Journal Assessment is not all About COUNTER Statistics

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**Multiple Years of Data Important in Decision Making**

- Provides consistent data across vendors
- It is quantitative: identifies journals browsed, read, download, printed
- Does not tell about the nature of use
- Does not give information on impact of the material

**Why Collection Assessment?**

- Decreasing budgets
- Escalating costs of science and technology journal subscriptions
- Obligations to provide the core discipline resources in academic environments
- Satisfy information needs of different levels of users
- Evidenced-based decisions

**COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) Data**

- COUNTER 4 — Integrated Code of Practice covering journals, databases and books, as well as, multimedia content
- Implementation: December 31, 2013
- Vendor generated usage data
- Provides consistent data across vendors
- Only part of the whole in decision making
- It is quantitative: identifies journals browsed, read, download, printed
- Does not tell about the nature of use
- Does not give information on impact of the material

**Other Factors for Consideration**

- Electronic Journal holdings not comprehensive
- Print back runs (in storage or other locations)
- Interlibrary data/circulation data — print back files

**Hypothetical Case:**

**Chemistry and Biochemistry Journals — Dummy Institution**

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**Incorporating Research Publications and Citation Data**

- Campus/departamental research publications — faculty publications (journals, books, patents, grants, presentations, theses and dissertations)
- Cited references — times cited
- Tedious process of extracting data
- Necessary information to make good decisions

**Conclusion**

- Evidenced-based decision making
- Look beyond COUNTER data in making meaningful decisions
- Provide evidence-based reasons to retain expensive journals

**Other Tools**

- SciFinder
- Scopus
- Web of Science