
JUSP workshop - books

Reviewing e-book subscriptions

You are gathering information ahead of annual renewals. Your library has subscriptions to several book collections including Thieme, Oxford Dictionaries and IEEE.

Thieme eBook Library

1. Run the BR2 for January to December 2016. How many titles are included in this report?

Answer: 121

2. What other information would you need if you wanted to identify nil usage?

Answer: List of titles you are entitled to access and the date from which access was available.

3. Sort by total for the period and review usage of top title across the year. What do you notice?

Answer: The use occurs in only 3 months of the year with most use September (105), for the rest of the year the titles sees nil usage.

4. Run the 'Trends over time' report for all years. From looking at the available usage data when do you think that access to the subscription content was granted? Discuss the limitations of relying solely on usage data.

Answer: The figures would suggest a start date in May 2015, however COUNTER data does not include any information about access entitlements, so there is no way to tell for sure from the usage alone. It would also not tell you whether it was at the beginning or end of the month. There are other possible reasons for the usage in May such as a trial. Similarly, there may be reasons why usage would be zero in months when access was available e.g. problems with make content discoverable.

5. Is there anything unusual you would want to investigate further from looking at this graph and table?

Answer: There is a large peak in August 2015. This may be accurate usage, but you may want to find out why usage was so high in this month.

Oxford Dictionaries

Oxford Dictionaries is provided by Oxford University Press. Run the BR2 for 2016.

6. A number of different platforms are covered by this report besides Oxford Dictionaries. Name any three of these.

Answer: There are 42 in total. The first three to appear in the report sorted alphabetically are: Oxford Reference, Oxford Scholarship Online and British Academy.

7. Export the file and open in Excel. Filter the sheet to show only lines for Oxford Dictionaries as the platform. How many entries are there?

Answer: 6

IEEE

8. How many titles have more than 100 section requests in 2016?

Answer: 5

The quickest way to work this out is to sort by total.

9. What is the overall usage count for ebooks?

Answer: 5,376

10. All the reports used in this activity have been based on data from the BR2 which counts 'section requests'. Use the support material to find out more about the meaning of 'section request'. Discuss how this affects your review of subscriptions.

Answer: You will find a question in the FAQ for WHAT DOES "SECTION REQUEST" MEAN?

"The meaning of section request varies between publishers. The COUNTER definition is "the first level of subdivision of a book or reference work." For example, this may be a chapter or an encyclopaedia entry. We are looking into providing a community-based approach to compile a list of publishers' use of section."