Guide to ScienceDirect Usage Reports

Version: April 2024

Contents

COUNTER REPORTS

Starting in 2019, Elsevier usage reports comply with the COUNTER Code of Practice (COP) Release 5. COUNTER prescribes two types of reports in this Code of Practice: master reports and standard views. The master reports are customizable by the user, who can determine which metrics and attributes should be in the report, and how the report should be filtered. To help with the most prominent use cases, COUNTER defined standard views, which are pre-filtered views of the master reports.

1.1 General information

1.1.1 Platforms included
Master Reports: The ScienceDirect master reports (PR and TR) collate the usage of ScienceDirect-entitled content and the usage of Elsevier content that was collected via the DUL protocol.

The platform name "ScienceDirect entitled content" includes usage from the ScienceDirect.com website, the Journal Branded Sites (e.g. theLancet.com), and via API (mainly text and data mining: TDM).

These reports will also include full text usage of Elsevier-owned content on other platforms, collected via Distributed Usage Logging (DUL) protocol. This usage will be reported under the platform name where the usage occurred (e.g. Mendeley). For more information on DUL, please refer to the COUNTER website.

Standard views: The standard views have been pre-filtered according to the COUNTER guidelines, which means that TDM and DUL usage is not included in these views.

1.1.2 Available months
New COUNTER COP5 metrics will only be available from January 2019 onwards.

As an additional service, we have backfilled selected metrics for previous years. The metrics concerned have a direct COP4 equivalent, where the data can also be segmented according to the COP5 definitions (year of publication, access method and access type). This pre-2019 data is not COP5 compliant since the COP4 data processing rules were used. There are two distinct advantages of including this backfilled data in the COP5 reports: (1) older data can be retrieved in the same report; and (2) COP4 metrics can be segmented in the same way as the COP5 metrics, creating better comparability.

1.1.3 COUNTER report retrieval
COUNTER reports can be retrieved via SUSHI or via a web interface. For information on SUSHI, please refer to https://www.elsevier.com/librarians/usage-reports

In the web interface, after selecting the product, one of the reports applicable to the product can be chosen. Select the "from" and "to" dates and the export format (TSV is a tab delimited file which can be opened with Excel or similar programs; JSON is the SUSHI compliant format). After clicking "Execute", the report will be run in the background.

If you select a Master Report (PR or TR), the selections for the metrics, filters and attributes applicable to the report will appear. Check the tick box if you want the attribute to appear in the report as a column, and click the dropdown menu if you want to filter on the attribute.

Counter reports (COP5) retrieval

*Required fields

- ⦿ Science Direct
- ◯ Engineering Village
- ◯ Scopus

Choose report* ⌄

From* ⌄ ⌄

To* ⌄ ⌄

Export format
⦿ TSV   ◯ JSON

➡

Execute >

Master Report

Metric Type* ⌄

Show in Report

- ☐ Access Method ⌄
- ☐ Access Type ⌄
- ☐ Year of publication

  From ⌄ To ⌄ ✕

  ＋ Add another range

- ☐ Data Type ⌄
- ☐ Section Type ⌄

You can check the status of the report under "Requested report status". Reports will be available for a couple of days. A report can be exported or opened by clicking on the status icon.

Requested report status (COP5)

Customer Id	Report name	Product	Format	Status	Date submitted (mm/dd/yyyy)	Expiring date (mm/dd/yyyy)
C0000000	PR_P1	SD	TSV	⬇		

1.2 Platform and Title Reports

ScienceDirect has as COUNTER host types E-Journal and eBook, and thus needs to supply Platform Reports (PR, PR_P1) and Title Reports (TR, TR_B1 to B3, TR_J1 to J4). For official descriptions of the reports, please refer to COP5 section on the COUNTER website. A summary of the new metrics is available in the Glossary for COUNTER.

1.2.1 PR – Platform Master Report
A customizable report that summarizes activity across the platform and allows the user to customize columns, metrics, attributes and filters as desired. The user can include searches, requests, investigations and access denied metrics.

1.2.2 PR_P1 – Platform Usage
A standard view of the Platform Master Report offering platform-level usage summarized by metric type. The report includes the metrics searches_platform, total_item_requests, unique_item_requests and unique_title_requests.

1.2.3 TR – Title Master Report
This customizable report provides comprehensive information about activity at the title level for both books and journals. The report includes all metrics and attributes relevant to any of the Title Standard Views. This is a flexible report that allows the user to customize columns, metrics, attributes and filters as desired. Metrics that can be included are the different types of request\s, investigation and access denied metrics.

Elsevier has added a couple of additional reports based on the Title Master Report. Descriptions of these reports can be found in the section "Supplementary Reports".

1.2.4 TR_B1 – Book Requests (Excluding "OA_Gold")
This standard view reports on full text activity for books that are not open access as total_item_requests and unique_title_requests. The unique_title_requests provides usage that can be compared across book platforms, whether the download happened per chapter or as a whole book. The total_item_requests shows overall activity. On ScienceDirect, an item is defined as a chapter.

1.2.5 TR_B2 – Book Access Denied
A standard view that reports on access denied activity for books where users were denied access because their institution did not have a license for the book.

1.2.6 TR_B3 – Book Usage by Access Type
TR_B3 reports on book usage showing all applicable metric types broken down by access_type (Controlled or OA_Gold).

1.2.7 TR_J1 – Journal Requests (Excluding "OA_Gold")
This journal report gives the usage of journal content for articles that are not gold open access, as total_item_requests and unique_item_requests. COUNTER currently only distinguishes two access_types: OA_Gold, which is gold open access and Controlled (content behind license/subscription).

Unique item requests measure usage independent of the content format and user interface, replacing the current separate HTML and PDF metrics (i.e. an HTML and a pdf download of the same article in the same user session count as a single unique_item_request). The total_item_requests shows overall activity.

1.2.8 TR_J2 – Journal Access Denied
This standard view reports on access denied activity for journal content where users were denied access because their institution did not have a license for the title.

1.2.9 TR_J3 – Journal Usage by Access Type
TR_J3 reports on usage of journal content for all metric types broken down by access_type (Controlled or OA_Gold). COUNTER currently only distinguishes two access_types: OA_Gold, which is gold open access and Controlled (content behind license/subscription). The usage reported in TR_J3 closely matches the usage reported in the COP4 JR1 report.

1.2.10 TR_J4 – Journal Requests by YOP (Excluding "OA_Gold")
This report breaks down the usage of non-gold open access journal content by year of publication (YOP), providing counts for total_item_requests and unique_item_requests. Provides the details necessary to analyze usage of backfiles content or content covered by perpetual-access agreement. Note: COUNTER reports do not provide access model or perpetual access rights details.

1.3 Glossary for COUNTER

1.3.1 Reports: COP4 vs COP5

The following table gives information on which COUNTER COP5 report replaces a certain COP4 report.

COP4 report	COP5 report	Notes
JR1	TR_J3	The COP5 report includes both OA_Gold and Controlled usage. These can be distinguished by the access_type column. For a report that excludes OA_Gold, please refer to TR_J1
JR1GOA	TR_J3	The COP5 report includes both OA_Gold and Controlled usage. These can be distinguished by the access_type column
JR2	TR_J2	The definition of the access_denied metric has not changed
JR5	TR_J4	The exact year of usage is given in the COP5 report, rather than grouping older years. The totals will be lower since the COP5 report excludes OA_Gold
BR2	TR_B1	The COP5 report excludes OA_Gold usage, which was included in the BR2 report. However, there are currently no OA_Gold books on ScienceDirect
BR3	TR_B2	The definition of the access_denied metric has not changed

1.3.2 COUNTER metrics

For official definitions of the metrics and attributes, please refer to [COP5 section on the COUNTER website](#)

Note: Unique item metrics apply to both journals and books. Unique title metrics only apply to books. Unique metrics are calculated within a user-session: A single user connects to the service or database and ends by terminating activity that is either explicit (by leaving the service through exit or logout) or implicit (timeout due to user inactivity).

Metric name	Description	Platform-specific notes	Backfilled data available – COP4 equivalent
Searches	**A user-driven intellectual query. A user action that results in a result list or a change to the existing result list**		
Searches_Platform	Searches conducted by users and captured at the platform level		
Requests	**Requests relate to the usage of full text in any format (e.g. HTML, PDF, XML)**		
Total_Item_Requests	Total number of times a content item was requested	On ScienceDirect an item is an article or a chapter	Yes – Requests for Full Text Articles
Unique_Item_Requests	Number of unique content items requested in a user-session	Multiple requests for an item are consolidated within a user-session in unique item requests	
Unique_Title_Requests	Number of unique titles requested in a user-session	Multiple requests for items within a book title are consolidated within a user-session in unique title requests	
Investigations	**Investigations include Requests (see above), abstract views, abstract previews and use of article-related multimedia content and article related research data sets**		

Total_Item_Investigations	Total number of times a content item or information related to a content item was accessed	On ScienceDirect an item is an article or a chapter	
Unique_Item_Investigations	Number of unique content items investigated in a user-session.	Multiple investigations of an item are consolidated within a user-session in unique item investigations	
Unique_Title_Investigations	Number of unique titles investigated in a user-session.	Multiple investigations for items within a book title are consolidated within a user-session in unique item investigations	
Access Denied Metrics			
Limit_exceeded	Number of times access was denied because the licensed simultaneous-user limit for the user's institution was exceeded.	ScienceDirect does not have a simultaneous user limit	
No_License	Number of times access was denied because the user's institution did not have a license to the content.	Counts redirects to abstract when user is not entitled to the full text	Yes – Access Denied, Content Item not Licensed

Attribute name	Description	Values applicable to ScienceDirect reports
Access_method	This attribute indicates whether the usage was generated by a human user browsing and searching a website ("Regular") or by Text and Data Mining processes ("TDM")	Regular; TDM
Access_type	This attribute is used to report on the nature of access control restrictions, if any, placed on the content item at the time when the content item was accessed. If the item was not open because access is restricted to authorized users, the access_type is "Controlled"; "OA_Gold" indicates that the content item was immediately and permanently available as open access because an APC (article processing charge) has been paid.	Controlled; OA_Gold; Other_Free_to_Read (DUL only)
Data_type	The field identifying type of content.	Journal; Book
DUL	Distributed Usage Logging is an initiative sponsored by CrossRef that provides a framework for publishers to capture usage of DOI-identified content items that occurs on other web sites, such as aggregators, repositories, and scholarly information-sharing sites.	
Section_type	An attribute that identifies the type of section that was accessed	Article; Chapter
YOP	Calendar year in which an article, item, issue, or volume is published. For ScienceDirect, the cover date of the print issue is used. Article in Press is assigned the value "9999", while "0001" indicates that the year of publication is unknown.	YYYY; 0001; 9999

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

1.4   General information

In addition to the required COUNTER reports, ScienceDirect supplies a set of additional reports to give more detailed insights into the usage.
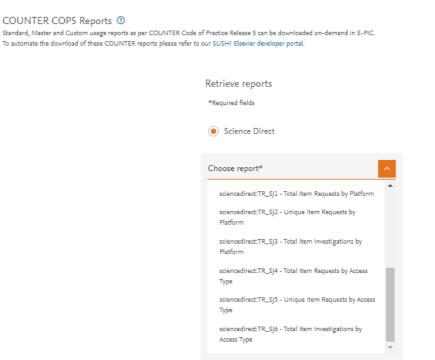
1.5   Report: SD_Supplementary Reports by Platform and Access Type

These reports are based on the COUNTER Title Master report and show the total Regular usage of Elsevier journal content on the Elsevier platforms and usage collected via DUL. Each report contains a single metric and shows usage per journal.

1.5.1 Overview

This report gives a short description of the reports. It also includes a summary of the Total Item Requests per platform.

1.5.2 sciencedirect TR_SJ1 Total Item Requests by Platform

This report shows the Total Item Requests per journal from January 2017 onwards, via the Regular access method on the Elsevier platforms and via DUL. The report includes a period total for the platform Elsevier Licensed Content and a period total for the usage collected via DUL.

1.5.3 sciencedirect TR_SJ2 Unique Item Requests by Platform

This report shows the Unique Item Requests per journal from January 2019 onwards, via the Regular access method on the Elsevier platforms and via DUL. The report includes a period total for the platform Elsevier Licensed Content and a period total for the usage collected via DUL.

1.5.4 sciencedirect TR_SJ3 Total Item Investigations by Platform

This report shows the Total Item Investigations per journal from January 2019 onwards, via the Regular access method on the Elsevier platforms and via DUL. The report includes a period total for the platform Elsevier Licensed Content and a period total for the usage collected via DUL.

1.5.5 sciencedirect TR_SJ4 Total Item Requests by Access Type

This report shows the Total Item Requests per journal from January 2017 onwards, via the Regular access method on the Elsevier platforms and via DUL. The report includes a period total for Access Types Controlled and OA_Gold.

1.5.6 sciencedirect TR_SJ5 Unique Item Requests by Access Type

This report shows the Unique Item Requests per journal from January 2019 onwards, via the Regular access method on the Elsevier platforms and via DUL. The report includes a period total for Access Types Controlled and OA_Gold.

1.5.7 sciencedirect TR_SJ6 Total Item Investigations by Access Type

This report shows the Total Item Investigations per journal from January 2019 onwards, via the Regular access method on the Elsevier platforms and via DUL. The report includes a period total for Access Types Controlled and OA_Gold.

1.6   COUNTER COP5 TR and PR reporting parameters

TR and PR COP5 Reports provide some parameters that allows you to get more insights into your COP5 reports by breaking down the COP5 metrics by additional attributes.

-   Sciencedirect:Group: new Group attribute that enables Counter usage reporting per Group (organizational unit) for ScienceDirect customers. The groups are flexible and customisable through Admin Tool.
-   sciencedirect:SAML_Analytics_Tag: new SAML attribute that enables granular usage reporting for ScienceDirect customers using Federated Authentication. Its end-to-end flow with ScienceDirect is ready and available to all ScienceDirect customers via E-PIC.
-   Consortium Members (for Consortia only): This new option offers you the ability to download detailed reports that show total usage for all members of the consortium, and which can be broken down by institution

1.7   Elsevier Product Insights for Customers (E-PIC)

E-PIC platform offers additional reports and visualizations based mostly on COP5 usage:

-   ScienceDirect Usage widget
-   Journal Demand widget
-   Journal Turnaways widget
-   Book Turnaways widget
-   Journal Value Beyond Downloads widget
-   Popular Publications widget
-   Remote Usage widget
-   API usage widget

All documentation about these supplementary reports and visualizations are available by clicking on question marks right side of the title at the top of the report.

1.8   Glossary for Supplementary Reports

API types		
API name	**Platform**	**Example**
Article Retrieval API	ScienceDirect	Returns an article or abstract of an article, depending on the user's entitlements, given a document identifier. Article Retrieval API response includes links to various resources or objects associated with an article. Can be used for text and data mining purposes.
ScienceDirect Query API	ScienceDirect	Allows user to search ScienceDirect content based on specified search criteria.
Full-Text Entitlement API	ScienceDirect	Returns a usage report based on the account's ScienceDirect holdings. Data is delivered in the Knowledge Base and Related Tools (KBART) format.
Object Retrieval API	ScienceDirect	Returns objects associated with a full-text article.
Scopus Query API	Scopus	Allows user to search Scopus abstracts based on a specified search criteria.
Abstract Retrieval API	Scopus	Scopus abstract for a specified document(s), which includes links to various resources associated with an abstract, such as author and affiliation profiles.
Author Retrieval API	Scopus	Author Retrieval: Scopus author profile for a specified author(s).
Abstract Citation Count Metadata API	Scopus	Scopus cited-by count image for a specified Scopus document(s).
Author Search API	Scopus	Allows user to search Scopus author profiles based on specified search criteria.
Abstract Citation Count API	Scopus	Scopus cited-by count image for a specified Scopus document(s).
Affiliation Retrieval API	Scopus	Scopus affiliation profile for a specified affiliation(s).