



News Release

COUNTER (**C**ounting **O**nline **U**sage of **N**eTworked **E**lectronic **R**esources) is a new, multi-agency project whose objective is to develop a single, internationally accepted, extendible Code of Practice that will allow the usage of online information products and services to be measured more effectively. The absence, until now, of such a Code of Practice has meant that suppliers and purchasers of online information services have had no common standards for the recording, analysis or sharing of usage data. COUNTER will provide guidance on, *inter alia*, data elements to be measured, definitions of these data elements, data processing, report formats, methods of delivery, methods of combining usage reports from direct use and from use via intermediaries.

COUNTER is actively supported by the international community of librarians and publishers, and by their professional organisations, including:

AAP, Association of American Publishers
ALPSP, The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers
ARL, Association of Research Libraries
ASA, Association of Subscription Agents and Intermediaries
BIC/EDItEUR
JISC, Joint Information Systems Committee
NCLIS, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
NISO, National Information Standards Organization
PA, The Publishers Association
STM, International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers
UKSG, United Kingdom Serials Group

Lex Lefebvre, Secretary General of STM has commented: 'STM welcomes, and is pleased to support and actively participate in COUNTER. STM sees this project as an excellent opportunity for both librarians and publishers to jointly develop an international Code of Practice on usage statistics that will be useful for both vendors and purchasers of online information products.'

Release 1 of the Code of Practice will be available at the end of 2002. An organizational framework for implementation and compliance will also be proposed at that time.

The development of COUNTER is being supervised by a Steering Group chaired by Richard Gedye of Oxford University Press. The Project Director, responsible for day-to-day management is Peter Shepherd (pshepherd@projectCounter.org)

COUNTER will be launching its own web site at www.projectCounter.org in May 2002.