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Foreword

Librarians spend considerable amounts of money licensing different types of online content and want to measure return on the investment and to ensure that library budgets are spent as productively as possible. One of the ways to measure this return on investment is to assess usage statistics. This release of the COUNTER Code of Practice [...]

14.0 Change History

Release Description of Change Substantive? Date approved Date for compliance 5.0 New Code of Practice to replace Release 4. Yes
2017-7-1 2019-2-28 (with support for January 2019 usage)

13.0 Transitioning from Previous Releases or to New Reporting Services

A requirement of the COUNTER Code of Practice is that content provider's offer libraries access to the current year plus the prior 24 months of usage from the date they first became compliant, whichever is later. This requirement must continue to be met even when a provider may be transitioning to a new release of [...]

12.0 Continuous Maintenance

With R5, the COUNTER Code of Practice will operate under a continuous maintenance procedure to allow incremental changes to be made to the Code of Practice without creating a completely new release. This section describes those procedures. 12.1 Instructions for Submittal of Proposed Change Changes and updates to the COUNTER Code of Practice can be [...]

11.0 Extending the Code of Practice

COUNTER recognises that some content providers may want to provide customized versions of COUNTER reports to address reporting needs specific to their platform and content. This section describes a method of extending the Code of Practice that avoids creating conflicting custom implementations between content providers. 11.1 Platform as a Namespace Content providers and other organizations [...]

10.0 Other Compliance Topics

Content providers seeking COUNTER compliance are expected to comply with the following. 10.1 Including COUNTER in Licence Agreements To encourage widespread implementation of the COUNTER Code of Practice, customers are urged to include the following clause in their licence agreements with content providers: 'The licensor confirms to the licensee that usage statistics covering the online [...]

9.0 Audit

An important feature of the COUNTER Code of Practice is that compliant content providers (including third-party services providing stats on behalf of content providers) MUST be independently audited on an annual basis in order to maintain their COUNTER-compliant status. To facilitate this, a set of auditing standards and procedures has been published in Appendix E [...]

8.0 SUSHI for Automated Report Harvesting

Content providers MUST support automatic harvesting of COUNTER reports via the SUSHI protocol as described in the NISO SUSHI Standard (Z39.93-201x). Specifications for the RESTful COUNTER_SUSHI API are found here: https://app.swaggerhub.com/apis/COUNTER/counter-sushi_5_0_api/1.0.0 8.1 COUNTER_SUSHI API Paths to Support The following paths (methods) MUST be supported: Path Description GET /status Returns the current status of the COUNTER_SUSHI API [...]

7.0 Processing Rules for Underlying COUNTER Reporting Data

Usage data collected by content providers for the usage reports to be sent to customers should meet the basic requirement that only intended usage is recorded and that all requests that are not intended by the user are removed. Because the way usage records are generated can differ across platforms, it is impractical to describe [...]

6.0 Logging Usage

Usage data can be generated in a number of ways, and COUNTER does not prescribe which approach should be taken. The two most common approaches are: Log file analysis, which reads the log files containing the web server records all of its transactions Page tagging, which uses JavaScript on each page to notify a third-party [...]



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