# Querying Data with SQL

# **Table of Contents**

Foundation	2
Aggregation	7
Multi-Table JOINs	12
Nested Queries & CTEs	16
Integration	18

**Dataset Used:** <a href="https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/ashirwadsangwan/imdb-dataset">https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/ashirwadsangwan/imdb-dataset</a>

**Blog Link:** https://medium.com/@ghazal3501/how-i-mastered-sql-in-7-days-a-data-engineers-journey-2153382d025e

**GitHub Repo:** <a href="https://github.com/ghazal-ashar/7-day-sql-recap/">https://github.com/ghazal-ashar/7-day-sql-recap/</a>

# Foundation

Query 1: Simple SELECT - Retrieve all movies

Purpose: Get a quick look at movie records in the dataset

Concepts Used: SELECT, WHERE, LIMIT

SELECT \*
FROM title\_basics
WHERE titleType = 'movie'
LIMIT 10;

Expected Output: 10 sample movies with all columns



- Provides an initial sense of the dataset's breadth and structure.
- Useful for checking if attributes like runtime, year, and genres are consistently populated.
- Serves as a launchpad for deeper filtering and aggregation work.

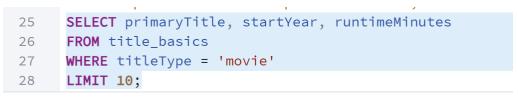
Query 2: Column Selection - Movie title, year, runtime

**Purpose:** Focus only on essential descriptive columns

Concepts Used: SELECT specific columns, WHERE

```
SELECT primaryTitle, startYear, runtimeMinutes
FROM title_basics
WHERE titleType = 'movie'
LIMIT 10;
```

#### **Expected Output:** Movie name, release year, runtime



# Data Output Messages Notifications

=+	<b>□ ∨ □ ∨ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</b>						
	primarytitle text	startyear integer	runtimeminutes integer				
1	Miss Jerry	1894	45				
2	The Corbett-Fitzsimmons Fight	1897	100				
3	Bohemios	1905	100				
4	Maniac	1934	51				
5	The Story of the Kelly Gang	1906	70				
6	The Prodigal Son	1907	90				
7	Robbery Under Arms	1907	[null]				
8	Hamlet	1908	[null]				
9	Dva druga	1955	[null]				
10	Don Quijote	1908	[null]				

- Allows analysts to zero in on core attributes without noise from ancillary fields.
- Helps streamline reporting and dashboard design.
- Immediately highlights missing runtimes or release years, which can distort trend analysis.

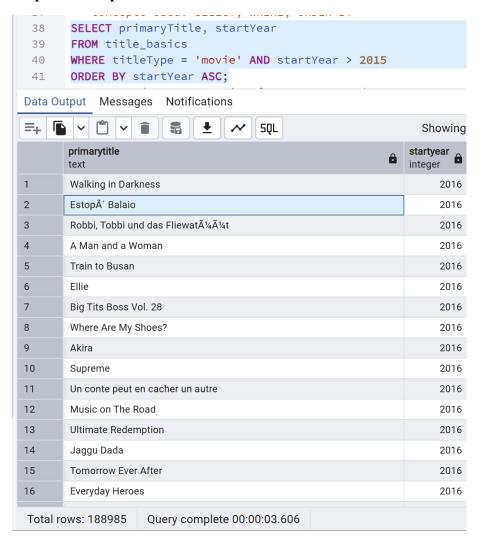
Query 3: WHERE Filtering - Movies released after 2015

**Purpose: Identify** recent movies

Concepts Used: SELECT, WHERE, ORDER BY

```
SELECT primaryTitle, startYear
FROM title_basics
WHERE titleType = 'movie' AND startYear > 2015
ORDER BY startYear ASC;
```

#### **Expected Output:** Movies from 2016 onwards



- Establishes a cut of "modern" content for contemporary trend analysis.
- Useful in studying audience shifts, streaming behaviors, or franchise reboots post-2015.
- Helps business teams identify fresh IPs or competitive market entries.

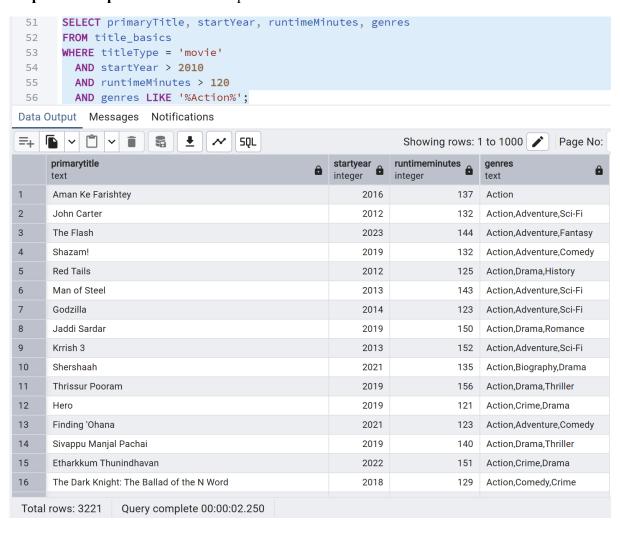
Query 4: Multiple Conditions - Long action movies after 2010

**Purpose:** Identify action films with long runtimes

Concepts Used: SELECT, WHERE with multiple AND conditions, LIKE

```
SELECT primaryTitle, startYear, runtimeMinutes, genres
FROM title_basics
WHERE titleType = 'movie'
  AND startYear > 2010
  AND runtimeMinutes > 120
  AND genres LIKE '%Action%';
```

## Expected Output: Action movies post-2010 with runtime > 120 min



- Surfaces big-budget "blockbuster-style" films for performance tracking.
- Highlights where studios invest heavily in runtime and spectacle.
- Critical for analyzing ROI of high-investment productions.

Query 5: ORDER BY - Sort movies by release year

**Purpose:** Show the newest movies first

Concepts Used: SELECT, WHERE, ORDER BY DESC

SELECT primaryTitle, startYear

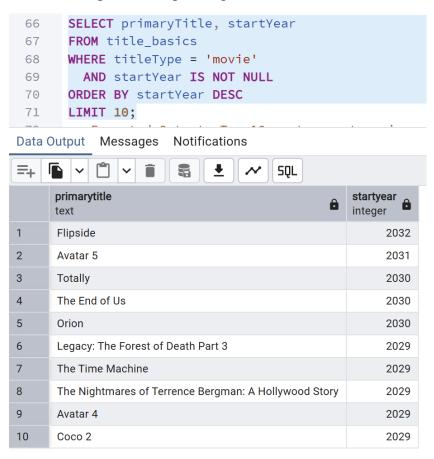
FROM title\_basics

WHERE titleType = 'movie'

AND startYear IS NOT NULL

ORDER BY startYear DESC

LIMIT 10; Expected Output: Top 10 most recent movies



- Quick validation of dataset freshness.
- Helps content teams see which latest titles are tracked in IMDb.
- Useful for monitoring competitive pipelines and launch cycles.

# Aggregation

Query 6: COUNT with GROUP BY - Movies per genre

Purpose: Count how many movies exist per genre

Concepts Used: COUNT, GROUP BY, ORDER BY

SELECT genres, COUNT(\*) AS movie\_count

FROM title\_basics

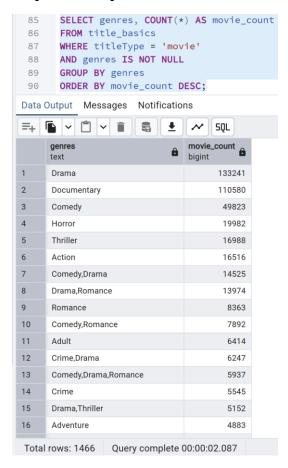
WHERE titleType = 'movie'

AND genres IS NOT NULL

GROUP BY genres

ORDER BY movie\_count DESC;

#### **Expected Output:** Genre vs total movies



- Reveals dominant genres within the catalogue.
- Provides strategic signals on saturation vs opportunity for niche genres.
- Foundation metric for content portfolio benchmarking.

Query 7: SUM with GROUP BY - Total votes per genre

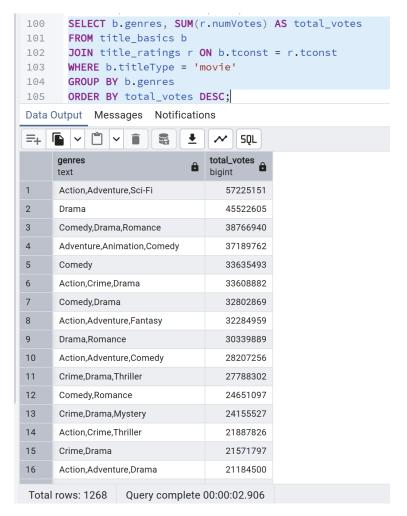
Purpose: Aggregate audience engagement by genre

# Concepts Used: JOIN, SUM, GROUP BY

```
SELECT b.genres, SUM(r.numVotes) AS total_votes
FROM title_basics b

JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst
WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'
GROUP BY b.genres
ORDER BY total_votes DESC;
```

# **Expected Output:** Genre vs total votes



- Captures audience demand and participation intensity per genre.
- Signals where audience loyalty and fan communities concentrate.
- Guides promotional spend and content acquisition decisions.

## Query 8: AVG with GROUP BY - Average rating per genre

**Purpose:** Identify genre quality based on audience ratings

Concepts Used: JOIN, AVG, GROUP BY

```
SELECT b.genres, AVG(r.averageRating) AS avg_rating
FROM title_basics b

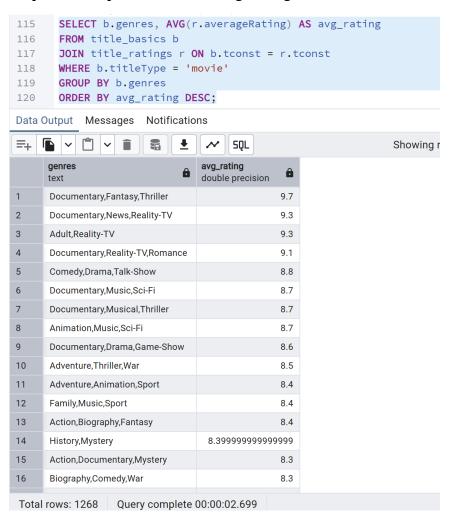
JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst

WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'

GROUP BY b.genres

ORDER BY avg_rating DESC;
```

# Expected Output: Genre vs average rating



- Identifies genres that deliver quality consistently, not just quantity.
- Enables differentiation between commercially popular vs critically acclaimed segments.
- Helps prioritize prestige genres for awards campaigns or branding.

Query 9: HAVING - Genres with >500 movies

Purpose: Filter popular genres

Concepts Used: GROUP BY, HAVING, COUNT

```
SELECT genres, COUNT(*) AS total_movies
```

FROM title\_basics

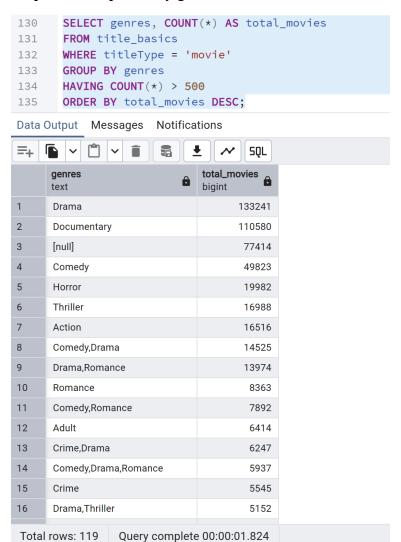
WHERE titleType = 'movie'

GROUP BY genres

HAVING COUNT(\*) > 500

ORDER BY total\_movies DESC;

# **Expected Output:** Only genres with 500+ movies



- Narrows focus to statistically significant genres.
- Prevents strategic bias from outlier categories with thin data.
- Ensures that market analysis is based on genres with real commercial weight.

Query 10: MAX/MIN with GROUP BY - Yearly extremes

Purpose: Find highest and lowest rated movies per year

Concepts Used: JOIN, GROUP BY, MAX, MIN

SELECT b.startYear,

MAX(r.averageRating) AS highest\_rating,

MIN(r.averageRating) AS lowest\_rating

FROM title\_basics b

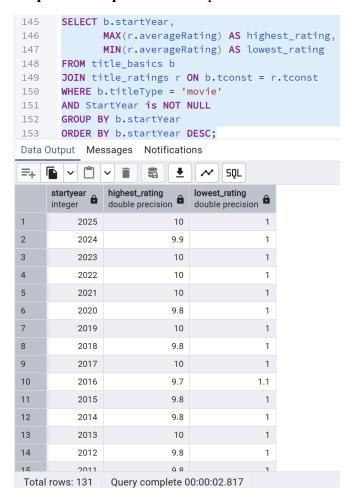
JOIN title\_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst

WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'

GROUP BY b.startYear

ORDER BY b.startYear DESC;

#### **Expected Output:** Year vs top & bottom movie ratings



- Surfaces volatility in audience perception year over year.
- Can flag years with strong hits but also notable flops.
- Provides a balanced view of both upside and risk in content pipelines.

# Multi-Table JOINs

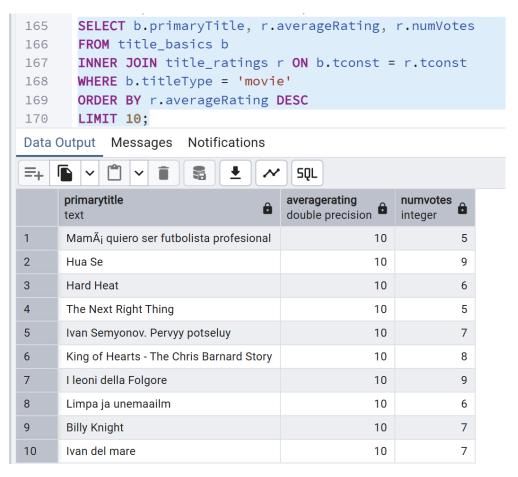
Query 11: INNER JOIN - Movies with ratings

Purpose: Combine movie details with ratings

Concepts Used: INNER JOIN, ORDER BY

```
SELECT b.primaryTitle, r.averageRating, r.numVotes
FROM title_basics b
INNER JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst
WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'
ORDER BY r.averageRating DESC
LIMIT 10;
```

# **Expected Output:** Top-rated movies with votes



- Links production data with performance feedback.
- Useful for quickly validating dataset joins and rating coverage.
- Powers "best of all time" reports for critical acclaim.

#### Query 12: LEFT JOIN - Movies including unrated

Purpose: Ensure all movies are shown, even unrated ones

# Concepts Used: LEFT JOIN, ORDER BY NULLS LAST

```
SELECT b.primaryTitle, r.averageRating, r.numVotes
FROM title_basics b

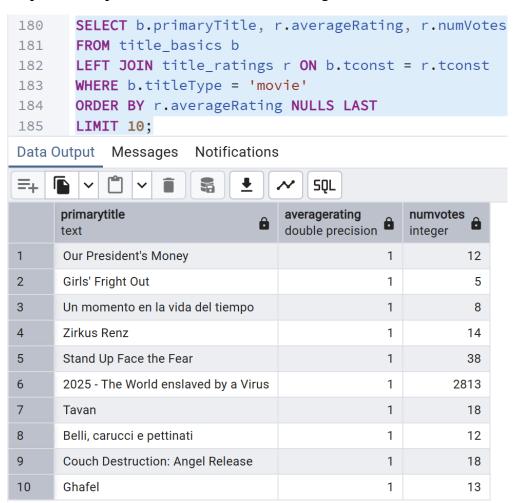
LEFT JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst

WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'

ORDER BY r.averageRating NULLS LAST

LIMIT 10;
```

# **Expected Output:** Movies with or without ratings



- Exposes content gaps where user engagement has not yet been captured.
- Critical for understanding early lifecycle of new titles.
- Prevents skewed reporting that omits unrated films.

#### **Query 13:** RIGHT JOIN - Ratings and corresponding movies

Purpose: Include all rating records, even if unmatched

# Concepts Used: RIGHT JOIN, ORDER BY

```
SELECT b.primaryTitle, r.averageRating

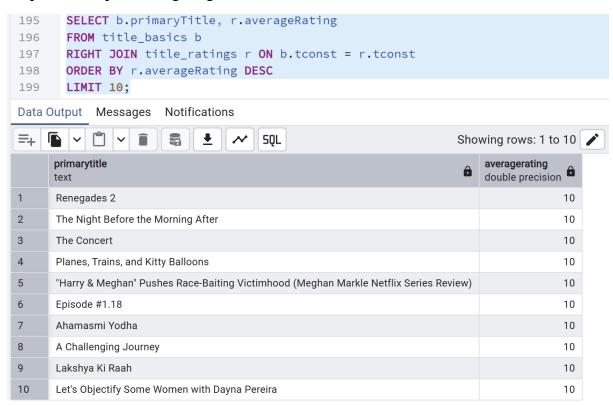
FROM title_basics b

RIGHT JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst

ORDER BY r.averageRating DESC

LIMIT 10;
```

## **Expected Output:** Ratings aligned with movie titles



- Validates referential integrity between ratings and titles.
- Ensures no orphan ratings exist without a movie reference.
- Strengthens trust in the dataset for downstream reporting.

Query 14: Multiple JOINs - Movie, rating, actor

Purpose: Link movies to actors alongside ratings

Concepts Used: Multiple JOINs (INNER), ORDER BY

```
SELECT b.primaryTitle, r.averageRating, n.primaryName AS actor
FROM title_basics b

JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst

JOIN title_principals p ON b.tconst = p.tconst

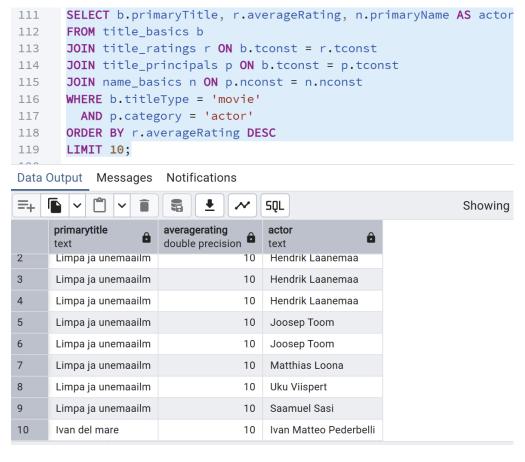
JOIN name_basics n ON p.nconst = n.nconst

WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'
   AND p.category = 'actor'

ORDER BY r.averageRating DESC

LIMIT 10;
```

#### **Expected Output:** Top-rated movies with actor names



- Connects content quality with on-screen talent.
- Enables star-power analysis—actors correlated with high ratings.
- Valuable for casting, talent acquisition, and negotiation insights.

# **Nested Queries & CTEs**

Query 15a: Subquery - Above average movies

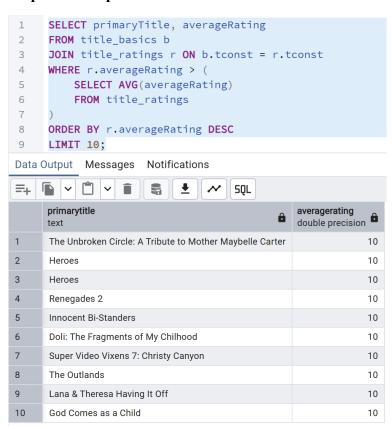
Purpose: Find movies rated higher than global average

```
Concepts Used: Subquery, JOIN, AVG
```

```
SELECT primaryTitle, averageRating
FROM title_basics b

JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst
WHERE r.averageRating > (
        SELECT AVG(averageRating)
        FROM title_ratings
)
ORDER BY r.averageRating DESC
LIMIT 10;
```

## Expected Output: List of standout movies above mean rating



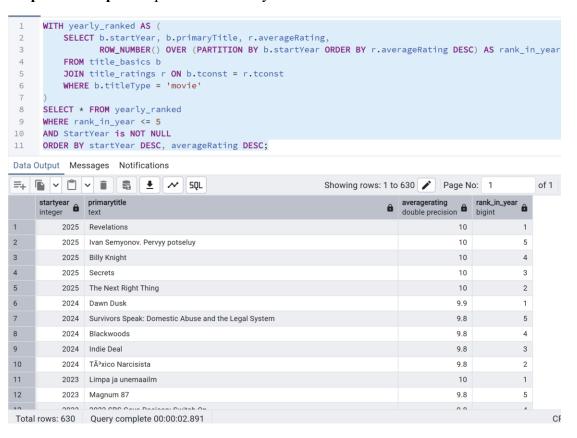
- Identifies "winners" that outperform the market baseline.
- Focuses attention on exceptional quality rather than volume.
- Supports awards targeting and critical brand positioning.

Query 15b: CTE - Top 5 movies per year

Purpose: Rank best movies yearly

```
Concepts Used: CTE, ROW NUMBER, PARTITION BY
```

## **Expected Output:** Top 5 movies each year



- Structures data into yearly competitive landscapes.
- Useful for understanding how quality distribution evolves annually.
- Supports investor decks and strategic planning by spotlighting top content leaders.

# Integration

```
Query 16: Complex yearly report
Purpose: Generate annual stats with top genres
Concepts Used: CTEs, Aggregation, RANK, JOIN
WITH yearly_stats AS (
    SELECT b.startYear,
           COUNT(*) AS total_movies,
           AVG(r.averageRating) AS avg_rating
    FROM title_basics b
    JOIN title_ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst
    WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'
    GROUP BY b.startYear
),
genre_stats AS (
    SELECT b.startYear, b.genres, AVG(r.averageRating) AS genre_avg_rating,
           RANK() OVER (PARTITION BY b.startYear ORDER BY AVG(r.averageRating)
DESC) AS genre_rank
    FROM title_basics b
    JOIN title ratings r ON b.tconst = r.tconst
    WHERE b.titleType = 'movie'
    GROUP BY b.startYear, b.genres
)
SELECT y.startYear, y.total_movies, y.avg_rating, g.genres AS top_genre,
g.genre_avg_rating
FROM yearly_stats y
JOIN genre_stats g ON y.startYear = g.startYear
WHERE g.genre_rank = 1
ORDER BY y.startYear DESC;
```

# Expected Output: Yearly movie counts, avg rating, and best genre

	startyear integer	total_movies bigint	avg_rating double precision	â	top_genre text	genre_avg_rating double precision
1	2025	4659	6.744644773	556561	Documentary,Drama,Sport	9.7
2	2025	4659	6.744644773	556561	Documentary,News	9.7
3	2024	10651	6.470603699	183172	History,Romance	9.8
4	2023	11387	6.344146834	109078	Comedy,Romance,Thriller	9.6
5	2023	11387	6.344146834	109078	Drama,Music,Sci-Fi	9.6
6	2022	11348	6.3203295734	931215	Documentary,News,Reality-TV	9.7
7	2021	9667	6.21358229	026584	Adventure,Comedy,Music	9.8
8	2020	8973	6.141223671	013037	Biography, Documentary, Reality-TV	9.6
9	2019	10989	6.16542906	542907	Adult,Thriller	9.1
10	2018	10895	6.15836622	303808	Adventure,Music	9.7
11	2017	10720	6.2369402985	074665	Romance,Thriller,War	9.4
12	2016	10186	6.250107991	360689	Crime,Documentary,News	9
13	2015	9739	6.229592360	611965	Comedy,Documentary,Fantasy	9.3
14	2014	9497	6.269537748	762773	Adult,Reality-TV	9.3
15	2013	8809	6.245385401	294127	Documentary,Horror,Mystery	9.3
16	2013	8809	6.245385401	294127	Action,History	9.3
17	2012	8422	6.268606031	821418	Adventure,Biography,Crime	9
18	2011	7989	6.267668043	559901	Family,Musical	8.9
19	2010	7383	6.229351212	244345	Biography,Comedy,Romance	8.9
20	2010	7383	6.229351212	244345	Fantasy,Mystery,Thriller	8.9
21	2009	7120	6.2438061797	752855	Comedy,Documentary,Sport	9
22	2008	6373	6.225090224	384126	Drama,History,Music	9
Total	rows: 146	Query complet	e 00:00:05.693			

- Consolidates multiple KPIs (volume, quality, genre leadership) into one annual report.
- Supports long-term strategic trend analysis across genres and years.
- Valuable for greenlighting, investment roadmaps, and forecasting content direction.