Project Title: Strategies for Benchmarking usage of Electronic Resources Across Publishers and Vendors

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Funding Agency: Association of Research Libraries

Award Dates: May 2004 – September 2004

Award Amount: $13,000

The prevalence of electronic contents (e.g., scholarly journals, magazines, books and other reference materials) enabled librarians to gather various indicators of how their collections are being used. However, the data from library's web server logs and usage reports from database vendors proved to be difficult to collect consistently and compare because of the lack of standardization in terms of data elements, definitions and data formats.

This project has as its goal to identify strategies and methodologies to help libraries collect and utilize various streams of usage data from publishers and database vendors.

Specific project objectives include:

- Describe current developments underway by Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources (COUNTER), International Standards Organization (ISO), National Information Standards Organization (NISO), related agencies, and analyze their interrelations;
- Explore and evaluate existing strategies, tools and approaches for standardizing the collection of usage statistics;
- Develop recommendations for next steps that will improve publishers and vendors ability to report consistent data across products;
- Develop recommendations for next steps that will improve libraries' ability to collect usage statistics for benchmarking usage of electronic content; and
- Explore the feasibility of establishing data harvesting mechanisms using XML (extended Markup Language) and related technologies.

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