

Mapping Host Types, Data Types, and Reports

Host types are an essential part of the Code of Practice, but they are somewhat invisible: they don't show up in COUNTER reports, and the only place to find the information is in the Registry.

A platform's Host_Type defines the COUNTER Reports and standard views that the platform needs to deliver, based on the kind of content it offers. It's perfectly possible for platforms to have multiple Host_Types, adding to the complexity.

While there are twelve Host_Types in the Code of Practice, they fall into broad groups. The first group are databases, covering six Host_Types. Then we have the repositories, covering four Host_Types. Finally, there are content-specific book and journal Host_Types, which aggregate titles outside of a database.

[Section 3.3 of the Code of Practice](#) includes several tables that reference Host_Types. In this guide, we've combined those tables to help you understand what you can expect to see and where.

Database Hosts

Aggregated databases

First up are databases which aggregate full-text content at title level. By that, we mean that the database gives access to full-text journal or book content, or other content collected into a title.

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
Aggregated Full Content	Databases of full text and other materials	Platform Report Database Report Title Report	Audiovisual Book Conference Image Interactive_Resource Journal Multimedia Newspaper_or_Newsletter Other Patent Reference_Work Report Sound Standard Thesis_or_Dissertation Unspecified
eBook Collection	Ebook collections that behave like databases	Platform Report Database Report Title Report	Book Conference Reference_Work

Non-aggregated databases

Our second set of database Host_Types are the databases which offer full-text content as individual items. By that, we mean that the database gives access to full-text or multimedia content that is not collected into a title.

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
Full Content Database	Databases of content items not otherwise part of an eJournal or eBook platform	Platform Report Database Report	Audiovisual Image Interactive_Resource Multimedia Other Patent Report Sound Standard Thesis_or_Dissertation Unspecified
Multimedia Collection	Multimedia collections that behave like databases	Platform Report Database Report	Audiovisual Image Interactive_Resource Multimedia Sound

Discovery databases

Lastly in the database category, we have what I call the discovery databases. These databases only hold metadata, without any full text or multimedia content, so they should not have any Request metrics to report.

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
A&I Database	Abstracting and indexing databases that support discovery	Platform Report Database Report	Audiovisual Book Conference Image Interactive_Resource Multimedia Newspaper_or_Newsletter Other Patent Reference_Work Report Sound Standard Thesis_or_Dissertation Unspecified

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
Discovery Service	Indices of articles, books, and other metadata	Platform Report Database Report	Book Conference Journal Newspaper_or_Newsletter Other Patent Reference_Work Report Standard Thesis_or_Dissertation Unspecified

Aggregated content not in databases

There are two host types that aggregate content to title level, but which are not database platforms. In both cases, the content on the platform may be available individually or as part of a package. The key differentiator between these Host_Types and our various databases is the platforms' behaviour. Where search is key for databases, for these aggregated content platforms, search is present but not a priority. Equally, database platforms typically (but not always) collect content into fixed databases, with relatively little overlap in content between databases. By contrast, these Host_Types often have titles appearing in multiple sales packages for maximum flexibility. I'm talking, of course, about books and journals.

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
eBook	Individual ebooks or ebook packages	Platform Report Title Report	Book Conference Reference_Work
eJournal	Serials (journals, conferences, newspapers, etc.) available as individual titles or packages	Platform Report Title Report	Conference Journal Newspaper_or_Newsletter

Repositories

Lastly, we've four Host_Types that fall within the category of repositories. Some repositories use the COUNTER Code of Practice for Research Data for their reporting. In 2024 COUNTER and Make Data Count ran a consultation which determined that it would be possible to merge the Code for Research Data into the main Code of Practice. That project will be going ahead, but we don't have a date for it yet.

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
Data Repository	Research data repositories	Platform Report Item Report	Dataset Software Unspecified

Host Type	Description	Required COUNTER Reports	Allowable Data_Types
Multimedia	Individual items of audio, video, or other multimedia content	Platform Report Item Report	Audiovisual Image Interactive_Resource Multimedia Sound
Repository	Institutional and subject repositories offering access to research output, which may include but is not exclusively data	Platform Report Item Report	Article Book_Segment Conference_Item Dataset Journal News_Item Other Patent Reference_Item Report Software Standard Thesis_or_Dissertation Unspecified
Scholarly Collaboration Network	Services used by researchers to share information about their work	Platform Report Item Report	Article Book_Segment Conference_Item News_Item Patent Reference_Item Report Standard Thesis_or_Dissertation Unspecified