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International Dateline -- JUSP: the UK Journal Usage Statistics Portal

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It is understandable that librarians’ joy at receiving growing quantities of reliable usage statistics in the form of COUNTER reports from an increasing number of vendors may be tempered by a certain feeling of trepidation at the volume of data that this involves. Librarians are not, on the whole, statisticians and must have limited time to devote to the collection, consolidation and analysis of usage data. NISO and COUNTER have developed the SUSHI protocol to enable the automated collection and consolidation of the COUNTER usage reports. JISC (the UK Joint Information Systems Committee) has taken this further with the development of the Journal Usage Statistics Portal (JUSP).

JUSP provides a “one-stop-shop” in the UK for participating libraries to view, download and analyse their usage reports from publishers that participate in NESLi2, the UK national initiative for licensing online journals on behalf of the higher/further education and research communities. JUSP is designed to provide these libraries with a cost-effective and time-saving service.

**JUSP Benefits**

JUSP aims to support UK academic libraries in managing use of their e-journal collections. It provides a single point of access for libraries to view and download their journal usage reports from multiple publishers and provides the data they need to analyse journal usage and to assist evaluation and decision-making. JUSP benefits participating libraries by enabling them to:

- Collect COUNTER-compliant usage data and to generate reports.
- View all titles with high usage.
- Analyse trends and usage over time.
- Complete annual SCONUL returns for titles provided by NESLi2 publishers.
- Separate journal backfiles from current collections.
- Include usage data from intermediaries and hosts.
- Compare usage of different NESLi2 deals.

Participating publishers also benefit from JUSP. The portal makes the delivery and analysis of usage statistics to customers more efficient and the aggregated usage data from publishers and gateways provides a more complete picture of overall use.

**Participants in JUSP**

The portal is being developed by a consortium in the UK involving JISC Collections, Mimas at the University of Manchester, Evidence Base at Birmingham City University and Cranfield University. This is a team that brings together expertise in working with libraries and publishers, and the technical expertise to develop the database and to implement the SUSHI protocol.

Over 100 higher education libraries in the UK are now signed up to JUSP — the Journal Usage Statistics Portal and as of September 2011, 14 publishers have signed agreements with JUSP. This includes most of the major “big deal” publishers and negotiations are ongoing with a number of others. In addition, the three main intermediary and gateway services are also participating in JUSP.

JUSP offers a number of other tables and reports. These include:

- Usage through gateway and intermediary services.
- Usage of current deals and backfile collections shown separately.
- Top 100 titles from one publisher or across all publishers.
- Title or ISSN search.
- Keyword search.
- Trends over time.

See Table 1 below for a list of the reports that JUSP can currently provide.

**Table 1: Current JUSP Usage Reports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUSP report type</th>
<th>JUSP report title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Journal level reports</strong></td>
<td>Journal Report 1 and Journal Report 1a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal Report 1, including usage from intermediaries and gateways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal Report 1 excluding backfile usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary reports</strong></td>
<td>SCONUL return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary of publisher usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary use of gateway and host intermediaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary use of backfiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tables and graphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Titles with highest use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Experimental reports</strong></td>
<td>Additional figures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NESLi2 deals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Titles vs NESLi2 deals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual journal search and usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benchmarking</strong></td>
<td>Breakdown of publisher usage (title and year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calendar year and academic year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a community resource, JUSP wants to ensure that the reports produced meet the needs of the member libraries, and the aim is to respond quickly wherever possible to suggestions made. Close links have been built up with the contacts in JUSP libraries, and user feedback is collected in a number of ways. Further enhancements planned with community support include an administration area where libraries can add details of their subscribed titles within a deal, and more work on identifying titles within each particular deal where the JR1 may include titles not available.

Feedback from member libraries has been extremely positive. Features particularly appreciated are:

- Single point of access to data with no need to visit individual publisher sites.
- Automation provided by SUSHI offers time-saving benefits.
- Report comparisons across publishers, years, and platforms.

continued on page 95
Sharing Ideas and Knowledge

Many of the issues JUSP is dealing with affect libraries wherever they are. The JUSP team is keen to share ideas and experience. Sharing knowledge enables the team to pass on things they have learned and avoids others having to replicate work already done. For instance, we’ve had enquiries and requests for support following our experience of developing SUSHI clients. We aim to make the outputs of our work openly available including a free, open-source SUSHI client.

By taking away the hard work associated with gathering usage data, the aim of JUSP is to allow libraries more time to concentrate on the actual analysis. JUSP continues to consult with libraries to inform development of the service, and through discussions the team aims to develop tutorials about ways of analyzing journal usage based on the reports in JUSP.

Further information on JUSP is available on the Website (www.jusp.mimas.ac.uk). Anyone wishing to look at the type of reports produced is welcome to email the helpdesk <jusp@mimas.ac.uk> for a password to view data for a “dummy institution.” Any enquiries are most welcome. For further information contact Jo Lambert at Mimas <jo.lambert@manchester.ac.uk> or Angela Conyers at Evidence Base <angela.conyers@bcu.ac.uk>.

Further Reading:


Oregon Trails from page 93

No more personnel issues to keep me awake at night. The transition to a life of leisure, but not sloth, has been as smooth as a baby’s bottom but with no diapers to change.

Long walks and gardening promote good health and peace of mind, and my books, family notwithstanding, provide companionship, adventure, and exercise for the mind. I have everything that I need, even time, although that is the great unknown and the commodity that, while seemingly infinite, is strictly limited. My only goal in retirement is to make the most of the time that is left to me. To think and act otherwise would be a sin.

Time with family, time with music, time with writing, and time with reading. But what to read? My personal library alone could sustain me for quite a while. I have access to a public library, a university library, and several book stores, new and second-hand. The problem is not a lack of books, but an overabundance of books. So again, what to read?

But that is another story. So if the stock market doesn’t totally collapse and the political debates don’t drive me insane, I will tell you about my reading lists the next time we meet.

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