Attributes, elements and other slightly techy things
This class explains the attributes and elements introduced in Release 5 of the Code of Practice
What are elements and attributes?

- As an addition to the longer-standing usage metrics, elements and attributes provide librarians with much more granular information about usage.
- They also mean that the COUNTER team can better maintain and amend the Code of Practice over time.
Data_Type

This attribute identifies the general type of content being accessed or for which usage is being reported.

It is used when creating Standard Views for Books and Journals and is an optional parameter for the Title Master Report and can be used to generate summaries in a Database Master Report or Platform Master Report.

Article
Book
Book_Segment
Database
Dataset
Journal
Multimedia
Newspaper or Newsletter
Platform
Other
Repository Item
Report
Thesis or Dissertation
In this example of a Title Master Report (TR), we can see that the Data_Type is Journal.
**Section_Type**

This attribute is used when content is delivered in “chunks” (sections) to describe what that section is, e.g. a book may be accessed by the chapter; content in a journal is accessed by article.

*It is an optional parameter for the Title Master Report.*

**Top Tip:** Section_Type helps with measuring book usage by indicating if the unit of content delivered as an article, chapter, section or the entire book.
In this example of a Title Master Report (TR), we can see that the Section_Type is Article.
YOP

This attribute is the year of publication for the content item accessed

This is an option attribute in Title Master Report, Database Master Report and Platform Master Report

It appears as a column in the Journal Requests by YOP (Excluding OA_Gold) Standard View

YYYY
0001 (unknown)
9999 (articles in press)

Top Tip: YOP helps to separate usage of current journal content from separately licensed archival journal content
In this example of a Title Master Report (TR), we can see that the YOP is 2016.

That is to say in this case, the year of publication for the article accessed is 2016.

If content is available in print and online format and the publication dates of these two formats differ, the year of publication of version of record (normally the format that is published first) should be used.
Access_Type

This attribute describes the nature of access control that was in place when the content item was accessed, i.e. how much usage was open access or other freely available content and how much was behind a paywall.

This attribute is in filtering for Standard Views and Master Reports and is included in Book Usage by Access Type and Journal Usage by Access Type Standard Views.

Controlled
OA_Gold
Other_Free_to_Read (repositories only)
OA_Delayed* (reserved for future use)

Top Tip: Access_Type helps to differential usage of gold open access content from content that requires a license.
In this example of a Title Master Report (TR), we can see that the Access_Type is Controlled.

That is to say the article accessed in this case requires a licence and was not open access.
Access Method

This attribute shows whether the usage related to investigations and requests was generated by a human user browsing and searching a website (“regular”) or by Text and Data Mining processes (TDM).

This attribute appears as an optional parameter the Master Reports.

TDM usage is excluded from the standard views for Journal and Book usage.

Did you know: Access_Method tracks regular usage separately from usage for the purpose of TDM. TDM may result in massive amounts of content being accessed and it could skew the stats. Separating this activity allows TDM usage to be measured and still be kept separate from regular usage.
In this example of a Title Master Report (TR), we can see that the Access Method is Controlled.

That is to say in this case the article was accessed by a human user and not a robot or crawler.
In this example of a Title Master Report (TR), we can see that the Access_Type is Controlled.

That is to say in this case the article was accessed by human users and not by a robot or crawler.
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