

COUNTER Annual General Meeting

Minutes: June 2025

Meeting details

Date and Time: Thursday 5 June 2025, 14.45 BST

Location: Online

Presented by

Chair: Jo Lambert, Jisc

Executive Director: Tasha Mellins-Cohen, COUNTER Metrics

Members with representatives present

ABC	Kentucky Virtual Library
AIP Publishing	Kingston University
AM Digital	Konsortium Baden-Wuerttemberg
Bentham Science	(Universitaetsbibliothek Freiburg)
BI Norwegian Business School	Leeds Beckett University
Bloomsbury Publishing	LibLynx
BRAC University	Lund University
California Digital Library	Manchester Metropolitan University
Canadian Science Publishing	Mary Immaculate College
Canterbury Christ Church University	OhioLINK
Cardiff University	Pennsylvania College of Technology
Casalini Libri	Perlego
CELUS	Purdue University Libraries
City St George's, University of London	ResearchGate
Clarivate	Rockefeller University Press
Consortium Couperin	Royal Society of Chemistry
CRKN	SAE International
DATA SWEEP	SAGE Publications
Elsevier	Scholarly IQ
FCT FCCN (b-on consortium)	SciELO
FinELib	SLUB Dresden
Florida Virtual Campus	South African National Library and
Fondazione Università Ca' Foscari	Information Consortium
Gothenburg University Library, Biomedical	Springer Nature
Library	Stanford Libraries
IEEE	Supreme Court of the United States Library
IntechOpen	Taylor & Francis
IOP Publishing	The University of Edinburgh
ITHAKA	UCLA Library
Jisc	University of Central Oklahoma
Karger	University of Exeter
Karolinska Institutet	University of Ghana

University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Notre Dame
University of Oslo Library

University of Sheffield
University of St Andrews Library
University of Westminster
University System of Maryland & Affiliated
Institutions
Utah Academic Library Consortium

Meeting minutes

Jo Lambert welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. She explained that members would be able to vote on motions using the poll function in Zoom.

Minutes of the last meeting

Members were asked to review the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held in May 2024.

A resolution to accept the minutes was proposed and seconded by representatives of two separate members.

Member representatives voted unanimously to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the last meeting.

2024 Directors' Report

Tasha Mellins-Cohen presented the Directors' Report, which had been made available online through the AGM registration page three weeks prior to the AGM.

Against COUNTER's three objectives:

- We will maintain, develop and extend the COUNTER Code of Practice as a foundation for normalised, community-defined usage metrics:
 - Support for migration to Release 5.1 of the Code of Practice.
 - Upgrades to the validation tool for R5.1 testing.
 - Development of syndicated usage best practice.
 - Consultation about the future of the Code for Research Data.
- We will foster and grow an engaged community to increase adoption and use of COUNTER metrics worldwide:
 - First COUNTER Conference
 - New website and increased social engagement
 - Free membership for libraries and publishers in Research4Life countries.
- We will ensure COUNTER is operationally resilient and financially sustainable:
 - Capital investment in the new website as well as taxation and legal advice
 - Review of membership offering and tiering
 - Recruitment of additional resource for community engagement.

A resolution to accept the Report was proposed and seconded by representatives of two separate members.

Member representatives voted unanimously to accept the Directors' Report.

2024 Accounts for COUNTER Online Metrics

COUNTER was reported to be in a healthy financial state, with reserves standing at £204,143 at 31 December 2024. Turnover for 2024 was £128,376 (slightly down on 2022), mostly due to lower sponsorship. Expenditure was up on 2023 at £150,576 due to planned capital investments. Members were reminded that full financial reports for COUNTER are available through Companies House.

A resolution to accept the Accounts, and to re-appoint Duncan & Toplis as COUNTER auditors, was proposed and seconded by representatives of two separate members.

Member representatives voted unanimously to accept the Accounts and to re-appoint the auditors.

Proposed changes to membership tiering

Tasha Mellins-Cohen outlined an extensive project undertaken over the period July 2024 to April 2025, in respect of membership benefits and tiering.

New member benefits introduced in 2024/25 were reported to include:

- Free registration for the COUNTER Conference and webinars, which non-members cannot attend.
- Access to the COUNTER Academy, a new in-depth online training programme.
- Bespoke affiliate webinars for consortia and technology providers.

Plans for the future are to introduce additional resources for technical support in 2026.

Membership tiering changes were presented in tabular form, as follows:

Existing member type	New member type	What the change means	2025 rate	2026 rate (proposed)
Consortium	Library Consortium / Network	State-wide and other collectives are on the same rate, and get the same benefits, as consortia	£464	£470
Affiliate	Library Consortium / Network Affiliate	Partial membership; limited to institutions affiliated with Library Network members	£144	£135
Library	Library	No change!	£350	£350
	Small Library [NEW]	Discounted full membership for libraries serving <5,000 people		£250
	Library Services [NEW]	A new type of membership for library service providers		£470
	Technology Provider [NEW]	New member type for organisations which provide COUNTER-as-a-service		£2,500
	Publisher Affiliate [NEW]	Publishers supported and invoiced via by Technology Providers		£250
	Very Large Publisher [NEW]	Over £50m revenue		£1,370

Large Publisher / Vendor	Large Publisher	£20m–£50m revenue (was over £9.25m)	£935	£980
Medium Publisher / Vendor	Medium Publisher	£7.5m–£20m revenue (was £6.5m–£9.25m)	£746	£780
Small Publisher / Vendor	Small Publisher	Up to £7.5m revenue (was under £6.5m)	£462	£470
Industry Organisation	Industry Body	No change!	£357	£350

Tasha Mellins-Cohen explained that the six technology providers, who were subject to the most significant changes, had all been consulted repeatedly during the development of the new tiering, and that none had raised any objections.

Two questions were raised:

1. Whether Library Consortium / Network members would receive a single vote, or one vote per library within the group. Per our Articles of Association, each full member receives a single vote. Affiliate members do not have voting rights.
2. Why the Consortium / Network Affiliate rate was proposed at a lower rate than the existing Library Affiliate rate: Tasha Mellins-Cohen explained that this was due to (a) the restriction of this membership tier to libraries affiliated with Library Consortium / Network members, rather than all libraries, and (b) internal COUNTER logistics.

A resolution to accept the new membership tiering for implementation in the 2026 membership year was proposed and seconded by representatives of two separate members.

Member representatives voted unanimously to accept the new membership tiering.

Appointment of Directors

Tasha Mellins-Cohen paid tribute to the long and valued service of Irene Barbers, who had sadly passed away in January 2025.

The loss of Irene created a vacancy for a new Director, ideally a publisher in Europe to balance geographic and member-type representation on the Board. The Board recommended the appointment of Björn Johansson from SpringerNature to fill the vacancy, with a further recommendation that Richard Gallagher of Annual Reviews be re-appointed for a second three-year term as Director.

A resolution to accept the Board's recommendation to appoint Björn Johansson and re-appoint Richard Gallagher as Directors was proposed and seconded by representatives of two separate members.

Member representatives voted unanimously to accept the appointments.

AOB

No other formal business being raised, the AGM closed at 15.15.