



Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources

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# PIRUS 2

**Creating a common standard for measuring online usage of individual articles**

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Paul Needham, Cranfield University

Peter Shepherd, **COUNTER**

**November 2010**

- **Sponsored by JISC**

- UK Joint Information Systems Committee

- **PIRUS 1** completed in January 2009

- Lead by COUNTER

- Report available at:

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/pals3/pirus\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/pals3/pirus_finalreport.pdf)

- **PIRUS 2**, October 2009-December 2010

- Lead by Mimas

- Primary project team members: Mimas, Cranfield, COUNTER, CrossRef, Oxford University Press

# Usage statistics and journal metrics

- **COUNTER**

- Sets the standard for vendor-generated online usage statistics
- Covers over 15,000 full-text online journals

<http://www.projectCounter.org>

- **MESUR**

- Enriches the toolkit used for the assessment of the impact of scholarly communication items with usage data
- Has created a map of science based on usage data

<http://www.mesur.org/>

- **Journal Usage Factor**

- Assess the feasibility of Journal Usage Factor as an alternative metric to Journal Impact Factor

<http://www.uksg.org/usagefactors>

- **PIRUS**

- Aims to provide, publishers, repositories and other organizations with a common standard for measuring usage at the individual article (item) level



# PIRUS: why now?

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## **Increasing interest in article-level usage**

- More journal articles hosted by Institutional and other Repositories
- Authors and funding agencies are increasingly interested in a reliable, global overview of usage of individual articles
- Online usage becoming an alternative, accepted measure of article and journal value
  - 'Knowledge Exchange' report recommends developing standards for usage reporting at the individual article level
  - Usage-based metrics being considered as a tool for use in the UK Research Excellence Framework and elsewhere.

# PIRUS: why now?

PLoS ONE: Clickstream Data Yields High-Resolution Maps of Science - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.plosone.org/article/metrics/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004803

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

## Clickstream Data Yields High-Resolution Maps of Science

Article Metrics Related Content Comments: 5

### Article Usage

Total Article Views: **40275** from Mar 11, 2009 (publication date) - Nov 4, 2010\*

#### Breakdown by View Type

HTML Page Views: **36270**  
PDF Downloads: **3880**  
XML Downloads: **125**

#### Cumulative Views from Mar 11, 2009 (publication date) - Nov 4, 2010\*

| Months | Cumulative Views |
|--------|------------------|
| 0      | 0                |
| 1      | 20000            |
| 2      | 22000            |
| 3      | 23000            |
| 4      | 24000            |
| 5      | 25000            |
| 6      | 26000            |
| 7      | 27000            |
| 8      | 28000            |
| 9      | 29000            |
| 10     | 30000            |
| 11     | 31000            |
| 12     | 32000            |
| 13     | 33000            |
| 14     | 34000            |
| 15     | 35000            |
| 16     | 36000            |
| 17     | 37000            |
| 18     | 38000            |
| 19     | 39000            |
| 20     | 40000            |
| 21     | 40275            |

\*Data refer to views from the PLoS ONE Web site only.  
\*Although we update our data on a daily basis (not in real time), there may be a 48-hour delay before the most recent numbers are available.

[Metrics Information and Summary Data for PLoS ONE](#)  
Questions or concerns about usage data? [Please let us know.](#)

Download: PDF | Citation | XML  
Print article  
EzReprint New & improved!

### Metrics

Total Article Views: **40275**

Cited in  
[CrossRef \(7\)](#)  
[PubMed Central \(4\)](#)  
[Scopus \(14\)](#)

Average Rating (1 User Rating)  
★★★★★ [See all categories](#)  
[Rate This Article](#)

### Related Content

Related Subject Categories  
[Computer Science](#), [Science Policy](#), [Mathematics](#)

Related Articles on the Web  
[Google Scholar](#)  
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## PIRUS: why now?

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### **Article-level usage metrics now more practical**

- Implementation by COUNTER of XML-based usage reports makes more granular reporting of usage a practical proposition
- Implementation by COUNTER of the SUSHI protocol facilitates the automated consolidation of usage data from different sources.

# The challenge

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- An article may be available from:-
  - The main journal web site
  - Ovid
  - ProQuest
  - PubMed Central (US, UK or Canada)
  - Authors' local Institutional Repositories
  
- If we want to assess article impact by counting usage, how can we maximise the actual usage that we capture?

# PIRUS : Mission and Project Aims

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## **Mission**

To develop a global standard to enable the recording, reporting and consolidation of online usage statistics for individual journal articles hosted by Institutional Repositories, Publishers and other entities

## **Project aims**

- Develop COUNTER-compliant usage reports at the individual article level
- Create guidelines which, if implemented, would enable any entity that hosts online journal articles to produce these reports
- Propose ways in which these reports might be consolidated at a global level in a standard way.





# PIRUS: benefits

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- Reliable usage data will be available for journal articles, wherever they are held
- Repositories will have access to new functionality from open source software that will allow them to produce standardised usage reports from their data
- Digital repository systems will be more integral to research and closely aligned to research workflows and environments
- The authoritative status of PIRUS2 usage statistics will enhance the status of repository data and content
- The standard can be extended to cover other categories of content stored by repositories

# PIRUS1: outputs

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1. A proof-of-concept COUNTER-compliant XML prototype for an individual article usage report
2. A tracker code, to be implemented by repositories, that sends usage data as OpenURL Context Objects to either:
  - An external party
  - The local repository server
3. A set of scenarios for collecting usage data in different repository environments
4. A set of criteria for a central Clearing House that will create (where required), or collect and consolidate the usage statistics

# PIRUS2: objectives

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- Develop a suite of free, open access programmes to support the generation and sharing of COUNTER-compliant usage data and statistics that can be extended to cover any and all individual items in repositories
- Develop a prototype article-level publisher/repository usage statistics service
- Define a core set of standard useful statistical reports that repositories should produce for internal and external consumption

## Technical aspects of project

- Gathering ... usage data and statistics
  - For full-text article downloads (not record/abstract views)
  - From repositories and publishers
- Consolidating ...
  - In an article-level usage statistics demonstrator portal
  - Experiment and illustrate possibilities
- Re-exposing ...
  - To authorized third parties

## Three scenarios for gathering ...

- (A) 'tracker' code
  - a server-side 'Google Analytics' for full-text article downloads
  - Pushes metadata to a remote server
- (B) OAI-PMH harvesting
  - A protocol familiar to repositories
  - Used to by third parties to 'pull' metadata from repositories
- (C) SUSHI - Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative Protocol
  - a SOAP-based web service, used by publishers, to expose COUNTER Release 3 compliant usage statistics to institutions and consortia

## Usage data from Repositories

- Scenarios (A) Tracker & (B) OAI-PMH
  - Usage data are exposed as:
    - (A) OpenURL Key-Value Pair Strings
    - (B) OpenURL Context Objects.
  - OpenURL approach first suggested by MESUR. Taken forward in Europe under 'Knowledge Exchange' initiative see:  
<http://wiki.surffoundation.nl/display/standards/OpenURL+Context+Objects>
- PIRUS2 Repository software plug-ins/extensions
  - Dspace – developed by @mire
  - Eprints – developed by Tim Brody, Southampton University
  - Fedora – developed by Ben O'Steen, Oxford University
  - Links and downloads on PIRUS2 project web site

## Usage statistics from Publishers

- Scenario (C) SUSHI
  - Currently operates at journal level, e.g. JR1 report: Number of Successful Full-Text Article Requests by Month and Journal
- PIRUS2 has devised a proposed COUNTER Article Report 1 (AR1) Report: Number of Successful Full-Text Article Requests by Month and DOI
  - SUSHI ultimately
  - Currently working with AR1 reports in MS Excel/CSV format from participating publishers
  - Draft AR1 report in MS-Excel and XML available on PIRUS2 project web site

## Current situation

- Loaded data from 6 publishers
  - Usage statistics are pre-filtered according to COUNTER rules
  - Over 550,000 articles and 470 journals indexed
- Gathering data via tracker from 6 repositories
  - Working on scripts to process and load data
  - Usage data must be:
    - filtered according to COUNTER rules to eliminate Robots and Double clicks
    - Processed into monthly statistics
- Creating user interface to demonstrate possibilities



# PIRUS2: progress so far:-

## WP 4: software, standards and protocols

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**The following publishers have agreed to provide usage data as part of the tests for the prototype central clearing house for article level usage statistics:**

- ACS Publications\*
- Emerald\*
- Institute of Physics Publishing\*
- Nature Publishing Group\*
- New England Journal of Medicine
- Oxford University Press
- Springer\*
- Wiley\*

\*=received, processed & loaded

**The following repositories are participating in tests to provide usage data:**

- Bournemouth University Research Online (BURO)
- Cranfield CERES
- University of Huddersfield Repository
- Oxford University Research Archive (ORA)
- University of Salford Institutional Repository
- Southampton ECS EPrints Repository

# PIRUS2: progress so far:-

## WP 4: software, standards and protocols

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### **Next steps**

- Extending the number of participating repositories
- Ongoing development and testing of user interface
- Develop extended SUSHI server to re-expose article-level statistics

# PIRUS2: progress so far

## WP5: prototype service

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- Tests of publisher usage data
  - Usage data from publishers flowing in
- Define functions to be fulfilled by a Central Clearing House
  - Collect, collate and store usage data
- Define capabilities required of a Central Clearing House
  - Conversion of logfiles, storage, access control, etc
- Define organizational options for a Central Clearing House
  - Global vs. local; identify candidate organizations



# PIRUS 2: primary project team

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- Richard Gedye (Oxford University Press)
- Ross MacIntyre (Mimas, The University of Manchester)
- Paul Needham (Cranfield University)
- Ed Pentz (CrossRef)
- Peter Shepherd (COUNTER)

# Project Partners

| Primary partners  | Secondary partners   | Advisory partners  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mimas (lead)</li> <li>•Cranfield University</li> <li>•COUNTER</li> <li>•Oxford University Press</li> <li>•CrossRef</li> </ul>               | <p><i>Publishers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Bepress</li> <li>•Springer</li> <li>•OUP</li> <li>•PLoS</li> </ul> <p><i>Repositories:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cranfield University (DSpace)</li> <li>•Glasgow University (Eprints)</li> <li>•Harvard University (Dspace)</li> <li>•Oxford University (Fedora)</li> <li>•Others tbc</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•arXiv</li> <li>•MESUR</li> <li>•NISO/SUSHI</li> <li>•RCUK</li> <li>•Repositories Support Project<sup>[1]</sup></li> <li>•SHERPA<sup>[2]</sup></li> <li>•Social Science Research Network</li> <li>•Knowledge Exchange Usage Statistics Strand members including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ JISC</li> <li>➤ SURF</li> <li>➤ DFG, incl. OA-Statistics Project Phase 2 (OA-S II)</li> <li>➤ DeFF</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Software developers</b></p>   |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ePrints - Tim Brody, (IRStats) Southampton University</li> <li>•Fedora - Ben O'Steen, Oxford University</li> <li>•DSpace - @mire</li> </ul> |  |  |

<sup>[1]</sup> The Repositories Support Project is led by the University of Nottingham;

<sup>[2]</sup> SHERPA is led by the University of Nottingham.

# PIRUS2 End of Project Seminar

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## **COUNTING INDIVIDUAL ARTICLE USAGE**

– a seminar covering the PIRUS2 project outcomes, recommendations and next steps

Wednesday 23 February 2011

Venue: Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place,  
London

No Registration fee!

(See PIRUS2 or COUNTER web sites 'News')

For more information.....

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<http://www.cranfieldlibrary.cranfield.ac.uk/pirus2/>

Or just search for 'PIRUS2'

Thank you!