NHSDataDictionaRy – a new package to automate the the web scraping of NHS NHS Data Dictionary lookups

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NHSDataDictionaRy package benefits

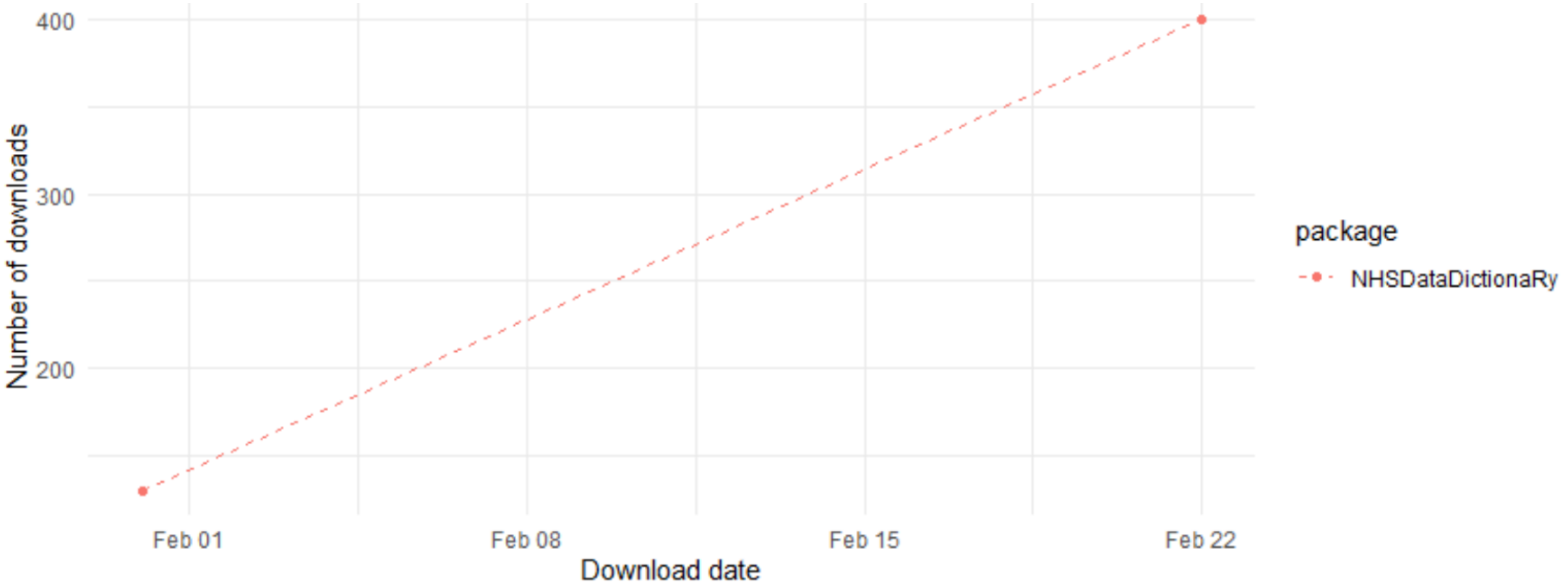
Always up to date, as the web scraping engine brings back the results from the NHS Data Dictionary site in real-time

Rationalisation of NHS lookups and providing consistency to lookups

Ability to perform custom scraping of websites and website elements

Open source and maintained by the NHS-R Community

Downloads to date (n=529)



Using the package

Supporting resources

NHSDataDictionaRy package

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1 Loading the package

To load the package, you can use the below command:

2 Accessing the NHS data links

This function expects no return and is a way to query the NHS Data Dictionary database to get the most recent list of data elements and their associated lookups. The return of this will provide a tibble of all the links currently on the NHS Data Dictionary website:

```
nhs_tibble <- NHSDataDictionaRy::nhs_data_elements()
print(head(nhs_tibble))
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 6
##   link_name  url    full_url  xpath_nat_code  xpath_default_co~ xpath_also_known
##   <chr>      <chr>  <chr>     <chr>           <chr>             <chr>
## 1 ABBREVIAT~ data_~ https://~ "//*[@id=\"ele~ "//*[@id=\"eleme~ "//*[@id=\"elem~
## 2 ABDOMINAL~ data_~ https://~ "//*[@id=\"ele~ "//*[@id=\"eleme~ "//*[@id=\"elem~
## 3 ABDOMINAL~ data_~ https://~ "//*[@id=\"ele~ "//*[@id=\"eleme~ "//*[@id=\"elem~
## 4 ABDOMINAL~ data_~ https://~ "//*[@id=\"ele~ "//*[@id=\"eleme~ "//*[@id=\"elem~
## 5 ABLATIVE ~ data_~ https://~ "//*[@id=\"ele~ "//*[@id=\"eleme~ "//*[@id=\"elem~
## 6 ABNORMALI~ data_~ https://~ "//*[@id=\"ele~ "//*[@id=\"eleme~ "//*[@id=\"elem~
```

This tibble gives a list of all lookups and their associated xpath codes i.e. a direct link to an HTML element, which is the standard way of extracting HTML DOM content. This is where the other functions in the package become powerful.