Validating a Myth: Do books that don't check out in their first 5-10 years never check out?

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Never is impossible to prove, of course...

Scope of study: Books acquired AND with publication date between 1990-1996 in the main "stacks" circulation collection

Source of data: due date stamps at the back of the books (no online circulation data available from that time)
About the set of books included in the study
12,558 included, 2,429 excluded

Bad data that was excluded:
- Moved from reference recently
- Can't find item
- No date due slip at all
- Evidence of a slip (glue, smeared ink) but none now, or evidence of a slip before the current one

Median difference between publication date and acquisition date: 1 year

Methodology for data collection: spreadsheet generated from catalogue with all books meeting pubdate/acqdate criteria, paid student to manually inspect the date due sticker area of every book, record first and late years of checkouts, any anomalies (see bad data above), notations on spine indicating books had moved from reference at some point. Access to raw data available upon request.
Results: 5-Year Analysis

8,487 out of 12,558 checked out in first 5 years
2,209 never checked out as of summer 2016
1,861 out of 12,558 books had their first checkout > 5 years after acquisitions date
Results: 10-Year Analysis

9,717 out of 12,558 checked out in first 10 years
2,209 never checked out as of summer 2016
631 out of 12,558 books had their first checkout > 10 years after acquisitions date

- Checked out in first 10 years: 9,717
- Checked out only after 10 years: 631
- Never checked out: 2,209
Late bloomers by LC - 5 Year

% Circed after 5 years of no circ

Mean = 46%
Very late bloomers by LC - 10 Year

% Circled after 10 years of no circ

Combined LC Classes

Mean = 22%
Also 88 books that has 2016 circs; 2016 year data is incomplete as data was gathered in summer 2016
CONCLUSION

Myth is false!

22% of books that did not check out in their first 10 years did later check out.
Further consideration

Has usage changed significantly for new books since the 1990s?

Books acquired in the 1991-1996 period had a 68% chance of being used in their first 5 years.

Print books acquired from 2009-2012 had only a 48% chance of being used by 2016 (as of June 2016).

What might this mean for future studies?