Annual General Meeting

28 MAY 15:00 BST
Minutes

At the last AGM in April 2019 in Telford it was Resolved to:

◦ Accept the minutes of the last AGM held in Glasgow as an accurate record
◦ Accept the Directors’ Report for 2018
◦ Accept the Financial Accounts for 2018
◦ Appoint Heather Staines and Ross MacIntyre as Directors for a further three years
◦ Appoint the firm of A.J.Carter & Co as auditors for 2019
Directors’ Report 2019

Our focus in 2019 was to:
- support content providers to comply with Release 5.
- help librarians to get the most from their COUNTER reports.

Members of our Executive Committee and Technical Advisory Group collaborated throughout the year to provide this support.

These are some of their highlights:
Compliance

Independent COUNTER audits are an important part of compliance with the Code of Practice.

ABC is one of the approved COUNTER auditors and a member.

We were delighted when they authored an online tutorial to help publishers and vendors prepare for audit.

A step-by-step guide in plain language, is a great help to those aiming for compliance for the first time.

https://youtu.be/YQ1XGU nefboU
Bernd Oberknapp from Freiburg University Library has created our Validation Tool.

This is freely available.

It is quick and easy to use.

Users receive a full report on any aspect of a report that fails, so that it can be corrected.

By using the tool as part of their workflow when preparing for a COUNTER audit it will help publishers and vendors reduce costs.

https://stats.redi-bw.de/counter-r5-validation-preview/
Webinars and conference presentations

Irene Barbers from Forschungszentrum Juelich gave a breakout session ‘Using R5 Reports for strategic decision making’ at the UKSG conference, not once but twice!

Elena Zapryanova-Hadjinikolova from Elsevier delivered a Library Connect Webinar.

Peter Vlahakis from JSTOR led an instructional webinar about Release 5.

The Expert Panel at the Charleston Conference was chaired by David Sommer, Athena Hoeppner from University of Central Florida, Sonja Lendi from Elsevier and Kornelia Junge from Wiley shared their amazing knowledge and insights!
Translations

COUNTER is an international standard and we are grateful to the members who have translated our English language guides and tutorials. Huge thanks are due to:

Magaly Bascones for the Spanish-language edition of our Friendly Guide for Librarians:


Réseau canadien de documentation de recherche for the French-language edition of our Friendly Guide for Librarians:
The ‘voice’ of COUNTER

Our Foundation Classes are extremely popular, with all the videos on our Playlist getting many views.

Our thanks go to Tasha Mellins-Cohen, who is the voice of COUNTER on these videos.
Every year we consult with you and your feedback informs our operational plan for the coming year. Our 2019 survey was open between June and July and 78 of you responded. We received some lovely feedback, for example:

The friendly guides and videos to COUNTER have been so helpful. THANK YOU!!!!’

However, some of you made requests and raised some areas of concern and we are working to address them. Here are some of your comments and our planned actions:
Version control

*Your comment:* We would like to see improved version control for the Code of Practice because currently it is difficult to know when and where changes have been made. It would also be helpful for the supporting tools and guides to synchronise with the updates to the Code of Practice, the current inconsistencies are taxing our Release 5 developers.

Point taken – our TAG has developed a planning procedure to ensure everything is published in sync and is developing a change log.
Consortium solutions

*Your comment:* ‘We need a consortial solution for Release 5. Many of our libraries rely on us to provide their usage statistics, as they do not have the capacity themselves.’

We are collaborating with the fantastic CC-PLUS team, which is creating a shareable platform that will enable consortia and member libraries to:

- establish community-based approaches to usage data with global applicability;
- create staffing and cost efficiencies with a flexible, shared infrastructure;
- increase libraries’ analytic capacity with flexible tools;
- support adherence to COUNTER and NISO;
- empower libraries and consortia in making data-informed decisions regarding investments in electronic resources.
R5 Harvester

Under the leadership of Oliver Pesch, EBSCO Information Services took action! The EBSCO team has produced the SUSHI Harvester for Multi-Site Libraries. Its friendly name is the ‘R5 Harvester’.

It is a Microsoft Access tool which will help small to medium sized consortia gather COUNTER reports for their affiliated libraries. It uses COUNTER_SUSHI to simplify harvesting with little more than a click of the mouse.

https://www.projectcounter.org/r5_harvester/
It’s too complicated!!

Your comment: ‘I think R5 is too complicated. All I really want is total downloads by title, and searches by platform. That’s it. The rest is overcomplication that I don’t need.’

Quite a few members made similar comments. Release 5 already provides this simplified overview through the Platform Reports.

You can watch our COUNTER Foundation Class that tells you all about these reports.

https://youtu.be/FYsofM7BvsM
Acceptance of the accounts for Counter Online Metrics 2019
# Counter Online Metrics

Company Limited by Guarantee

**Statement of Income and Retained Earnings**

year ended 31st December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover</td>
<td>125,079</td>
<td>124,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross profit</td>
<td>125,079</td>
<td>124,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>(90,836)</td>
<td>(123,696)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating profit</td>
<td>34,244</td>
<td>17,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit before taxation</td>
<td>34,244</td>
<td>17,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on profit</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income</td>
<td>34,244</td>
<td>17,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings at the start of the year</td>
<td>119,723</td>
<td>102,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings at the end of the year</td>
<td>153,967</td>
<td>119,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.
# Counter Online Metrics

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**31st December 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>219,349</td>
<td>196,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>65,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td>153,967</td>
<td>118,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>153,967</td>
<td>118,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital and reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit and loss account</td>
<td>153,967</td>
<td>118,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members funds</strong></td>
<td>153,967</td>
<td>118,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland”.

For the year ending 31st December 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors’ responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.
Presentation by Jo Lambert

Working with Release 5

A report from the coalface
Reflections

• JUSP team

• R5 implementation by content suppliers

• R5 application and use by libraries

• Special thanks to Karger, Springer and American Physical Society
JUSP content suppliers & R5 compliance

• 55 services / endpoints R5 compliant

• Approx. 40 suppliers R5 available but not compliant

• 6 still providing R4 and scheduled for 2020
Challenges: technical

- COUNTER CoP
  - Updates and revisions
  - Interpretation and application of the CoP
- Managing the transition
- Time & competing priorities
- COUNTER Audit
- Flexibility vs ease of use
Challenges: applying R5

• Mixed economy of R4 & R5 data

• R4 & R5 comparisons

• Communications and reporting

• Time
Opportunities: technical

- Format / process (JSON/ Restful API)
- Validation tool
- Flexibility
Opportunities: application

• Increasing availability of R5 reports

• Increasing familiarity through sustained use

• Increased flexibility

• R5 harvester
Future aspirations

• Continued transition to R5

Evaluating the impact of R5

• Usage of OA content

• Ongoing community support for development of R5
Links

Community call for Counter Release 5 compliance - Wed, 27 Nov 2019

R5 Validation Tool

R5 Harvester

R5 research study
Appointment of Directors
Appointment of Elisabeth Ling for a further three years

Elisabeth has been a Director of COUNTER for three years.

Elisabeth is currently SVP Product Management for Research Products at Elsevier, focused on innovation. She previously lead product management of Web applications such as ScienceDirect and Scopus, as well as Elsevier’s Research product analytics team in charge of Counter compliance.
Appointment of new Director Irene Barbers

Irene is a librarian at the Central Library of Forschungszentrum Jülich in Germany. In her role as Head of Acquisitions, Irene is responsible for Electronic Resource Management and Collection Development. Additionally, she is leading a project funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to establish an Open Access Monitor for Germany to support the transition of the publishing system towards an open access system. Irene is a member of the COUNTER Executive Committee and has contributed to the development of the current release of the Code of Practice. She has been giving talks on Release 5 on various occasions like conferences and webinars.
Appointment of new Director Jo Lambert

Jo is Service Manager for shared analytics services, the Journal Usage Statistics Portal (JUSP) and Institutional Repository Usage Statistics (IRUS-UK) at Jisc, a UK registered charity that champions the use of digital technologies in education and research. Used primarily by Jisc member organisations in the UK, Jo has also supported the extension of JUSP and IRUS by working with organisations internationally.

With a background in information services and project and service management, Jo is interested in working alongside higher and further education communities to develop practical, evidence-based shared analytics projects and services that meet community needs and support organisations in their decision making. Jo is a member of the CC-PLUS Advisory Board, the Usus Supervisory Board and the Advisory Board of the Mellon-funded, Developing a Data Trust for Open Access eBook Usage.
Appointment of new Director Heather Loehr

Heather is the Electronic Resources Librarian and Coordinator of Library Instruction at Hanover College. She serves as Coordinator of the Analytics Administration Team for the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana, providing support for analytics, data gathering, and reporting for a consortium of 24 small private college, university, and seminary libraries. She holds a Master of Library Science from Indiana University – Bloomington.
Appointment of our auditors - A.J. Carter
TIME FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS