Checkouts by Title FAQs
Dataset ID: **tmmm-ytt6**
Location: **https://data.seattle.gov/Community/Checkouts-by-Title/tmmm-ytt6**
Last updated: **5/11/2017**

What is the dataset, Checkouts by Title?
This dataset consists of monthly counts by title of checkout for all physical and digital items from 2005 to present. It's of course a hefty dataset with more than 25 million.

When is the data updated?
Data is updated monthly, on or about the 6th day of the month with the previous month's data (e.g. checkouts in July should appear around August 6th).

Does the dataset count a checkout and renewal of a physical item as two checkouts?
No, this dataset only counts the initial checkout. Renewals of physical items are not counted in this dataset.

Where does the *Checkouts by Title* data come from?
Checkout data comes from multiple current and historical sources. For digital items, the media vendors: Overdrive, hoopla, Freegal, and RBDigital provide usage data.

For historical physical item checkouts from April 2005 to September 30, 2016, the source of this data is the Legrady artwork data archives. For October 1 2016 to present, the source is the Horizon ILS.

Why are some of the subject headings blank, particularly for older checkouts?
There are a few different reasons why you will sometimes find a blank subject headings field. Historic physical checkouts were combined with current Horizon bibliographic record details in December 2016. If there was not a Horizon bibliographic record for a title as of December 2016, a subject heading was not recorded.

Also, some digital items have no Horizon bibliographic record. For example, music from Freegal is not cataloged within Horizon. Thus there will be no subject headings available for those checkouts.

What are the differences between the dataset, "*Checkouts by Title*" and "*Checkouts by Title (physical items)*"?
The main differences are:
- *Checkouts by Title* includes physical and electronic items and is aggregated by month
- *Checkouts by Title (physical items)* includes only physical items, but is not aggregated by month

Could you explain for formatting of the PublicationYear field?
The PublicationYear field includes the year from the catalog record in which the item was published, printed, or copyrighted as recorded in the Horizon bibliographic record. There are a few formatting varieties to be aware of. Here are some examples:
- 2005—publication date
- c. 2005 – copyright symbol
- [2005] – Printing date
- p. 2005 – phonogram copyright symbol

- 2004, c. 2005 – publication and copyright date
- 2005-2007 – intervening years
- [2005?] – Approximate date