuals who are at the command of a ship.
- 790 different registered harbours. Registered harbour refers to the place mentioned in the sources as the place to which the ship belongs.
Navigocorpus and the 1787-clearances of French ports (AN, G5)

- Navigocorpus is above all a FLEXIBLE TOOL for ALL kinds of maritime sources.

- However, due to its genesis, Navigocorpus contained no coherent set of data.

- We realized quickly the difficulties of presenting NAVIGOCORPUS to scholars and the public without having a concrete example of its flexibility and advantages.

⇒ We decided to collect the 1787-clearances of French ports which will constitute the basis of NAVI-GO (IDEX-programme, Nice)
French ports with more than 100 clearances in 1787

Available daily clearances register

Total known clearances (no data on individual ships)

No clearances records for Marseille: we collected the entrances
A quite homogenous fiscal series

Bordeaux

Rochefort
Registers of clearances (AN, G5)
The source provides information on:

- Name of the ship
- Name of the captain
- Tonnage
- Date of clearance
- Destination
- Duties paid (thus French / non-French flag)

Following additional information is provided for some ports/area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Manche / Channel</th>
<th>Bretagne</th>
<th>Atlantique</th>
<th>Méditerranée</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Cargo item(s)</td>
<td>For some ports</td>
<td>For most ports</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Not for Corsica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered port</td>
<td>For some ports</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>For most ports</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain residence</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>Not for Corsica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rig</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent IDEX project (2017-19): visualising online
A venir : Comparer les flux (en nombre, en cargaison, en tonnage) entre diverses époques et destinations
Exploiting the data

1. Shipping patterns
### Identification of ships and captains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship’s name</th>
<th>capitain</th>
<th>tons</th>
<th>Clearing from</th>
<th>destination</th>
<th>Date of clearance</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Femme et enfants</td>
<td>Zantz, Rinck</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Dunkerque</td>
<td>Bordeaux</td>
<td>1787=02=27</td>
<td>ANF, G5-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femme et enfans</td>
<td>Janz, Rinek</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>Bordeaux</td>
<td>Riga</td>
<td>1787=04=02</td>
<td>ANF, G5-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femme et les enfans</td>
<td>Janz, Rynek</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>Bordeaux</td>
<td>Riga</td>
<td>1787=09=03</td>
<td>ANF, G5-50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sound Toll Register online passages:**

1. 17-12-1786 Rynk Jans Riga Riga - Dunkerque
2. 5-5-1787 Rienk Jans Riga Bordeaux - Riga
3. 11-7-1787 Rinck Janz Riga Riga - Bordeaux
4. 18-10-1787 Rienk Jans Riga Bordeaux - Riga
5. 28-11-1787 Rink Jansz Riga Riga - Bordeaux
6. 3-5-1788 Rinck Jans Riga Bordeaux - Riga

**Neat-route:**

- Dunkerque A0204180 1787=02=27 [Russian] Femme et Enfants Zantz, Rinck A O
- Bordeaux A0180923 1787=04=02 [Russian] (Femme et Enfants) Janz, Rinek Z T
- Riga A1010107 1787=09=03 [Russian] (Femme et les enfants) Janz, Rynek A T

**NB:** the identification of ships make it possible to deal with missing data in some sources (flag, tonnage, registered port, etc.)
Observation point (documentary unit)

Neat pointcall marker

Brick La Maréchale de Mailly
140 tx, capt. Raymond Frère
en 1787

=> Identifying typologies
Exploiting the data

2. Mapping markets for specific items
Destination of Bordeaux wine shipments, 1787
Exploiting the data

3. Mapping trade areas
European destinations of ships clearing Bordeaux, 1787

(total burthen in French tons)

=> Mapping average distance/port
French Atlantic shipping to the West Indies, 1787.
Ports of departure and declared destinations
French port of departure to top 6 European destinations in 1787
Exploiting the data

4. Measuring the degree of internationalisation
Foreign shipping in France

- Greek
- Tuscan
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Roman
- Venitian
- Monegasque
- Maltese
- Modenese
- Ragusan
- Russian
- Lubeck
- Bremen
- Neapolitan & Sicilian
- Hamburguese
- USA
- Danish
- Savoyard
- Prussian
- Imperial
- Swedish
- Danish/Norwegian
- Genoese
- Spanish
- Dutch
- British

Swedish shipping in France, 1787 (number of ships)
Degree of shipping internationalization of French top 20 ports
5. Toward a typology of French ports
Total clearances and departures on ballast from French Atlantic ports, 1787.
Main destinations and main ports of departure of ships on ballast clearing from French Atlantic ports, 1787.
Port of register of French ships clearing La Rochelle, Bordeaux and Nantes, 1787
Exploiting the data

6. Better understanding shipping in ports for which no register has survived
Added value of massive data: filling record gaps.

Clearances from French ports to Vannes (1787)

Out of 207 clearances from Vannes, 142 ships have been identified in Navigocorpus as bound to Vannes
Thank you for your attention!

- http://navigocorpus.org (database)
- http://hypotheses.navigocorpus.org (project descriptions, etc.)