

Library Collection Inventory FAQs

Dataset ID: **6vkj-f5xf**

Location: <https://data.seattle.gov/Community/Library-Collection-Inventory/6vkj-f5xf>

Last updated: **6/5/2019**

What is the dataset, Library Collection Inventory?

This dataset includes monthly snapshot of all of the physical items in the Seattle Public Library's collection. Consistent monthly data begins with a snapshot taken August 1, 2016, continuing to the present. Additionally, this dataset contains snapshots taken on: January 1 in the years 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016.

When is the data updated?

Data is updated monthly, on or about the 6th day of the month. (e.g. snapshot taken on October 1, is published on October 6th).

Will updates overwrite the previous month's data?

No. We are appending a new snapshot each month.

Why are some of the items flagged with "Floating"?

The Library now uses floating collection management model for some item collections. Floating collections do not assign items to "owning" locations and instead allows those items to move around the library system based on where patrons are checking them out from and returning them to. Items usually stay at a branch until they get checked out and get returned to a different branch or are delivered to another branch to fulfill a hold request. We also occasionally have to rebalance the floating collection when too many of a specific item are returned to the same branch. The item location for any given floating item can change from month to month.

What are ItemCollection and ItemType codes?

ItemType is a code from the catalog record that describes the type of item. Some of the more common codes are: acbk (adult book), acdvd (adult DVD), jcbk (children's book), accd (adult CD)

"ItemCollection" is a collection code from the catalog record which describes the item. Here are some common examples: nanf (adult non-fiction), nafic(adult fiction), ncpic(children's picture book), nycomic (Young adult comic books).

Are any items excluded of from this dataset based on ItemCollection and ItemType codes?

Yes. We are excluding collection codes for any non-physical items, such as e-books, or websites. Additionally, we are excluding physical items that are on-order along with temporary and dummy records. For a complete list of inclusions and exclusions, see the metadata file [CollectionInventory Codes EXCLUDED INCLUDED.xlsx](#)

How do I interpret all of the ItemCollection and ItemType codes?

We've published an *Integrated Library System (ILS) Data Dictionary* to describe all of the codes. You can open the below link to look up a code. You may choose to join the Library Collection Inventory with the Integrated Library System (ILS) Data Dictionary.

Access the Integrated Library System (ILS) Data Dictionary from here:

<https://data.seattle.gov/Community/Integrated-Library-System-ILS-Data-Dictionary/pbt3-ytbc>

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

Can I compare inventory to checkouts?

We publish two datasets you can use to compare inventory with checkouts. These are:

- *Checkouts by Title* –includes physical and electronic items and is aggregated by month
<https://data.seattle.gov/Community/Checkouts-by-Title/tmmm-ytt6>
- *Checkouts by Title (physical items)* –includes only physical items, but is not aggregated by month
<https://data.seattle.gov/view/3h5r-qv5w>