COUNTER 5: Usage Statistics for the 21st Century

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Community
The COUNTER Code of Practice

COUNTER
Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources

• COUNTER is a non-profit organization supported by a global community of library, publisher and vendor members. Members contribute to the development of the Code of Practice (COP) through working groups and outreach.

• COUNTER was founded in 2002. COUNTER provides guidance on consistent and credible usage data, reporting, and formats.

• COUNTER Release 4 has been the current Code of Practice since 2014.

• Release 4 is an integrated Code of Practice covering journals, databases, books, reference works and multimedia items.

• COUNTER Release 5 has been published in July 2017 and will become mandatory in January 2019.
Release 5 Scope
The COUNTER Code of Practice 5

• The COUNTER Code of Practice has been developed over more than a decade.

• Over the last 15 years, with the development of new technologies and needs, COP has incorporated more reports, and new formats and metrics types.

• This natural growth has increased complexity, and it has reduced consistency among reports. As a result, compliance has become more difficult for publishers and other content providers and analysis has become more challenging for libraries.

• COUNTER launched a survey about the current usage reports in 2016. Based on survey results from libraries, publishers and other vendors, COUNTER has started working on a new COP focusing on reducing the complexity of the current reports, increasing the focus on consistency and clarity of metric types, reports and report formats.

• The aim of the new Code of Practice is to introduce flexibility that reduces the number of reports while making the COP more adaptable for future changes to requirements.
The COUNTER Code of Practice 5

Consistency

Addressing changing needs and reducing the complexity of the Code of Practice to ensure publishers and content providers are able to achieve compliance.

- Reporting Layout
- Reporting Formats
- Vocabulary & Terminology

Simplicity

Transparency & Flexibility

Clarity
# COUNTER Release 5: Reports

## Consistent Header
- Report Name: Journal Usage by Access Type
- Report ID: TR_19
- Release: 5
- Institution Name: Sample University
- Institution ID: 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: 2/3/18
- Created By: Platform X

## Consistent Vocabulary, Metrics & Attributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Publisher_ID</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>DOI</th>
<th>Proprietary</th>
<th>Print ISSN</th>
<th>Online ISSN</th>
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<th>Access_Type</th>
<th>Metric_Type</th>
<th>Reporting_Period_Total</th>
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<th>Feb-17</th>
<th>Mar-17</th>
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<td>OA_Gold</td>
<td>Total_Item_Investigations</td>
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<td>550000</td>
<td>600000</td>
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<td>Publisher X</td>
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<td>Unique_Item_Requests</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The COUNTER Code of Practice 5

Simplicity

Four Master Reports streamlined for the most common reporting needs for librarians, publishers and content providers.

- Four Master Reports
- Pre-set, Filtered Standard Views
- Fewer Metric Types
- New Item & Usage Attributes
Four Master Reports are the Foundation of COUNTER R5 Reports

- Title Master Report
- Database Master Report
- Platform Master Report
- Item Master Report
The COUNTER Code of Practice 5

Flexibility

Comprehensive reporting attributes empower users to generate necessary drill-down reports with ease.

- Granular Reports with Attributes
- Specific Reporting for Data Needs
- Reduce Redundancy
Access Denials

In Release 5, two types of access denial metrics are tracked.

No_license
- user is unable to retrieve full-text of a unique content because his/her institution does not have a license to the content.

Limit_Exceeded
- user is unable to retrieve full-text of a unique content because his/her institution has exceeded access limits.
Example

Susan is researching the history of antibiotics on Publisher Platform. From a list of search results, she opens three article abstracts and two video records. She intended to view video records, however her institution has not subscribed to the video database, and she is therefore denied access. The counts are:

No_License : 2
Limit_Exceeded : 0

Susan repeats her attempt to access one of the video records five minutes later. The counts are:

No_License : 3
Limit_Exceeded : 0
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Clarity

Using clear and consistent terminology on all metrics types and attributes brings clarity.

• Reducing and renaming metrics types for clarity
• Using consistent metric types across all reports, as applicable
# COUNTER Release 5: Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Name</th>
<th>Journal Access Denied</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Release</td>
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<td>Sample University</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Report Filters</td>
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<td>Report Attributes</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Exceptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting Period</td>
<td>2017-01-01 to 2017-06-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Created</td>
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<tr>
<td>Created By</td>
<td>Platform X</td>
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<th>Report</th>
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<td>PlatformX</td>
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<td></td>
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## Relevant Metric Types

- Limit_Exceeded
- No_License

## Consistent Detailed Information
Reports & Metrics
COUNTER Release 5: Reports

Example of user interface

Title Master Report

Usage Dates: 01/01/2017 12/31/2017

Metric Type: Total_Item_Request

Data Type: Journal

Access Type: Controlled

Access Method: Regular

YOP:

Exclude Monthly Details:

Submit Cancel
SUSHI for COUNTER R5

COUNTER Reports Delivery
COUNTER_SUSHI for Release 5

- RESTful interface returning JSON-formatted reports
- Familiar to most web developers
- Allows retrieval of full reports, or snippets of usage
- Allows usage display to be embedded in other applications
Implementation and Transition Timelines
Transition Timeline

Release 4 Reports, or Release 4 ‘views’ of reports generated out of Release 5 Data

Aug 2017 – Dec 2018
Jan – April 2019
May 2019 - Dec 2020
Jan 2021

mandatory
mandatory
May be retired, if R5 reports cover current year + previous 2 calendar years
Should be retired

Release 5

Aug 2017 – Dec 2018
Jan – April 2019
May 2019 - Dec 2020
Jan 2021

Optional
mandatory
mandatory
mandatory
Class 4

Release 5

Attributes, elements and other slightly techy things

Try our online tutorials which you will find on the COUNTER YouTube channel
Join our email forums
Contact to COUNTER with further questions/requests:
lorraine.estelle@counterusage.org

Additional information:
https://www.projectcounter.org