ScholarlyStats has been successful in providing a portal for usage statistics to the library community and the number of libraries from the US, Europe and Asia is growing rapidly.

We recognize that in addition to the consolidated and dashboard analysis reports currently available through the ScholarlyStats interface, some libraries would like to have their usage data integrated with other data such as holdings or pricing information. The emerging SUSHI standard (see NISO SUSHI site) was the natural choice of technology to deliver data collected and cleaned up by ScholarlyStats to ERM and library systems vendors on behalf of librarians that request this service.

Project COUNTER has achieved a great deal over the last few years to arrive at a commonly accepted set of term definitions, data processing rules and report formats for usage reports from vendors. Libraries can now compare apples with apples. SUSHI extends the usefulness of the work COUNTER has done by allowing COUNTER reports to be delivered through an automated process, and at MPS we welcome this initiative.

SUSHI is a protocol for the automatic delivery of usage data from one system to another through an xml schema that defines a request and response system. It is likely to take some time for the SUSHI standard to be agreed and ratified by NISO and then the key question is whether publishers and information providers will be willing and able to provide reports using SUSHI. The speed of uptake will become clearer over time, but to be useful it needs to reach critical mass. Once SUSHI has become widely adopted by data providers (e.g. publishers), we intend to use it to further automate our processes, and pass the associated cost-savings on to our customers.

Within ScholarlyStats, we have been carrying out development work to comply with the SUSHI data transfer protocol to enhance the value of our consolidated vendor

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usage statistics for customers now. ScholarlyStats will transfer journal usage data into other third party systems, including ERM systems, in response to requests from those systems. For customers, the delivery of these ScholarlyStats reports will mean that our Integration Partners will be able to merge the use data of over 30 major vendor platforms with other information contained within these systems, for example subscription information.

The SUSHI committee has been enthusiastic about this ScholarlyStats development initiative which supports their mission to integrate usage statistics into library workflows. Adam Chandler and Oliver Pesch, Co-chairs of the SUSHI Committee commented

"The NISO SUSHI standard has been developed to assist library professionals with the automated delivery of COUNTER usage data. We are delighted that the ScholarlyStats service from MPS Technologies has adopted SUSHI as the enabling technology, to allow usage data collected by ScholarlyStats to be seamlessly integrated with other metrics to provide a complete view of usage for libraries."

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any additional information about ScholarlyStats and SUSHI, or to request ScholarlyStats to deliver to additional Integration Partners.

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