

# RELEASE 5.0.2

## THE FRIENDLY GUIDE FOR PROVIDERS

This is a non-intimidating straightforward guide for publishers and vendors implementing COUNTER-compliant usage statistics for the first time, or for more experienced hands, implementing new reports or preparing for COUNTER audit.

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The logo for COUNTER, featuring the word "COUNTER" in a blue, sans-serif font. The letter "N" is stylized with a checkmark shape integrated into its top bar.

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# INTRODUCTION

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This guide is a straightforward introduction to the COUNTER Code of Practice, Release 5.0.2, for publishers and other providers. It accompanies Release 5.0.2: Friendly Technical Notes, which provides an overview of implementation and auditing.

Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice is designed to balance changing reporting needs with the need to make things simpler, so that all content providers can achieve compliance and librarians can have usage statistics that are credible, consistent and comparable. For more information, please refer to the full Code of Practice at <https://cop5.projectcounter.org/>.

## WHAT IS COUNTER?

COUNTER stands for **C**ounting **O**nline **U**sage of **N**e**T**worked **E**lectronic **R**esources. Our website is at <http://www.projectcounter.org/>.

COUNTER was one of the first standards organisations established for the modern information environment. It has succeeded in bringing together publishers and librarians to develop and maintain the standard for counting the usage of electronic resources and digital content. It has also ensured that most major publishers and vendors are compliant by providing their library customers around the world with COUNTER usage statistics.

COUNTER publishes the Code of Practice and a register of COUNTER-compliant vendors and publishers. Release 5 of the Code of Practice is subject to continuous maintenance. As Release 5 changes, our Friendly Guides, Manuals, and Foundation Classes will all be updated. To see the full list of changes made in Release 5.0.2, visit the Change Log at <https://github.com/Project-Counter/cop5>.

## WHO USES COUNTER REPORTS?

The COUNTER standard was originally developed to provide a service to librarians and other people who purchase subscriptions to publishers' digital content. Its aim was to allow librarians to easily compare their usage across different publishers' content, and allow them to easily use that information to calculate a cost-per-download for their subscriptions. COUNTER reports were not originally intended to be used by publishers as a way of measuring usage across their client base, but are increasingly being used for that purpose.

**Libraries** use COUNTER reports to:

- Inform renewal decisions or new purchasing decisions based on data about usage and access denials.
- Inform faculty about the value of the library and its resources.
- Understand user behaviour and improve user experiences.

Most major **vendors and publishers** also use COUNTER reports to:

- Provide reliable and consistent usage data to their customers.
- Upsell using COUNTER data about access denials.
- Inform editors and authors about the usage of their publications.

## SCENARIO

Institution Omega purchase two journal subscriptions for 2021: Journal X for £25,000 and Journal Y for £10,000. At the end of the year Omega's librarian, Taylor, runs a Release 5 TR\_J1 report to check the full text usage of each journal, excluding Open Access articles. Journal X is showing 60,000 Unique\_Item\_Requests, compared with just 200 for Journal Y. Taylor therefore tells the Head Librarian that while Journal X is more expensive, it has a better cost-per-download.

The calculation looks like this:

Journal X       $£25,000 / 60,000 = £0.42$

Journal Y       $£10,000 / 200 = £50$

If Omega must choose a journal to cancel, it's likely to be Journal Y.

## HOW IS COUNTER FUNDED AND ORGANISED?

COUNTER is a not-for-profit membership organization, funded by membership fees and sponsorship.

The membership – publishers, vendors and librarians – lead COUNTER. A Board of Directors has oversight of the financial matters and appoints the Executive Committee to oversee the operation. A Project Director, reporting to the Executive Committee, is responsible for the day-to-day management of COUNTER. The publisher, intermediary and librarian communities are all represented on the Board and on the Executive Committee, as well as on the Technical Advisory Board.

If you want to get involved with COUNTER's activities, get in touch with the Project Director by email at [lorraine.estelle@counterusage.org](mailto:lorraine.estelle@counterusage.org).

## HOW DO I BECOME COUNTER COMPLIANT?

- **Select the relevant reports**

There are four 'Master Reports' in Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice, each of which has a set of 'Standard Views'. This Guide will help you select which of the Master Reports and Standard Views are relevant to your platform.

- **Prepare your COUNTER reports**

All Master Reports and Standard Views must be available in two formats:

- In tabular form (e.g. as an Excel spreadsheet)
- As machine-readable JSON data via SUSHI

More detail about report formats can be found in Release 5.0.2: Friendly Technical Notes.

- **Complete the paperwork**

Once you are ready, use the COUNTER Report Validation Tool (available on our website at [projectcounter.org/](http://projectcounter.org/)) to check whether your reports are valid. The results of your test and the Declaration of COUNTER Compliance will be needed for your audit.

We also encourage everyone to become a COUNTER member to support our work. You will find both the Membership Application and the Declaration on the website.

- **Undergo an independent audit**

There are two approved COUNTER auditors—ABC ([abc.org.uk](http://abc.org.uk)) and BPA Worldwide ([bpaww.com](http://bpaww.com)). COUNTER will also accept an audit by any Chartered Accountant (UK), Certified Public Accountant (USA), or their equivalent elsewhere. Once you have selected your auditor, provide them with access to your prepared reports.

- **Tell your customers you are COUNTER-compliant**

Once you have passed your audit, COUNTER will list you on its website and issue you a dated logo stating that you are COUNTER-compliant.

You will need to be audited within 6 months of signing the Declaration of COUNTER Compliance, and annually thereafter. If you are a very small publisher and will find an annual audit particularly difficult, please get in touch with COUNTER's Project Director to discuss permission to be audited every other year.

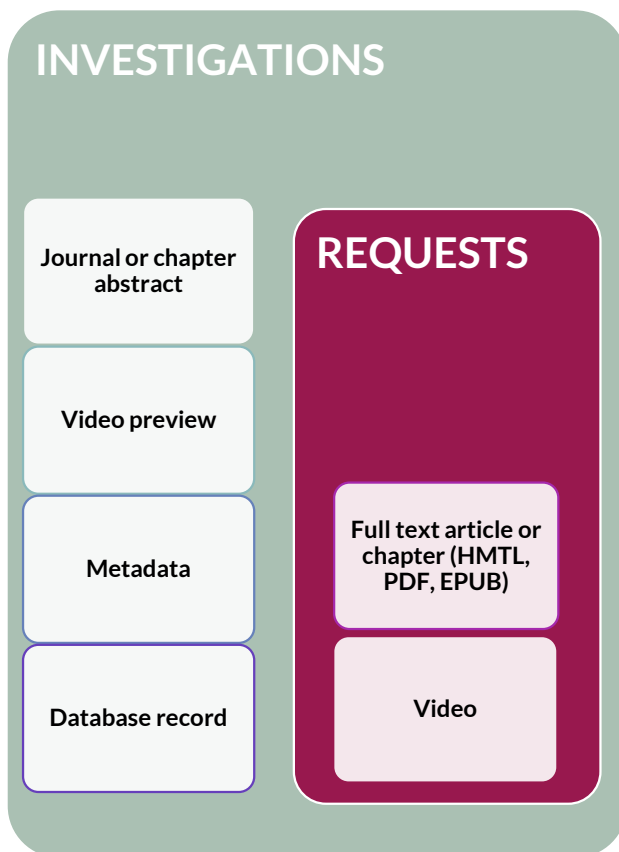


This section of the guide explains the complete list of metric types included in Release 5. There is also a brief summary of the new attributes associated with Release 5, which are designed to provide flexibility and eliminate the need for special reports.

## USAGE

There are six usage metrics in Release 5, which break down into investigations and requests.

An **investigation** is counted when a user performs any action in relation to a content item or title, while a **request** is specifically related to viewing or downloading the full content item (Figure 1). Content items may be journal articles, book chapters, multimedia records, or other items depending on the type of material on the publisher platform.



### Investigations

- 'Total\_Item\_Investigations': the total number of times a content item or information related to a content item was accessed.
- 'Unique\_Item\_Investigations': the number of unique content items (e.g. chapters) investigated by a user.
- 'Unique\_Title\_Investigations': the number of unique book titles investigated by a user.

### Requests

- 'Total\_Item\_Requests': the total number of times the full text of a content item was downloaded or viewed.
- 'Unique\_Item\_Requests': the number of unique content items (e.g. chapters) requested by a user.
- 'Unique\_Title\_Requests': the number of unique book titles requested by a user.

## SCENARIO

Sam is researching the history of antibiotics on Publisher Platform Alpha. From a list of search results they open three article abstracts and a video record. All four records are different, but two of the articles are from the same journal. The counts are:

- Total\_Item\_Investigations: 4
- Unique\_Item\_Investigations: 4
- Unique\_Title\_Investigations: 0
- Total\_Item\_Requests: 0
- Unique\_Item\_Requests: 0
- Unique\_Title\_Requests: 0

After reading the abstracts, Sam downloads the PDFs for two of the articles, both from the same journal. The counts change to:

- Total\_Item\_Investigations: 6 (4 original investigations plus 2 new downloads)
- Unique\_Item\_Investigations: 4
- Unique\_Title\_Investigations: 0
- Total\_Item\_Requests: 2
- Unique\_Item\_Requests: 2
- Unique\_Title\_Requests: 0

From a cost-per download perspective, librarian Taylor should count the two Unique\_Item\_Requests, representing the full text article downloads.

## ACCESS DENIALS

Access denials are sometimes known as turnaways. Two types of access denial metric are tracked in Release 5:

- 'No\_License': counted where a user is unable to access a unique content item because their institution does not have a license to the content.
- 'Limit\_Exceeded': counted where a user is unable to access a unique content item because their institution's cap on the number of simultaneous users has been exceeded.

No\_License and Limit\_Exceeded apply when a user has successfully investigated an item, but has not been or would not be able to complete a request.

## SCENARIO

Sam continues their research. From a list of search results, they open three article abstracts and two video records. Their institution has not subscribed to the video database and are denied access. The counts are:

- Total\_Item\_Investigations: 5
- Unique\_Item\_Investigations: 5
- No\_License: 2
- Limit\_Exceeded: 0

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

- Total\_Item\_Investigations: 6
- Unique\_Item\_Investigations: 5
- No\_License: 3
- Limit\_Exceeded: 0

High No\_License counts may suggest to Taylor that they should investigate the costs of subscribing to the video database.

Sam repeats their search on Publisher Platform Beta. From a list of search results, they open three article abstracts and two video records. Their institution has a concurrency-limited subscription to the video database, and Sam's usage exceeds that cap. The counts are:

- Total\_Item\_Investigations: 5
- Unique\_Item\_Investigations: 5
- No\_License: 0
- Limit\_Exceeded: 2

High Limit\_Exceeded counts could indicate increased user demand and may suggest to Taylor that they should investigate the costs of increasing the concurrency cap for the video database.

## SEARCHES

There are four search metrics in Release 5:

- 'Searches\_Regular': the number of times a user searches a database, where there is only one database available to search OR they have the option to choose from a selection of databases.
- 'Searches\_Automated': the number of times a user searches a set of databases, where there are multiple databases available but the user cannot choose to limit their search to a subset of those databases.
- 'Searches\_Platform': the number of times a user searches on a platform, regardless of the number of databases involved in the search.
- 'Searches\_Federated': the number of times a search is run remotely through an API.



## SCENARIO

Sam is researching the history of antibiotics on Publisher Platform Alpha, which incorporates multiple databases that do not permit user selection. They run a search for “history AND antibiotics”. The counts are:

- Searches\_Regular: 0
- Searches\_Automated: 1
- Searches\_Platform: 1
- Searches\_Federated: 0

For a database like this, the cost per use calculation may be more dependent on searches than on full text downloads – this is dependent on library practice.

Sam continues their research on Publisher Platform Beta, which includes multiple databases that do allow user selection. They run a search for “history AND antibiotics”. The counts are:

- Searches\_Regular: 1
- Searches\_Automated: 0
- Searches\_Platform: 1
- Searches\_Federated: 0

In a separate session, Sam uses an API to search Publisher Platform Beta. The count for that activity is:

- Searches\_Regular: 0
- Searches\_Automated: 0
- Searches\_Platform: 0
- Searches\_Federated: 1

# MASTER REPORTS & STANDARD VIEWS

Release 5 of the of the COUNTER Code of Practice includes four Master Reports:



Which of the Master Reports you need to provide will depend on your Host Type. Master Reports cover a wide spectrum of activities, so for ease of use each of the Master Reports has one or more pre-set Standard Views which summarise particular types of activity, such as usage or access denials. While you can filter a Master Report to show a Standard View (or a custom view to suit your needs), Standard Views only hold a subset of the information from a Master Report; it is therefore not possible to 'unfilter' a Standard View to obtain its parent Master Report.

Each Master Report includes a complete set of COUNTER metrics (discussed in the next section), supplemented with a variety of attributes. There are details of the Master Reports and their Standard Views later in this guide.

## REPORT HEADERS

The tabular versions of Release 5 reports have a common format, per the table below. It is important to stick to this common report header format, as anything else will not be COUNTER-compliant.

Label	Value
Report_Name	Name of the report
Report_ID	Identifier of the report
Release	5.0.2
Institution_Name	Name of the institution to which usage is attributed
Institution_ID	Identifier(s) for the institution to which usage is attributed
Metric_Types	Semicolon-space delimited list of metric types included in the report
Report_Filters	Semicolon-space delimited list of filters applied to the data to generate the report
Report_Attributes	Semicolon-space delimited list of attributes applied to the data to generate the report
Exceptions	Any exceptions that occurred in generating the report
Reporting_Period	Date range covered by the report
Created	Date the report was run
Created_By	Name of organization or system that generated the report
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# PLATFORM REPORTS

All publishers and vendors must provide a Platform Master Report (PR) showing activity across all metrics for entire platforms. There is one Standard View for the PR.

Identifier	Name	Description
PR_P1	Platform Usage	A Standard View of PR showing total and unique item requests, as well as platform searches

For the purposes of PR\_P1, the PR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Metric\_Type: Searches\_Platform; Total\_Item\_Requests; Unique\_Item\_Requests

## PR FILTERS

PR can be filtered as described in the table below.

Filter / attribute	Description
Access_Method	All, or one or more of the Access_Methods applicable to the platform
Data_Type	All, or one or more of the Data_Types applicable to the platform
Metric_Type	All, or one or more of the Metric_Types applicable to the platform
exclude_monthly_details	True or False. Show the Reporting_Period_Total column without month-by-month breakdowns

## WHAT DOES A PR LOOK LIKE?

PR is a compact report, only five columns across (Platform, Data\_Type, Access\_Method, Metric\_Type, and Reporting\_Period\_Total) plus monthly breakdowns. Every metric type should be included, but for the purposes of this guide only a subset is shown.

A PR has been generated for Publisher Platform Alpha covering the period from 01 January to 30 June 2021 for Sample University, based on the scenario below. A copy of this report can be found in [Appendix H of the Code of Practice](#) and a simplified version is presented here.

### SCENARIO

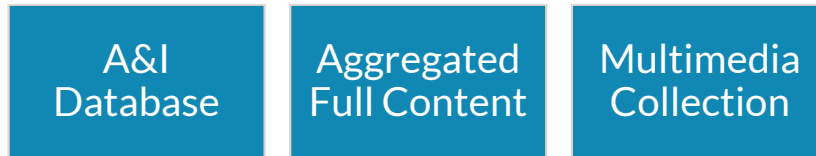
Users from Sample University have investigated a series of journal and book items but have not attempted to access any full text. This means that while there are 15 investigations in total, of 11 unique items, there are no requests in the report. Users have also been denied access to a database on three occasions during the report period.

## EXAMPLE PLATFORM MASTER REPORT

Label	Value				
Report_Name	Platform Master Report				
Report_ID	PR				
Release	5.0.2				
Institution_Name	Sample University				
Institution_ID	ror=01jktjc68				
Metric_Types	Total_Item_Investigations; Unique_Item_Investigations; No_License				
Report_Filters	Access_Method=Regular				
Report_Attributes					
Exceptions					
Reporting_Period	2021-01-01 to 2021-06-30				
Created	2021-07-25				
Created_By	Publisher Alpha				
Platform	Data_Type	Access_Type	Access_Method	Metric_Type	Reporting_Period_Total
PPA	Journal	Controlled	Regular	Total_Item_Investigations	10
PPA	Journal	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Item_Investigations	6
PPA	Book	Controlled	Regular	Total_Item_Investigations	5
PPA	Book	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Item_Investigations	5
PPA	Book	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Title_Investigations	2
PPA	Database	Controlled	Regular	No_License	3

# DATABASE REPORTS

Three Host Types are required to provide a Database Master Report (DR):



DR shows activity across all metrics for entire databases or fixed collections of content which behave like a database. There are two Standard Views for the DR.

Identifier	Name	Description
DR_D1	Database Search and Item Usage	A Standard View of DR showing total item investigations and requests, as well as searches
DR_D2	Database Access Denied	A Standard View of DR showing where users were denied access because simultaneous use (concurrency) licenses were exceeded, or their institution did not have a license for the database

For the purposes of DR\_D1, the DR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Metric\_Type: Searches\_Automated; Searches\_Federated; Searches\_Regular; Total\_Item\_Investigations; Total\_Item\_Requests

For the purposes of DR\_D2, the DR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Metric\_Type: Limit\_Exceeded; No\_License

## DR FILTERS

DR can be filtered as described in the table below.

Filter / attribute	Description
Access_Method	All, or one or more of the Access_Methods applicable to the database
Data_Type	All, or one or more of the Data_Types applicable to the database
Metric_Type	All, or one or more of the Metric_Types applicable to the database
exclude_monthly_details	True or False. Show the Reporting_Period_Total column without month-by-month breakdowns

## WHAT DOES A DR LOOK LIKE?

DRs are more detailed than PRs, with nine columns plus monthly breakdowns. In addition to the columns in PR (Platform, Data\_Type, Access\_Method, Metric\_Type, and Reporting\_Period\_Total), DR shows the database name within the platform and the publisher details.

Again, every metric type should be included, but for the purposes of this guide only a subset is shown in the example. Note that A&I Databases will only ever report Investigations, as the Request for full text access by definition will occur on a separate platform.

A DR has been generated for the Multimedia database on Publisher Platform Alpha covering the period from 01 January to 30 June 2021 for Sample University, based on the scenario below. A copy of this report can be found in [Appendix H of the Code of Practice](#) and a simplified version is presented here.

## SCENARIO

Users from Sample University have investigated eight items in the Multimedia database, and requested the full record for three of those items. There is also a record of one search of the database during the report period.

## EXAMPLE DATABASE MASTER REPORT

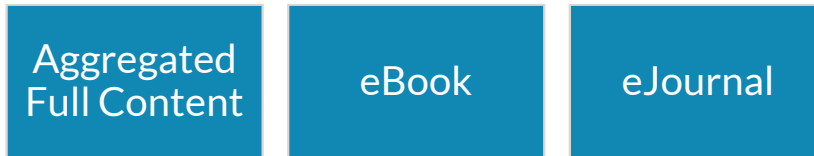
Label	Value
Report_Name	Database Master Report
Report_ID	PR
Release	5.0.2
Institution_Name	Sample University
Institution_ID	ror=01jktjc68
Metric_Types	
Report_Filters	Access_Method=Regular
Report_Attributes	
Exceptions	
Reporting_Period	2021-01-01 to 2021-06-30
Created	2021-07-25
Created_By	Publisher Alpha

Database	Publisher	Publisher_ID	Platform	Proprietary_ID	Data_Type	YOP	Access_Type	Access_Method	Metric_Type	Reporting_Period_Total
Multimedia	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	Database	2020	Controlled	Regular	Total_Item_Investigations	8
Multimedia	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	Database	2020	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Item_Investigations	8
Multimedia	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	Database	2020	Controlled	Regular	Total_Item_Requests	3
Multimedia	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	Database	2020	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Item_Requests	3
Multimedia	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	Database	2020	Controlled	Regular	Searches_Regular	1

# TITLE REPORTS

Three Host Types provide a Title Master Report (TR):



TR shows activity across all metrics for entire titles, which may be individual ebooks or journal titles. The TR can be filtered according to user needs and has seven Standard Views that apply to different Host Types. An Aggregated Full Content host must provide all seven Standard Views, an eJournal host provides only those for journals, and an eBook host provides only those for books.

## TR STANDARD VIEWS FOR BOOKS

Identifier	Name	Description
TR_B1	Book Requests (Excluding OA_Gold)	A book Standard View of TR showing full text activity for all content which is not Gold Open Access Numbers between sites will vary based on whether the content is delivered as a complete book or by chapter
TR_B2	Book Access Denied	A book Standard View of TR showing where users were denied access because simultaneous use (concurrency) licenses were exceeded, or their institution did not have a license for the database
TR_B3	Book Usage by Access Type	A book Standard View of TR showing all applicable metric types broken down by Access_Type

For the purposes of TR\_B1, the TR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Access\_Type: Controlled
- Data\_Type: Book
- Metric\_Type: Total\_Item\_Requests; Unique\_Item\_Requests

For the purposes of TR\_B2, the TR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Data\_Type: Book
- Metric\_Type: Limit\_Exceeded; No\_License

For the purposes of TR\_B3, the TR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Data\_Type: Book
- Metric\_Type: Total\_Item\_Investigations; Total\_Item\_Requests; Unique\_Item\_Investigations; Unique\_Item\_Requests; Unique\_Title\_Investigations; Unique\_Title\_Requests



## TR STANDARD VIEWS FOR JOURNALS

Identifier	Name	Description
TR_J1	Journal Requests (Excluding OA_Gold)	A journal Standard View of TR showing full text activity for all content which is not Gold Open Access
TR_J2	Journal Access Denied	A journal Standard View of TR showing where users were denied access because simultaneous use (concurrency) licenses were exceeded, or their institution did not have a license for the database
TR_J3	Journal Usage by Access Type	A journal Standard View of TR showing all applicable metric types broken down by Access_Type
TR_J4	Journal Requests by YOP (Excluding OA_Gold)	A journal Standard View of TR showing full text activity for all content which is not Gold Open Access by year of publication (YOP)

For the purposes of both TR\_J1 and TR\_J4, the TR is pre-filtered as follows:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Access\_Type: Controlled
- Data\_Type: Journal
- Metric\_Type: Total\_Item\_Requests; Unique\_Item\_Requests

For the purposes of TR\_J2, the TR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Data\_Type: Journal
- Metric\_Type: Limit\_Exceeded; No\_License

For the purposes of TR\_J3, the TR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Data\_Type: Journal
- Metric\_Type: Total\_Item\_Investigations; Total\_Item\_Requests; Unique\_Item\_Investigations; Unique\_Item\_Requests

## TR FILTERS

TR has additional filters in addition those which apply to all of the Master Reports, and can be filtered as described in the table below.

Filter / attribute	Description
Access_Method	All, or one or more of the Access_Methods applicable to the title
Access_Type	All, or one or more of the Access_Types applicable to the title
Data_Type	All, or one or more of the Data_Types applicable to the title
Metric_Type	All, or one or more of the Metric_Types applicable to the title
Section_Type	All, or one or more of the Section_Types applicable to the title
YOP	All years, a specific year, or a range of years
exclude_monthly_details	True or False. Show the Reporting_Period_Total column without month-by-month breakdowns

## SCENARIO

Taylor wants to assess the usage from Journal X. They would like to know what the total usage is, and how much of that usage is for OA\_Gold articles. They download the Title Master Report (TR). This shows:

- Access\_Type: Controlled / Unique\_Item\_Requests: 49
- Access\_Type: OA\_Gold / Unique\_Item\_Requests: 18

Taylor then filters the TR using the YOP (Year of Publication) column, to eliminate the current year and show only articles in the perpetual access backfiles. The TR shows:

- Access\_Type: Controlled / Unique\_Item\_Requests: 18
- Access\_Type: OA\_Gold / Unique\_Item\_Requests: 3

## WHAT DOES A TR LOOK LIKE?

TRs are highly detailed and therefore quite lengthy. As well as the core information from the PR (Platform, Data\_Type, Access\_Method, Metric\_Type, and Reporting\_Period\_Total), TR shows the title name and identifiers, the publisher details, Access\_Type, Section\_Type, and the year of publication (YOP), for a total of 17 columns plus monthly breakdowns.

A TR has been generated for Journal Six on Publisher Platform Alpha covering the period from 01 January to 30 June 2021 for Sample University, based on the scenario below. A copy of this report can be found in [Appendix H of the Code of Practice](#) and a simplified version is presented here showing only limited metric types.

## SCENARIO

Users from Sample University have users from Sample University have investigated 80 articles within Journal Six, and requested the full text for 12 of those articles.

## EXAMPLE TITLE MASTER REPORT

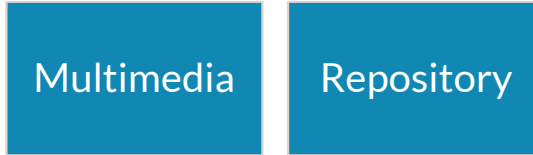
Label	Value
Report_Name	Title Master Report
Report_ID	PR
Release	5.0.2
Institution_Name	Sample University
Institution_ID	ror=01jktjc68
Metric_Types	
Report_Filters	Access_Method=Regular
Report_Attributes	
Exceptions	
Reporting_Period	2021-01-01 to 2021-06-30
Created	2021-07-25
Created_By	Publisher Alpha

Title	Publisher	Publisher_ID	Platform	Proprietary_ID	eISSN	Data_Type	Section_Type	YOP	Access_Type	Access_Method	Metric_Type	Reporting_Period_Total
Journal Six	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	123456789X	Journal	Article	2020	Controlled	Regular	Total_Item_Investigations	101
Journal Six	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	123456789X	Journal	Article	2020	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Item_Investigations	80
Journal Six	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	123456789X	Journal	Article	2020	Controlled	Regular	Total_Item_Requests	12
Journal Six	Publisher Alpha	1234_alp	PPA	ahofdigsb	123456789X	Journal	Article	2020	Controlled	Regular	Unique_Item_Requests	10

# ITEM REPORTS

Two Host Types are required to provide an Item Master Report (IR):



IR shows activity across all metrics for single items, such as articles or videos. IR can be filtered according to user needs, and has two Standard Views:

Identifier	Name	Description
IR_A1	Journal Article Requests	A Standard View of IR showing total item requests for journal articles in a repository
IR_M1	Multimedia Item Requests	A Standard View of IR showing total item requests for multimedia items

For the purposes of IR\_A1, the IR is pre-filtered using the following specification:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Data\_Type: Journal PLUS Section\_Type: Article  
OR  
Data\_Type: Article
- Metric\_Type: Total\_Item\_Requests

For the purposes of IR\_M1, the IR is pre-filtered as follows:

- Access\_Method: Regular
- Data\_Type: Multimedia
- Metric\_Type: Total\_Item\_Requests

## IR FILTERS

IR has additional filters in addition to those which apply to all of the Master Reports, and can be set to include component details as described in the table below.

Filter / attribute	Description
Access_Method	All, or one or more of the Access_Methods applicable to the title
Access_Type	All, or one or more of the Access_Types applicable to the title
Data_Type	All, or one or more of the Data_Types applicable to the title
Metric_Type	All, or one or more of the Metric_Types applicable to the title
YOP	All years, a specific year, or a range of years
exclude_monthly_details	True or False. Show the Reporting_Period_Total column without month-by-month breakdowns
include_component_details	True or False. Show the sub-units of the item

## WHAT DOES AN IR LOOK LIKE?

An IR contains so much detail that it is not possible to show an example report here; visit [Appendix H of the Code of Practice](#) to see an example. The column heads associated with an IR cover the item itself, its parent, and its component parts, and appear in the IR in this order:

Item	Parent_DOI	Component_Title
Publisher	Parent_Proprietary_ID	Component_Authors
Publisher_ID	Parent_ISBN	Component_Data_Type
Platform	Parent_Print_ISSN	Component_DOI
Authors	Parent_Online_ISSN	Component_Proprietary_ID
Publication_Date	Parent_URI	Component_ISBN
Article_Version	Component_Title	Component_Print_ISSN
DOI	Component_Authors	Component_Online_ISSN
Proprietary_ID	Component_Publication_Date	Component_URI
ISBN	Component_Data_Type	Data_Type
Print_ISSN	Component_DOI	Section_Type
Online_ISSN	Component_Proprietary_ID	YOP
URI	Component_ISBN	Access_Type
Parent_Title	Component_Print_ISSN	Access_Method
Parent_Authors	Parent_Print_ISSN	Metric_Type
Parent_Publication_Date	Parent_Online_ISSN	Reporting_Period_Total
Parent_Article_Version	Parent_URI	Mmm-yyyy
Parent_Data_Type		

# ATTRIBUTES, ELEMENTS & OTHER (slightly) TECHY THINGS

Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice has added a series of elements and attributes to our longer-standing metrics. These help to provide much more granular information in an organized way, as well as letting the COUNTER team maintain and amend the Code of Practice over time.

## HOST TYPE

Your Host Type determines which of the Master Reports you need to produce. A single platform might fit multiple Host Types; if you aren't sure what your Host Type is, please send a question to the COUNTER team through our website or email [lorraine.estelle@counterusage.org](mailto:lorraine.estelle@counterusage.org).

Host type	Description
A&I Database	Databases containing Abstract and Index information but no full text
Aggregated Full Content	Aggregated pre-set databases of full text and other content where content is accessed in the context of the licensed database
Data Repository	Access to data rather than full text content; includes subject repositories, institution, department, etc.
Discovery Service	A central index of article, book and other metadata
eBook Collection	Book content provided as fixed collections that behave like databases
eBook	Book content provided as individual titles or packages
eJournal	Serial content as individual titles or packages.
Full Content Database	Non-aggregated databases of full text content
Multimedia Collection	Audio, video or other multimedia content as fixed collections that behave like databases
Multimedia Repository	Audio, video or other multimedia content as individual items
Scholarly Collaboration Network	Provides access to an institution's research output; includes subject repositories, institution, department, etc.
	A service used by researchers to share information about their work

## ATTRIBUTE: DATA\_TYPE

Data\_Type is used to group content at the level of the Title. Depending on your Host Type, you will need to apply different Data\_Types.

- **Article:** an individual content object, usually published as part of a journal or reference work
- **Book Segment:** a book segment (e.g. chapter, section label, etc.).
- **Book:** a monograph text
- **Database:** a fixed database where content is searched and accessed in the context of the database
- **Dataset:** a data set
- **Journal:** textual content published serially as a journal or magazine
- **Multimedia:** multimedia content, such as audio, images, or video

- **Newspaper or Newsletter:** textual content published serially in a newspaper or newsletter
- **Platform:** the “Title” of the item being reported on is a content platform and may reflect usage from multiple data types
- **Report:** a report (e.g. a policy report)
- **Repository Item:** generic classification used for items stored in a repository
- **Thesis or Dissertation:** a dissertation or thesis
- **Other:** the content item cannot be classified by any of the other data types

### ATTRIBUTE: SECTION\_TYPE

Some Data\_Types are delivered in small sub-units, which is where Section\_Type comes in. You’ll note that some Section\_Types also appear in the Data\_Types list in their own right.

- **Article:** a sub-unit of Data\_Types Journal and Book
- **Book:** a sub-unit of Data\_Types Platform and Database
- **Chapter:** a sub-unit of Data\_Types Book and Book Segment
- **Section:** a sub-unit of Data\_Types Book and Book Segment
- **Other:** content delivered in sections that are not otherwise represented on the list

### ATTRIBUTE: ACCESS\_TYPE

Access\_Type allows us to determine whether content was Open Access or not. For the Host Types eBook, eJournal, Multimedia and Repository, only two Access\_Types are needed:

- **OA\_Gold:** content available under a Gold Open Access license from the point of publication
- **Controlled:** everything which is not OA\_Gold

The Repository Host Type also needs to provide a third Access\_Type:

- **Other\_Free\_To\_Read:** content which is not OA\_Gold, but which is freely available to read without a license

## SCENARIO

Sam is researching the history of antibiotics on Publisher Platform Alpha. From a list of search results, they open three article abstracts and a video record. The relevant Data\_Types and Section\_Types are:

- Data\_Type: Journal
- Section\_Type: Article
- Data\_Type: Multimedia

None of the articles is OA\_Gold, but one was freely available as part of a marketing drive. The relevant Access\_Type is:

- Access\_Type: Controlled

Sam then selects a new article from the search results list, from a Gold OA journal.

- Access\_Type: OA\_Gold

## ATTRIBUTE: ACCESS\_METHOD

Access\_Method applies when a Host allows Text and Data Mining (TDM) of their content, and is able to distinguish TDM activity from all other activity, for example because they have a specific TDM API. The valid Access\_Method attributes are:

- **Regular:** all activity which is not TDM
- **TDM:** text and data mining activity

## ATTRIBUTE: YOP

YOP stands for Year of Publication: the four-digit year in which the Version of Record was published. Where the YOP is undefined:

- Use "9999" for in press articles
- Use "0001" for content with an unknown YOP



# PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

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This section walks through a scenario and uses the information to put together a set of COUNTER Release 5 reports.

## ABOUT THE PLATFORM

Publisher Platform Alpha (PPA) hosts a combination of materials: 100 full text journals, 750 full text books, and a multimedia database. This means that PPA falls under several Host Types: Aggregated Full Content, eBooks, eJournals, and Multimedia Collection.

Given the Host Types, we know that PPA needs to provide all four of the Master Reports and all of the Standard Views.

## ABOUT THE SUBSCRIBING INSTITUTION

Institution Omega subscribes to the entire journals list on PPA, as well as the multimedia database. They do not subscribe to the books list.

## SCENARIO: SAM'S ACTIVITY

Sam is researching the history of antibiotics on PPA. They run a search across the entire platform. They do not limit her search to the multimedia database.

From the list of search results, Sam opens the following items:

- 2 article abstracts from Journal of Antibiotics are Fun
- 1 article abstract from Journal of Medical Historical Trivia
- 1 video from the multimedia database
- 1 chapter abstract from The Big Book of Medical Marvels
- 1 book abstract of A Medical History Reference

This activity triggers a whole series of investigation metrics, as well as some access denials. Note that because Sam's institution has no license to access book content, Release 5 counts two access denials even though they have only attempted to access the abstracts at this point.

After reading the abstracts, Sam triggers additional investigation and access denial metrics, as well as some request metrics, by:

- Downloading 2 article full-text PDFs from Journal of Antibiotics are Fun
- Watching 1 video from the multimedia database
- Attempting to download 1 chapter PDF from The Big Book of Medical Marvels

Note that Sam's attempt to download a chapter from The Big Book of Medical Marvels counts as an investigation but does not count as a request. This is because her institution has not licensed books, and therefore her access is denied.

## IN SUMMARY

Collecting all this together, Sam's session on PPA results in a whole series of metrics which will be available to Institution Omega's librarian, Taylor, through all four Master Reports, plus a selection of Standard Views:

- Platform Master Report (PR) and Platform Usage (PR\_P1)
- Database Master Report (DR) and Database Search and Item Usage (DR\_D1)
- Title Master Report (TR), Book Access Denied (TR\_B2) and Journal Usage by Access Type (TR\_J3)
- Item Master Report (IR) and Multimedia Item Requests (IR\_M1)



### Search activity

- 1 Searches\_Platform
- 1 Searches\_Regular

### View activity

- 6 Total\_Item\_Investigations
- 6 Unique\_Item\_Investigations
- 2 Unique\_Title\_Investigations
- 2 No\_License



### Download/Watch activity

- 4 Total\_Item\_Investigations
- 3 Total\_Item\_Requests
- 3 Unique\_Item\_Requests
- 2 No\_License

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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After two decades in scholarly publishing Tasha is now an independent publishing consultant. Having worked with society and commercial publishers she has a deep appreciation for the changing pressures on publishers, funders, researchers and research institutions and uses that to partner with publishers to develop data-driven business models that will allow them to achieve a sustainable transition to Open Access.

She is an active participant in the scholarly publishing community as a member of the COUNTER Executive Committee, and regularly volunteers time to Jisc, UKSG, OASPA, and other industry bodies. She can be found on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com/in/tashamc](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tashamc).



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