



News Release

August 2002

Online Survey: librarians should act now to have their say

The COUNTER online survey will close on 15 August 2002. Librarians should fill it in at the COUNTER website: www.projectCounter.org, where it may be accessed, along with the full text of the Usage Reports. The response so far has been excellent and many hundreds of librarians have already completed the survey since it was opened in early July. Those who have not yet done so, are urged to act quickly to ensure that all opinions are heard.

Survey responses to date show an impressive global spread, with 59% from North America, 25% from Europe and 8% from Australasia. The majority of the respondents (67%) have been from Academic/Higher Education institutions, with 10% public librarians, 7% corporate, 5% government and 4% health/hospital.

COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources) 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 consistently. The proposed Usage Reports will be an important feature of that Code of Practice.

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

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), who should be contacted for further information.