



News Release

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Librarian feedback sought on first draft of COUNTER Usage Reports

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.

One of the most important features of the Code of Practice will be the Usage Reports that vendors will have to supply to customers in order to qualify as 'COUNTER compliant'. **Draft 1 of the COUNTER Usage Reports is now available; librarians are invited to participate in an online survey that will collect their comments on them.** The online survey and the full text of the Usage Reports is accessible via the COUNTER web site: www.ProjectCounter.org

The absence of 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 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.

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.

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.