



Guide to ClinicalKey Usage Reports

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COUNTER REPORTS

Starting in 2025, Elsevier usage reports comply with the COUNTER Code of Practice (COP) Release 5.1. COUNTER prescribes two types of reports in this Code of Practice: customizable reports and standard views. The customizable reports can be customized 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 customizable reports.

1.1 General information

1.1.1 Platforms included

Customizable Reports: The ClinicalKey customizable reports (PR and TR) collate the usage via the ClinicalKey.com website and via API. API usage will fall mainly into the text and data mining access type (TDM).

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

1.1.2 Available months

The metrics are the same between COP5.0 and COP5.1. Only the format of the reports, and the values for Access_Type and Data_Type have changed.

As an additional service, we have backfilled selected metrics for previous years before January 2025. The new values for Data_Type and Access_Type will not be applied before January 2025. These fields will reflect the COP5.0 values except for access_type OA_Gold which will be replaced by Open.

1.1.3 COUNTER report retrieval

COUNTER reports can be retrieved via the COUNTER API (formerly SUSHI) or via a web interface. For information on the COUNTER API, 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 COUNTER API compliant format). After clicking “Execute”, the report will be run in the background.

If you select a Customizable 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.

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

ClinicalKey has as COUNTER host types of eBook, eJournal, and Multimedia, and thus needs to supply Platform Reports (PR, PR_P1) and Title Reports (TR, TR_B1, TR_B3, TR_J1, TR_J3, TR_J4). ClinicalKey will not supply database-related since the concept of no_license and access_denied doesn't apply to the platform. 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 reports](#).

1.2.1 PR – Platform 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, and investigations.

1.2.2 PR_P1 – Platform Usage

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

1.2.3 TR – Title Report

A customizable report detailing activity at the title level (journal, book, etc.) that allows the user to apply filters and select other configuration options.

1.2.4 TR_B1 – Book Requests (Controlled)

This standard view reports on full text activity for books and reference works excluding Open and Free_To_Read content 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 ClinicalKey, an item is defined as a chapter.

1.2.5 TR_B3 – Book Usage by Access Type

Reports on book usage showing all applicable Metric_Types broken down by Access_Type (Controlled, Open and Free_To_Read).

1.2.6 TR_J1 – Journal Requests (Controlled)

Reports on usage of journal content, excluding Open and Free_To_Read Access content, as Total_Item_Requests and Unique_Item_Requests. The Unique_Item_Requests provides comparable usage across journal platforms by reducing the inflationary effect that occurs when an HTML full text automatically displays, and the user then accesses the PDF version. The Total_Item_Requests shows overall activity.

1.2.7 TR_J3 – Journal Usage by Access Type

Reports on usage of journal content for all Metric_Types broken down by Access_Type (Controlled, Open and Free_To_Read).

1.2.8 TR_J4 – Journal Requests by YOP (Controlled)

Breaks down the usage of journal content, excluding Open and Free_To_Read Access content, by year of publication (YOP), providing counts for the Metric_Types Total_Item_Requests and Unique_Item_Requests. Provides the details necessary to analyze usage of content in backfiles or covered by perpetual access agreement. Note that COUNTER reports do not provide access model or perpetual access rights details.

1.3 Glossary for COUNTER reports

1.3.1 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 viewing or downloading of book chapters or journal articles on ClinicalKey.		
Total_Item_Requests	Total number of times a content item was requested	On ClinicalKey an item is a view or a download of a book chapter or journal article.	Yes – Record Views
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), View Images, View Videos, Export Image in PowerPoint, E-mail a List/Citation, View Topic Page, Add to Reading List, Print HTML, Citation Manager Export, Print Image, and Print Topic Page View.		
Total_Item_Investigations	Total number of times a content item or information related to a content item was accessed	On ClinicalKey an item is an HTML View, PDF download, View Images, View Videos, Export Image in PowerPoint, E-mail a List/Citation, View Topic Page, Add to Reading List, Print HTML, Citation Manager Export, Print Image, and Print Topic Page View.	
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.	ClinicalKey does not track the simultaneous user limit	
No_License	Number of times access was denied because the user's institution did not have a license to the content.	ClinicalKey does not track users with no license.	

1.3.2 Attributes

Attribute name	Description	Values applicable to ClinicalKey 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 freely accessible by all because access is restricted to authorized users, the access_type is "Controlled"; "Open" indicates that the content item is openly available for all users and will be permanently available. Free_To_Read is used for content that is freely accessible, but is not permanently available.	Controlled;Open;Free_To_Read
Data_type	The field identifying type of content. Applicable to searches.	Platform (for Searches); Journal; Book; Reference Work
YOP	Calendar year in which an article, item, issue, or volume is published. For Clinicalkey, 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; 9999C

1.3.3 Glossary

Activity types		
Activity name	Platform	Example
View HTML	ClinicalKey	User views a piece of content on ClinicalKey.
Download PDF	ClinicalKey	User downloads a piece of content from ClinicalKey as a PDF.
E-mail a List/Citation	ClinicalKey	User sends a citation via E-mail.
Topic Page View	ClinicalKey	User clicks to view a list of content that share the desired topic.
View Image	ClinicalKey	User views an image in ClinicalKey.
Export Image in PowerPoint	ClinicalKey	User exports an image from ClinicalKey to a PowerPoint document.
Add to Reading List	ClinicalKey	User adds content to a Reading List.
Print HTML	ClinicalKey	User prints content from ClinicalKey.
Citation Manager Export	ClinicalKey	
View Video	ClinicalKey	User watches a video on ClinicalKey.
Print Image	ClinicalKey	User prints an image from ClinicalKey.
Print Topic Page View	ClinicalKey	User prints a Topics Page from ClinicalKey.

1.4 COUNTER COP5 TR and PR reporting parameters

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

- **Clinicalkey:Product:** new Product attribute that enables Counter usage reporting split per Product. The COUNTER COP5 reports show total book and journal data for ClinicalKey Physician, ClinicalKey Nursing, ClinicalKey Student and ClinicalKey Now. Checking this attribute will split COP5 usage statistics per platform/product
- Consortium Members **Institution_Name and Customer_ID** (for Consortia only): These additional attributes offer 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