

## 1 CHANGES FROM COUNTER RELEASE 4 (R4)

Changes in the nature of online content and how it is accessed have resulted in the COUNTER Code of Practice evolving in an attempt to accommodate those changes. This evolution resulted in some ambiguities and, in some cases, conflicts and confusions within the Code of Practice. Release 5 (R5) of the COUNTER Code of Practice is focused on improving the consistency, credibility, and comparability of usage reporting.

### 1.1 List of Reports

R5 reduces the overall number of reports by replacing many of the special-purpose reports that are seldom used with four Master Reports and a number of Standard Views that are more flexible. All COUNTER R4 reports have either been renamed or eliminated in favour of other R5 Master Report or Standard View options.

R4 Report	R5 Report/ Status	Comments
Book Report 1: Number of Successful Title Requests by Month and Title	Book Requests (excluding “OA_Gold”)	The “Unique_Title_Requests” is equivalent to the full-text requests in Book Report 1.
Book Report 2: Number of Successful Section Requests by Month and Title	Book Requests (excluding “OA_Gold”)	The “Total_Item_Requests” is equivalent to full-text requests in Book Report 2.
Book Report 3: Access Denied to Content Items by Month, Title, and Category	Book-Access Denied	“Limit_Exceeded” and “No_License” metrics are equivalent to those found in Book Report 3
Book Report 4: Access Denied to Content items by Month, Platform, and Category	Platform Master Report	“Access Denied” statistics at the platform level can be retrieved using the “Platform Master Report”.
Book Report 5: Total Searches by Month and Title	Eliminated (no equivalent)	For most platforms, attempting to track searches by titles is not reasonable since all titles are included in most searches.
Book Report 7: Number of Successful Unique Title Requests by Month and Title in a Session	Book Requests (excluding “OA_Gold”)	The “Unique_Title_Requests” is equivalent to the full-text requests in Book Report 7.

Consortium Report 1: Number of Successful Full-Text Journal Article or Book Chapter Requests by Month and Title	Eliminated	Consortium administrators will request “Journal Requests (excluding OA_Gold)” for each member. This can be automated via SUSHI using the /members path. Tools will be provided to create consolidated reports that are functionally equivalent to Consortium Report 1.
Consortium Report 2: Total Searches by Month and Database	Eliminated	Consortium administrators will request “Database Usage” for each member. This can be automated via SUSHI using the /members path. Tools will be provided to create consolidated reports that are functionally equivalent to Consortium Report 1.
Consortium Report 3: Number of Successful Multimedia Full Content Unit Requests by Month and Collection	Eliminated	For multimedia collections that are equivalent to databases, consortium administrators will request “Database Usage” for each member. This can be automated via SUSHI using the /members path. Tools will be provided to create consolidated reports that are functionally equivalent to Consortium Report 1.
Database Report 1: Total Searches, Result Clicks, and Record Views by Month and Database	Database Usage	Result Clicks and Record Views have been replaced by “Total_Item_Investigations”. Metrics for regular searches remains unchanged, and federated and automated searches are now reported separately. Report also includes access denied and full-text metrics.
Database Report 2: Access Denied by Month, Database, and Category	Database-Access Denied	Report renamed and updated metric types used
Journal Report 1: Number of Successful Full-Text Article Requests by Month and Journal	Journal Requests (excluding “OA_Gold”)	“Total_Item_Requests” is the equivalent to full text total. HTML and PDF totals have been eliminated, but “Unique_Item_Requests” can be used to evaluate the effect of the user interface on statistics and offers a comparable statistics for cost-per-unique-use analysis.
Journal Report 1 GOA: Number of Successful Gold Open Access Full-Text Article Requests by Month and Journal	Title Master Report	The Title Master Report can be filtered by “Access_Type=OA_Gold” AND “Metric_Type=Total_Item_Requests” to obtain equivalent results.
Journal Report 1a: Number of Successful Full-Text Article Requests from an Archive by Month and Journal	Journal Requests by “YOP (excluding “OA_Gold”)	The R5 report breaks out usage by “Year of Publication” (“YOP”) to enable evaluation of usage of content for which perpetual access rights are available.
Journal Report 2: Access Denied to Full-Text Articles by Month, Journal and Category	Journal-Access Denied	The “Limit_Exceeded” and “No_license” metrics are equivalent to corresponding metrics in R4 report.
Journal Report 3: Number of Successful Item Requests by Month, Journal and Page-type	Title Master Report	The “Title Master Report” can be configured to show “Section_Types”, which provides details similar to JR5.

Journal Report 3 Mobile: Number of Successful Item Requests by Month, Journal and Page-type for usage on a mobile device	Eliminated (no equivalent)	Capturing usage by mobile devices is less relevant with the responsive design of most sites. The variety of “mobile” devices also make it difficult to categorize given today’s smartphones have screen resolutions that exceed those of some desktops.
Journal Report 4: Total Searches Run By Month and Collection	Eliminated (no equivalent)	To the extent that a “Journal Collection” is organized for searching as a discrete “Collection” (rare), usage would be reported in a “Database Usage Report”.
Journal Report 5: Number of Successful Full-Text Article Requests by Year-of-Publication (YOP) and Journal	Journal Requests by “YOP (excluding “OA_Gold”)”	This R5 report offers a breakdown of journal usage by “Year of Publication” (YOP) and the resulting report can be analysed using filters or pivot tables.
Multimedia Report 1: Number of Successful Full Multimedia Content Unit Requests by Month and Collection	Database Usage	“Multimedia” usage, where “Multimedia” is packaged and accessed as separate “Collections”, would be reported using a “Database Usage Report”.
Multimedia Report 2: Number of Successful Full Multimedia Content Unit Requests by Month, Collection and Item Type	Item Report 1: Usage by Month and Item	The “Item Report” provides a more detailed breakdown by “Item” and includes attributes such as “Data_Type”. This report can be used to provide summary statistics by type.
Platform Report 1: Total Searches, Result Clicks, and Record Views by Month and Platform	Platform Usage	The R5 report provides equivalent metrics as well as additional metrics related to item full-text requests.
Title Report 1: Number of Successful Requests for Journal Full-Text Articles and Book Sections by Month and Title	Title Master Report	The Title Master Report offers a single report for books and journals and can show the usage broken down by “Section Type”.
Title Report 1 Mobile: Number of Successful Requests for Journal Full-Text Articles and Book Sections by Month and Title (formatted for normal browsers/ delivered to mobile devices AND formatted for mobile devices/ delivered to mobile devices)	Eliminated (no equivalent)	Capturing usage by mobile devices is less relevant with the responsive design of most sites. The variety of mobile devices also makes it difficult, as does the fact that today’s smartphones have screen resolutions exceeding those of some desktops.
Title Report 2: Access Denied to Full-Text Items by Month, Title, and Category	Title Master Report	The Title Master Report offers a single report for books and journals and can show access-denied metrics.
Title Report 3: Number of Successful Item Requests by Month, Title, and Page Type	Title Master Report	The Title Master Report offers a single report for books and journals and can show the usage broken down by “Section Type” as well as all relevant metric types.
Title Report 3 Mobile: Number of Successful Item Requests by Month, Title, and Page Type (formatted for normal browsers/ delivered to mobile devices AND formatted for mobile devices/ delivered to mobile devices)	Eliminated (no equivalent)	Capturing usage by mobile devices is less relevant with the responsive design of most sites. The variety of mobile devices also makes it difficult, as does the fact that today’s smartphones have screen resolutions exceeding those of some desktops.

## 1.2 Report Format

With R5, all COUNTER reports are structured the same way to ensure consistency, not only between reports, but also between the SUSHI and tabular versions of the reports. Now, all reports share the same format for the header, the report body is derived from the same set of element names, total rows have been eliminated, and data values are consistent between the SUSHI and tabular version. (See Section 3.2.). R5 also addresses the problem of terminology and report layouts varying from report to report, as well as SUSHI and tabular versions of the same report producing different results while still being compliant

## 1.3 Metric Types

Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice strives for simplicity and clarity by reducing the number of metric types and standardizing them across all reports, as applicable. With R4, Book Reports had different metric types from those in Journal Reports or in additional attributes such as mobile usage, usage by format, etc. Most COUNTER R4 metric types have either been renamed or eliminated in favour of new R5 metric types. The table below show the R4 metric types as documented for SUSHI and their R5 state.

R4 Metric Types	R5 Equivalence or Status	Comments
abstract	“Total_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Title_Investigations”	Actions against an item are tracked using the more generic “Total_Item_Investigations” metrics. Due to the variety of types of item attributes that can be investigated, COUNTER no longer attempts to track with separate metric types.
audio	Eliminated	This metric was only used in JR3/TR3 reports which saw little implementation or use. The intent was to represent activity of objects embedded in articles.
data_set	Eliminated	When a content item was a dataset, the “Total_Item_Requests” metrics would be used in combination with a “Data_Type” of dataset.
ft_epub	“Total_Item_Requests” “Unique_Item_Requests” “Unique_Title_Requests”	More generic “Total_Item_Requests” are now used in place of format-specific metrics.
ft_html	“Total_Item_Requests” “Unique_Item_Requests” “Unique_Title_Requests”	More generic “Total_Item_Requests” are now used in place of format-specific metrics.
ft_html_mobile	Eliminated	Tracking of activity by mobile devices is no longer required for COUNTER compliance.
ft_pdf	“Total_Item_Requests” “Unique_Item_Requests” “Unique_Title_Requests”	More generic “Total_Item_Requests” are now used in place of format-specific metrics.

ft_pdf_mobile	Eliminated	Tracking of activity by mobile devices is no longer required for COUNTER compliance.
ft_ps	“Total_Item_Requests” “Unique_Item_Requests” “Unique_Title_Requests”	More generic “Total_Item_Requests” are now used in place of format-specific metrics.
ft_ps_mobile	Eliminated	Tracking of activity by mobile devices is no longer required for COUNTER compliance.
ft_total	“Total_Item_Requests”	“Total_Item_Requests” is a comparable metric.
image	Eliminated	This metric was only used in JR3/TR3 reports which saw little implementation or use. The intent was to represent activity of objects embedded in articles.
multimedia	“Total_Item_Requests” “Unique_Item_Requests” “Unique_Title_Requests”	More generic “Total_Item_Requests” are now used in place of format-specific metrics.
no_license	no_license	No change
other	Eliminated	“Other” usage provides no value.
podcast	Eliminated	This metric was only used in JR3/TR3 reports which saw little implementation or use. The intent was to represent activity of objects embedded in articles.
record_view	“Total_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Title_Investigations”	Actions against an item are tracked using the more generic “Total_Item_Investigations” metrics. Due to the variety of types of item attributes that can be investigated, COUNTER no longer attempts to track with separate metric types.
reference	“Total_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Title_Investigations”	Actions against an item are tracked using the more generic “Total_Item_Investigations” metrics. Due to the variety of types of item attributes that can be investigated, COUNTER no longer attempts to track with separate metric types.
result_click	“Total_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Title_Investigations”	Actions against an item are tracked using the more generic “Total_Item_Investigations” metrics. Due to the variety of types of item attributes that can be investigated, COUNTER no longer attempts to track with separate metric types.
search_fed	“Searches_Federated” “Searches_Automated”	The R4 automated and federated search metrics have been separated into two separate metrics since the nature of the activity is very different.
search_reg	“Searches_Regular” “Searches_Platform”	For database reports, use “Searches_Regular”. When reporting at the platform level use “Searches_Platform”

sectioned_html	Total_Item_Requests Unique_Item_Requests Unique_Title_Requests	More generic “Total_Item_Requests” are now used in place of format-specific metrics.
toc	“Total_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Item_Investigations” “Unique_Title_Investigations”	Actions against an item are tracked using the more generic “Total_Item_Investigations” metrics. Due to the variety of types of item attributes that can be investigated, COUNTER no longer attempts to track with separate metric types.
turnaway	“Limit_Exceeded”	Renamed to provide more clarity into the nature of the access-denied event.
video	Eliminated	This metric was only used in JR3/TR3 reports which saw little implementation or use. The intent was to represent activity of objects embedded in articles.

## 1.4 New elements and attributes introduced

With Release 4 the nature of the usage sometimes had to be inferred based on the name of the report. In an effort to provide more consistent and comparable reporting, R5 introduces some additional attributes that content providers can track with the usage and use to create breakdowns and summaries of usage.

Attribute	Description	Values
“Access_Type”	Used in conjunction with “Item_Requests”, this attribute indicates if, at the time of the request, access to the item was controlled (e.g. subscription or payment required) or was available as open access or other free-to-read option.	“Controlled” “OA_Delayed” [reserved for future] “OA_Gold” “Other_Free_to_Read”
“Access_Method”	This attribute is currently used to distinguish between regular usage (users accessing scholarly information for research purposes) and usage for the purpose of “Text and Data Mining” (“TDM”).	“Regular” “TDM”
“Data_Type”	Used to generally classify the nature of item usage is being presented for.	“Article” “Book” “Book Segment” “Collection” “Database” “Dataset” “Journal” “Multimedia” “Newspaper or Newsletter” “Other” “Platform” “Report” “Repository Item” “Dissertation or Thesis”

<p>“Publisher_ID”</p>	<p>A unique identifier for the publishers, preferably to a standard identifier such as ISNI. For SUSHI version of the report, the type and value are separate. For tabular, the format is <i>type=format</i>.</p>	<p>“isni=123334445”</p>
<p>“Section_Type”</p>	<p>Used in conjunction with “Data_Type”, this attribute tracks requests to the level of the section requested. Used mostly with eBooks where content may be delivered by chapter or section, this element defines the nature of the section retrieved.</p>	<p>“Article”  “Book”  “Chapter”  “Other”  “Section”</p>
<p>“YOP”</p>	<p>Used in conjunction with “Item_Requests”, this attribute records the year of publication of the item. The YOP attribute replaces the year-of-publication ranges in R4’s JR5 report.</p>	<p>A 4-digit year, e.g.  “2012”  “0001” for Unknown  “9999” for Articles in Print</p>