

Introduction to Release 1 of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Books and Reference Works

Release 1 of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Books and Reference Works has been developed with input from a special task force of librarians and publishers with particular expertise in online books and reference works. As with the existing Code of Practice for Journals and Databases, our objective has been to enable vendors to provide a reliable set of basic online usage reports. This Code of Practice was available in draft form on the COUNTER website for comments until the end of 2005. Comments received from librarians, intermediaries and vendors have been taken into account in this final, definitive version of the Code of Practice.

The COUNTER Code of Practice for Books and Reference Works is valid from March 2006. Vendors seeking to comply with it should follow the procedure described in Section 7 of the Code of Practice document.

This Code of Practice has been approved by the COUNTER Executive Committee. To avoid confusion, its format and structure follow, as far as possible, that of the existing Code of Practice for Journals and Databases. Only the content of the usage Reports (Section 4.1) has been changed and the set of Definitions (Section 3) expanded. The specifications for Report Delivery (Section 4.3), Data Processing (Section 5) and Compliance (Section 7) are identical to those already prescribed for journals and databases.