

COUNTER
Webinar

20 February 2020

Release 5

Understanding the use of
Open Access Content

Open Access Content in COUNTER Reports

This webinar explains how COUNTER reports identify use of open access content.

Gold open access

The open access status of articles and books often requires the payment of a publication fee to the publisher.

This fee is called an Article Processing Charge, usually shortened to 'APC'.

This process is often called Gold open access, or Gold OA.

There are other types of open access, but not relevant to these metrics

Access_Type

This is the COUNTER attribute used to determine whether content is open access or not.

It allows usage of subscribed content to be counted separately from open access content.

There are two Access_Types

Controlled: means that at the time of the usage the content item was not open because it was behind a paywall and access was restricted to authorized users.

OA_Gold: means at the time of the usage the content item was available under an open access license - that is immediately and permanently available as open access.

Hybrid journals

It is particularly important to separate Access_Types when understanding usage of hybrid journals.

These are subscription journals in which only some of the articles are open access.

A few points to note

Access of content due to a trial subscription or license is considered Controlled.

Content that has been made freely available but is not OA_Gold, for example free for marketing purposes, is considered Controlled.

Content items offered as open after an embargo period are currently considered Controlled.



Report_Name	Journal Usage by Access Type
Report_ID	TR_J3
Release	5
Institution_Name	Sample University
Institution_ID	Isni=1234567890
Metric_Types	Total_Item_Investigations; Total_Item_Requests; Unique_Item_Investigations; Unique_Item_Requests
Report_Filters	Data_Type=Journal; Access_Method=Regular
Report_Attributes	
Exceptions	
Reporting_Period	2017-01-01 to 2017-12-31
Created	2/5/18
Created_By	Platform X

Title	Publisher	Publisher_ID	Platform	DOI	Proprietary	Print_ISSN	Online_ISSN	URI	Access_Type
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		Controlled
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		Controlled
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		Controlled
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		Controlled
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		OA_Gold
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		OA_Gold
Journal A	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnA	1111-22222	1111-1223		OA_Gold
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		Controlled
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		Controlled
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		Controlled
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		Controlled
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		OA_Gold
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		OA_Gold
Journal B	Publisher X	Isni=1234123412	PlatformX	/12.1.0.1/1111.2	pubx:jnB	1111-22211	1111-1213		OA_Gold

- Controlled
- Controlled
- Controlled
- Controlled
- OA_Gold
- OA_Gold
- OA_Gold



Access_Type separates usage of gold open access articles from controlled (subscribed) content.

Another point to note:

OA_Gold usage may be incomplete in COUNTER R5 reports.

This is because there is no access control for open access articles, and so will not always know where usage is coming from.



Master Reports and Standard Views

Usage of Gold Open Access articles is **included** in the Title Master Reports.

Usage of Gold Open Access articles is also **included** in some of the Standard Views, e.g. **TR_J3** for journal usage and **TR_B3** for book usage.

This is useful if you want to see what proportion of usage from hybrid journals is from OA_Gold articles and what proportion is from articles funded by subscription.

Master Reports and Standard Views

You may have noticed that some of the Standard Views, such as the **TR_J1** report **exclude** usage of Gold Open Access content.

This is because when evaluating hybrid journals, many librarians prefer to count only the usage of articles funded by subscription.

Scenario 2

Barbara is also interested to know what the total usage was in 2010, and knows much of that usage was for OA Gold

Scenario 1

Camford subscribe to Journal X at a cost of £25,000 in 2019.
Barbara, the librarian, wants to calculate the cost per Unique_Item_Request.

She wants to **exclude** the use of OA_Gold because the costs of OA_Gold are not covered by the subscription.

She runs the **Standard View TR_J1** which **excludes** OA_Gold articles and her calculation is:

**£25,000 ÷ 60,000 Controlled Unique_Item_Requests = £0.42
per Unique_Item_Request**

Scenario 2

Barbara is also interested to know what the total usage was in 2019, and how much of that usage was for OA_Gold articles.

She runs the **Standard View TR_J3**.

This shows:

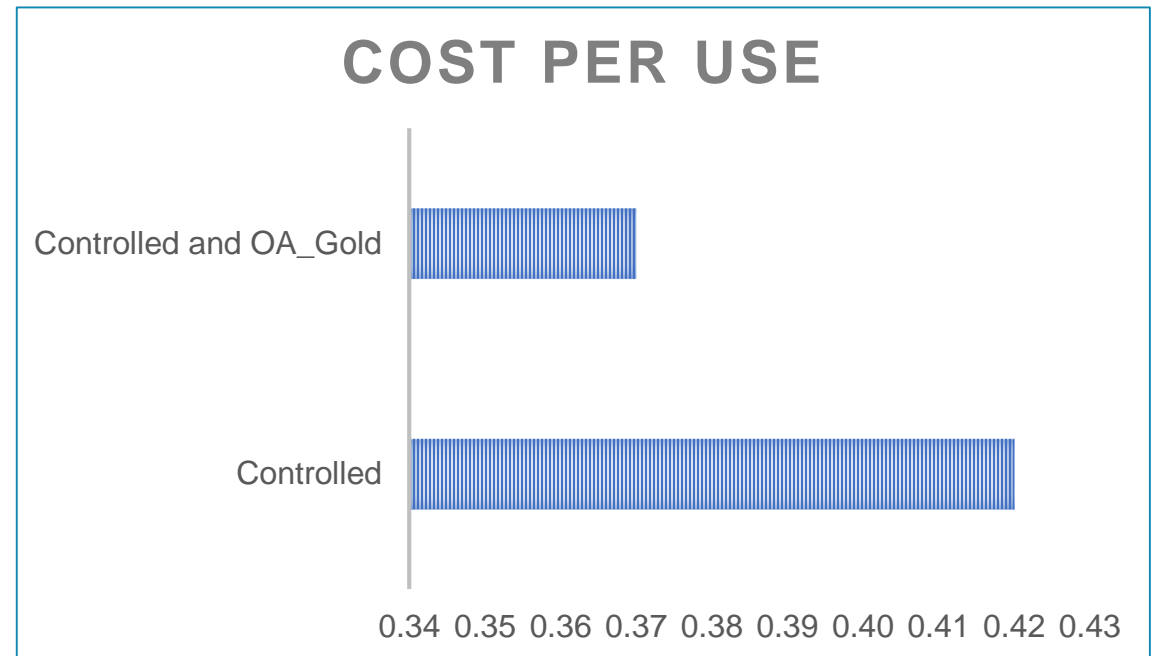
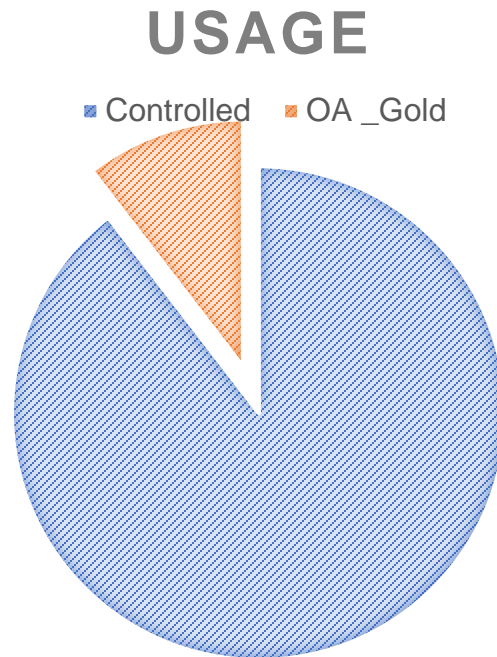
- Access_Type Controlled:
60,000 Unique_Item_Requests
- Access_Type OA_Gold:
7,000 Unique_Item_Requests

Scenario 2

Barbara compares cost per Unique_Item_Request for Controlled only, with the total usage for both Access Types:

- $\text{£}25,000 \div 60,000 \text{ Unique_Item_Requests} = \text{£}0.42$ per Unique_Item_Request
(Controlled access only)
- $\text{£}25,000 \div 67,000 \text{ Unique_Item_Requests} = \text{£}0.37$ per Unique_Item_Request
(Controlled and OA_Gold access)

Barbara might visualise this information using charts and graphs in order to communicate relationship between the use of subscribed content and OA_Gold. For example:



Summary of TR Reports and Access_Types:

* Users would not get a denial of access for OA_Gold content, because it is openly accessible to everyone.

Report ID	Report Name	Access_Type(s) Shown	Access_Type Excluded
TR	A Title Master Report	Controlled and OA_Gold	
TR_J1	Journal Requests	Controlled	OA_Gold
TR_J2	Journal Access Denied	Controlled and OA_Gold*	
TR_J3	Journal Usage by Access Type	Controlled and OA_Gold	
TR_J4	Journal Requests by YOP	Controlled	OA_Gold



Fully Open Access Journals and book platforms

In fully open access journals or book platforms, all content is OA_Gold.

Because there is no access control, publishers of fully open access content will not always know where usage is coming from.

Where it is not possible to identify usage by individual institutions, the usage is attributed to “**The World**”, and this appears in the cell usually used for Institution.

	A	B	C
1	Report_Name	Title Master Report	
2	Report_ID	TR	
3	Release		5
4	Institution_Name	The World	

Looking ahead

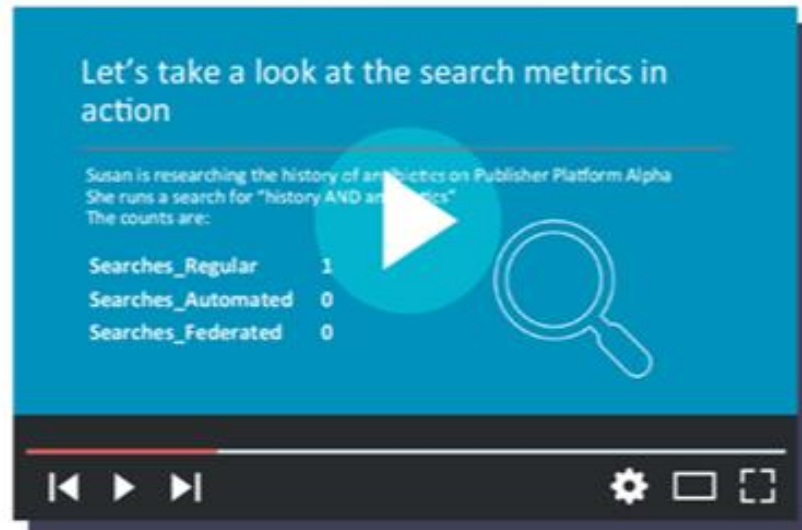


Many librarians have told us that it would be useful to know about the usage of articles that publishers make openly available following an embargo period.

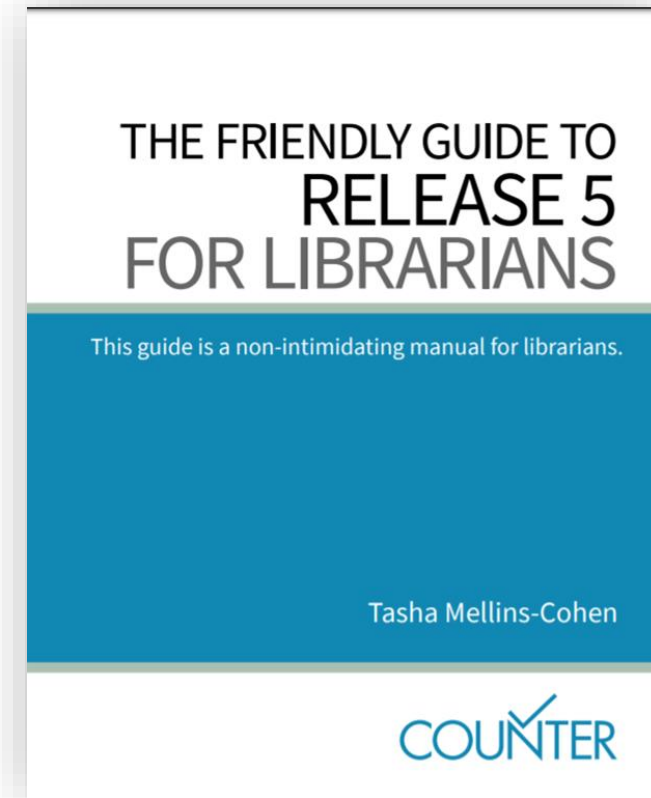
COUNTER is consulting with all of its community about the introduction in Release 5.1 of the Code of Practice, of a metric currently described as OA_Delayed.

Learn More

Visit our COUNTER YouTube Channel where you will find more Foundation Classes and download our Friendly Guide



<https://www.youtube.com/c/COUNTERusage>



https://www.projectcounter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Release_5_Librarians_20191018.pdf