



## **News Release**

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**15 January 2003**

### **First Release of the COUNTER Code of Practice Now Available**

The first release of the COUNTER Code of Practice is now available and can be downloaded from the website at [www.projectCounter.org](http://www.projectCounter.org). The Code of Practice specifies in detail the requirements that vendors must meet to have their online usage reports designated COUNTER-compliant.

The use of online information resources is growing exponentially and it is widely agreed by both producers and buyers of information that the use of these resources should be measured in a more consistent way. Librarians want to understand better how the information they buy from a variety of sources is being used, and publishers want to know how the information products they disseminate are being used. The COUNTER Code of Practice meets these needs by setting international guidelines governing the recording and exchange of online usage data.

"I am delighted that Release 1 of the Code of Practice is now available", said Richard Gedye of Oxford University Press and Chair of COUNTER. He added, "This is a very important step towards producing vendor-generated usage statistics that are credible, compatible and consistent and has been achieved through excellent co-operation between the librarians, vendors and intermediaries involved in the project."

There will be only one valid version of the Code of Practice at any given time, but different levels of compliance will be possible. Release 1 focuses on journals and databases, as these products are not only the most significant budget items for libraries, but they have also been available online for some time and have a core of well-accepted definitions and content structures. The Code of Practice will be systematically extended to cover other categories of publications, such as e-books, over the next year.

#### **About COUNTER**

COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources) is a 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. 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

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**For more information, please contact:**

Peter Shepherd

Project Director - COUNTER

[pshepherd@projectCounter.org](mailto:pshepherd@projectCounter.org)