*News Release*_____

22 October 2013

Release 1 of the PIRUS Code of Practice for recording and reporting usage at the individual article level now published

The final, definitive version of Release 1 of the PIRUS Code of Practice for recording and reporting usage at the individual article level has now been published and may be accessed on the PIRUS page of the COUNTER website at:http://www.projectcounter.org/pirus.html

The PIRUS Code of Practice responds to the growing demand from scholars, funding agencies and publishers for a wider range of reliable measures of the impact of scholarly articles. Usage is an important measure of impact and the PIRUS Code of Practice provides a standard for recording, consolidating and reporting usage at the individual article level that can be easily implemented by COUNTER-compliant publishers and aggregators, as well as by repositories. This Code of Practice is an important outcome of the JISC- funded PIRUS (**P**ublisher and **I**nstitutional **R**epository **U**sage **S**tatistics) project, whose overall aim was to assess the feasibility of recording, reporting and consolidating usage of individual journal articles hosted by Publishers, Aggregators, Institutional Repositories and Subject Repositories.

PIRUS builds on, and is consistent with, the COUNTER Code of Practice. COUNTER will be responsible for its ongoing development and management.   Implementation of PIRUS is not a requirement for COUNTER-compliance, but publishers who wish to provide their authors and customers with reliable, consistent usage statistics at the individual article level are encouraged to adopt this new standard. PIRUS covers the following areas: article types to be counted; article versions to be counted; data elements to be measured; definitions of these data elements; requirements for data processing; content and format of usage reports. While this Release focuses on journal articles, its principles may be applied to other categories of content items that are well defined, and have sufficiently robust metadata associated with them

The PIRUS standard has already been implemented for UK academic institutional repositories by IRUS-UK (http://www.irus.mimas.ac.uk/), a national service that enables UK institutional repositories to share and expose usage statistics based on the PIRUS standard. IRUS-UK collects raw usage data from UK institutional repositories and processes these data into PIRUS-compliant statistics.

About COUNTER
COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources) is a multi-agency international initiative whose objective is to develop a set of internationally accepted, extendible Codes of Practice that allows the usage of online information products and services to be measured more consistently.

For more information, please visit the PIRUS page of the COUNTER website at:
http://www.projectcounter.org/pirus.html