SUSHI (the Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative) is a NISO standard (ANSI/NISO Z39.93-2007) that defines an automated request and response model for the harvesting of electronic resources usage data utilizing a Web services framework. It replaces the time-consuming user-mediated collection of usage statistics reports.

The SUSHI protocol is designed to be both generalised and extensible, meaning it may be used to retrieve a variety of usage reports. A SUSHI extension is designed specifically to work with COUNTER reports is provided within the standard. The standard is built on SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) for transferring request and response messages. The GetReport method is used for transferring ReportRequest as the input message and returning ReportResponse as the output message.

The standard includes a versioned Web Services Description Language (WSDL), to describe the Web service namespace and operations, and a generalized XML schema with the syntax of the SUSHI protocol. Rules for report naming are outlined and complemented by an external reports registry, which provides for the definition of both COUNTER and non-COUNTER reports.

SUSHI and the COUNTER audit

Implementation of the SUSHI protocol is a requirement for compliance with the COUNTER Code of Practice and vendors will be required to demonstrate, as part of the independent COUNTER audit that they have successfully implemented SUSHI, are listed on the SUSHI Server Registry, and that customers can download their COUNTER usage reports using SUSHI.

Further information on SUSHI

Comprehensive information on SUSHI is available on the NISO/SUSHI website (http://www.niso.org/workrooms/sushi/) . As well as full documentation on the standard itself, the SUSHI website provides:

- Information on Getting Started
- SUSHI Tools
- SUSHI Schemas
- SUSHI Reports Registry
- SUSHI Server Registry
- SUSHI Developers List
- SUSHI FAQs