

Managing Spreadsheet Areas in a Text Documents

(UPDATEs January 2022 in red)

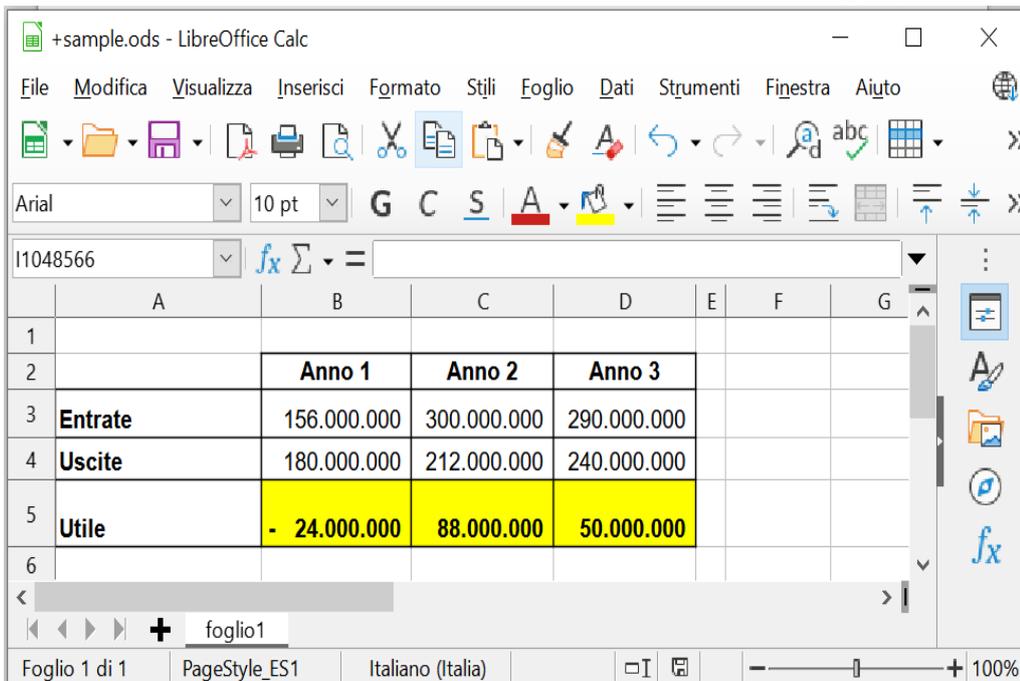
The operation can be performed in different ways and with different results. The following is what I find.

Given that DDE is partially superseded by Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) but still frequently used, the object copied as DDE appears in the text in a table format and can be managed and modified similarly to a table.

In LibreOffice, several options are available for moving or copying a spreadsheet area in a text document using the drag-and-drop method or menu commands.

Depending on the method used, the embedding of the object takes place in OLE or DDE mode.

Here are some examples based on the following spreadsheet



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2		Anno 1	Anno 2	Anno 3			
3	Entrate	156.000.000	300.000.000	290.000.000			
4	Uscite	180.000.000	212.000.000	240.000.000			
5	Utile	- 24.000.000	88.000.000	50.000.000			
6							

note: running the IT version of L.O., the screenshots are in IT.

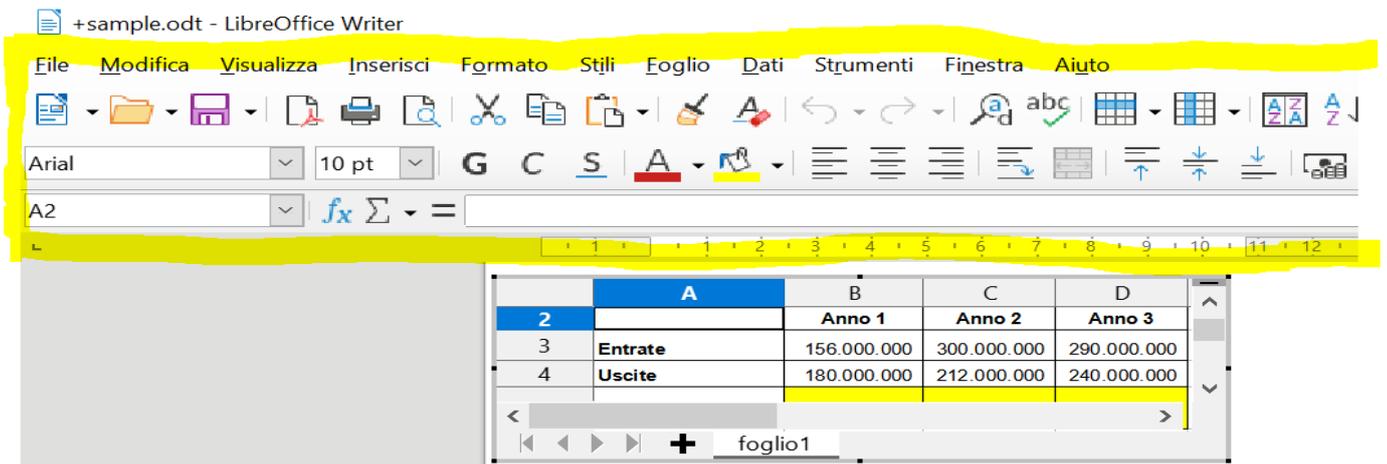
a) dragging from the sheet in CALC to the document in WRITER

	Anno 1	Anno 2	Anno 3
Entrate	156.000.000	300.000.000	290.000.000
Uscite	180.000.000	212.000.000	240.000.000
Utile	- 24.000.000	88.000.000	50.000.000

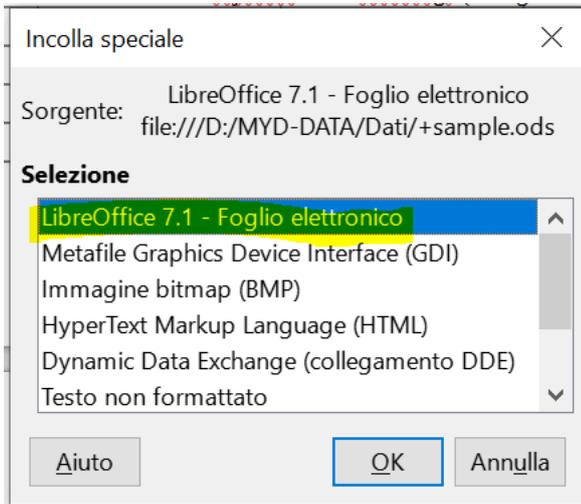
note: with this method, the spreadsheet area is incorporated into the text document with a moving (move) and not a copying (copy).

Warning: restore the area in the spreadsheet before saving it.

Selecting the object and double clicking on it (or selecting it + Enter) the menu and the bars appear as in CALC and the object can be edited to a limited extent similar to a spreadsheet:



b) copy and paste special (Ctrl+C) then from the menu:
Edit - Paste Special (Ctrl+Shift+V) then selecting
LibreOffice n.n - Spreadsheet



	Anno 1	Anno 2	Anno 3
Entrate	156.000.000	300.000.000	290.000.000
Uscite	180.000.000	212.000.000	240.000.000
Utile	- 24.000.000	88.000.000	50.000.000

note: result equivalent to case a) with the difference that it performs a copying and the area is not deleted in the spreadsheet.

The operation is equivalent to inserting an OLE object (*Insert> Object> OLE Object*).

c) dragging while simultaneously pressing the Ctrl key (the mouse pointer displays a plus sign when copying)

	Anno 1	Anno 2	Anno 3
Entrate	156.000.000	300.000.000	290.000.000
Uscite	180.000.000	212.000.000	240.000.000
Utile	-24.000.000	88.000.000	50.000.000

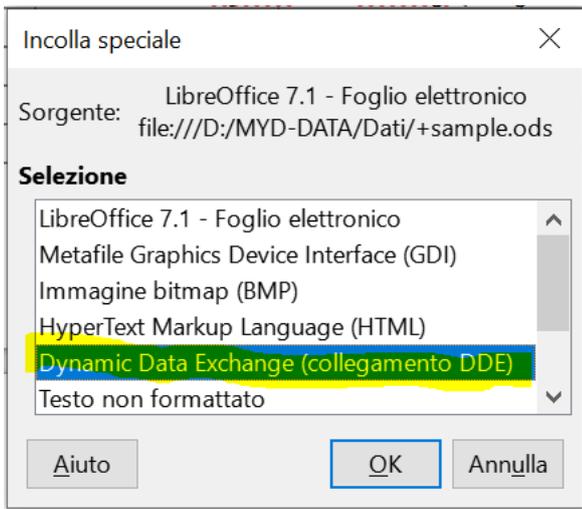
equivalent to the following

d) copy and paste: Ctrl+C then Ctrl+V (or COPY then PASTE)

	Anno 1	Anno 2	Anno 3
Entrate	156.000.000	300.000.000	290.000.000
Uscite	180.000.000	212.000.000	240.000.000
Utile	-24.000.000	88.000.000	50.000.000

in both ways c) and d) the object is inserted in table form and can only be edited in that mode.

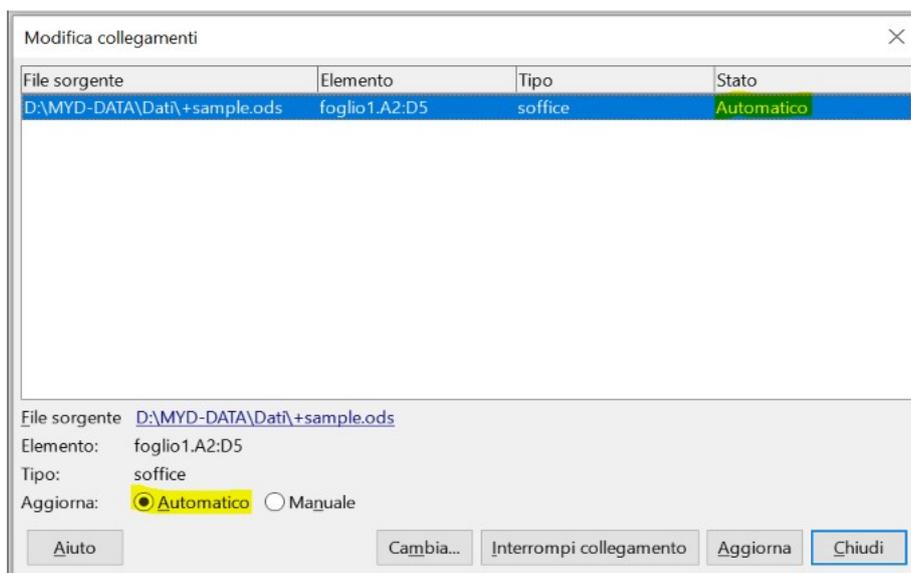
e) copy and paste special (Ctrl+C) then from the menu:
Edit - Paste Special (Ctrl+Shift+V) by selecting
Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE link)



	Anno 1	Anno 2	Anno 3
Entrate	156.000	300.000.000	290.000.000
Uscite	180.000	212.000.000	240.000.000
Utile	-24.000	88.000.000	50.000.000

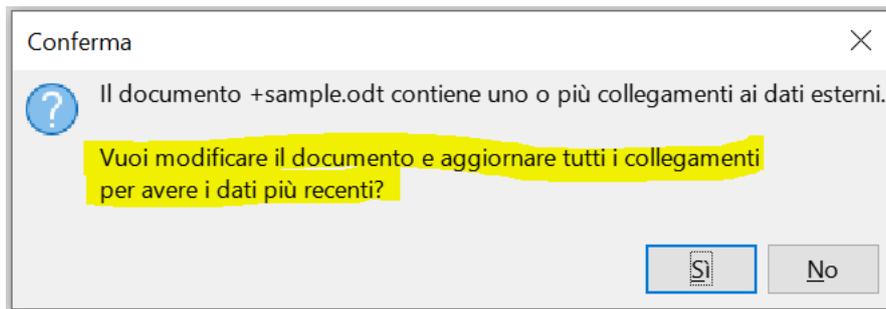
NOTE: only in this case **there seems to be** a link to the ODS source file:

From *Edit - Links to external files ...* you get:



but, even so, despite the automatic update setting, the changes made to the source file are not reflected in the text document.

In fact, **closing and reopening** the ODT file you receive this warning:



(translated: "Do you want to edit the document and update all links to get the latest data?")

where, even if you answer **YES**, no update occurs.

note: in the past (my post dates back to 2015 with vers.4) the updates were performed similarly to MS Word-Excel.

On the other hand, what is the meaning of the aforementioned request for choice?

Summarizing and concluding: the problem of automatic and synchronized updating appears unmanageable.

I no longer have the possibility to verify how it is now managed in MS Word-Excel, but it is no longer possible to obtain what was once possible (with MS), i.e. .:

having a spreadsheet, periodically updated, and a text document in which links to a spreadsheet are embedded, each time the text document is opened it should be possible to choose to get it updated in sync with the linked spreadsheet (that is, reflecting the updates that have occurred in the meantime).

This is what I got in the past, actually this is not possible in L.O.

Latest annotations.

Reading what is also said in the Writer Guide, chapter19 at <https://books.libreoffice.org/en/WG72/WG7219-SpreadsheetsChartsObjects.html#toc5> :

“For example, if a Calc spreadsheet is pasted into a Writer document as a DDE object, then the spreadsheet cannot be edited in the Writer document.

But if the original Calc spreadsheet is updated, the changes are automatically made in the Writer document.

If the spreadsheet is inserted as a Linked OLE object into the Writer document, then the spreadsheet can be edited in Writer as well as in the Calc document and both documents are in sync with each other.”

This would suggest that what aforesaid is the practice, but in fact it does not happen, I have already tried repeatedly but in neither of the two conditions what is expected is achieved.