



News Release

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Implementation of the independent COUNTER audit for Books and Reference Works

Beginning in 2011, vendors that are compliant with the COUNTER Code of Practice for Books and Reference Works will be required to undergo an annual, independent audit in order to maintain their COUNTER compliant status. This independent audit, already successfully implemented for the Code of Practice for Journals and Databases, is important for the credibility of the usage statistics that vendors report to their customers.

A set of detailed auditing standards and procedures is contained in Appendix D of the Code of Practice for Books and Journals, which can be found on the COUNTER website at: http://www.projectcounter.org/cop/books/cop_books_appendix_d.pdf . These are based on the requirements that are already in place for the Code of Practice for Journals and Databases, with which many vendors are already familiar. In taking this approach to the audit COUNTER tries to meet the need of customers for credible usage statistics without placing an undue administrative or financial burden on vendors. For this reason audits are conducted online using the detailed test scripts included in the auditing standards and procedures

Audit status will be indicated in their entry in the COUNTER Register of Compliant Vendors on the COUNTER website (<http://www.projectcounter.org/compliantvendors.html>). The first vendor to pass this audit, Elsevier, is already listed.

COUNTER will recognize an audit carried out by any Professional Certified Accountant (USA), by any Chartered Accountant (UK), or by their equivalent in other countries. Alternatively, the audit may be done by a specifically COUNTER-approved auditor. There are currently two COUNTER-approved auditors: ABC Electronic, a division of ABC, the Audit Bureau of Circulations for the UK and Ireland (<http://www.abc.org.uk/Corporate/AboutABCe>) and BPA Worldwide (<http://www.bpaww.com>)

About COUNTER

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

For more information, please contact:

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