2014

Standards Column -- COUNTER Online Metrics

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Usus

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Recommended Citation

Shepherd, Peter T. and Osterman, Anne (2014) "Standards Column -- COUNTER Online Metrics," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 26: Iss. 5, Article 58.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6892>

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Standards Column — COUNTER Online Metrics

Usus — A New Community Website on Usage

by **Peter T. Shepherd** (Director, COUNTER) <pshepherd@projectCounter.org>
www.projectCounter.org

and **Anne Osterman** (Chair, Supervisory Board, Usus)

Since it was launched in 2003, the mission of **COUNTER** has been to develop standards for the recording and reporting of the usage of online publications. During that time an important feature of our development process has been listening to the communities we serve and ensuring that their needs are taken into account in new Releases of the **COUNTER** Codes of Practice. In 2014 we shall be taking this process further by sponsoring a new community Website — **Usus** — which will be editorially independent of **COUNTER**.

For the last 12 years the official **COUNTER** Website (www.projectCounter.org), which is beautifully hosted by **IOP (The Institute of Physics)**, has provided a valuable platform for the publication of the **COUNTER** Codes of Practice, the official Register of **COUNTER** Compliant Vendors, and the list of **COUNTER** Members; it has also been a very useful channel for feedback on the development of the **COUNTER** Codes of Practice. The **COUNTER** Website will continue to fulfil these important functions.

The role of **COUNTER** continues to expand, with the publication of new Codes of Practice for Articles and for the Usage Factor, and the world of online metrics grows in complexity, notably with an expanding range of altmetrics. For this reason we have decided that it is important to provide a new forum for scholars, librarians, and publishers to share information and discuss developments in the wider field of usage metrics. This is the role of the new Usus Website. The name Usus, the Latin for usage, encapsulates our aspiration that this Website will provide a *lingua franca* for those interested in usage worldwide.

While **COUNTER** sponsors Usus, it will be an independent, community controlled Website with its own supervisory board.

Usus Features

Usus will have the following features:

- A forum for community discussion on issues relating to the **COUNTER** usage reports, as well as wider usage issues. Usus will link to the existing JISC-mail lib-stats online discussion group, which is already so well used (<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=LIB-STATS>)

- A place for **COUNTER** (and **SUSHI**) to solicit feedback on future plans and ideas
- A collection point for suggestions for new **COUNTER** usage reports and metrics
- Troubleshooting hints, where platforms and reports with known problems are identified and solutions to these problems proposed
- A list of vendors/reports with problems that are affecting the accuracy or usefulness of the **COUNTER** reports.

Supervisory Board

The Usus Supervisory Board will ensure that the Website is editorially independent and will serve the needs of the community. Chaired by **Anne Osterman**, Deputy Director of **VIVA** (the Virtual Library of Virginia), the members of the Supervisory Board are:

Anne Osterman, **VIVA**, USA (Chair)
Simon Bevan, **Cranfield University**, UK
Melissa Blaney, **ACS Publications**, USA
Anna Creech, **Univ. of Richmond**, USA
Lorraine Estelle, **JISC**, UK
Oliver Pesch, **EBSCO**, USA
Kari Schmidt, **Montgomery College**, USA
Mark Tullos, **ProQuest**, USA

Visit the Usus Website

Please visit the Usus Website at: www.usus.org.uk

Call for Submissions

Contributions are invited for Usus, in particular for the News and Opinion section of the Website.

To encourage submissions **COUNTER** has offered to provide a travel award worth \$1,500 to a librarian that contributes the best opinion piece for the News & Opinions section of the Usus site. The award can be used to travel to the Charleston Conference, UKSG Conference, or Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference. Please send your submissions of 1,000 words or less to <usus.stats@gmail.com> by 31 December 2014. A winner will be announced by 31 January 2015. 🐾

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