
COUNTER Metrics: A Practical Guide

COUNTER

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COUNTER Metrics

Version 5.1 of the COUNTER Code of Practice was developed with input from libraries and content providers who are members of COUNTER. This code, which outlines the best practices, helps content providers generate reliable and consistent usage data.

By using this data, librarians and other stakeholders can evaluate and compare how digital resources are used across different providers and publishers. It also helps them demonstrate the value of their institutions' digital subscriptions.

Version 5.1 of COUNTER distinguishes three types of metrics:

- Usage Metrics
- Search Metrics
- Access Denials

1. Usage Metrics

Key COUNTER terms

- **Item_Investigations:** any interaction with content (e.g., viewing an abstract, clicking on a link).
- **Item_Requests:** access to full content (e.g., viewing an entire module).
- **Total_Item vs. Unique_Item:** total statistics versus deduplicated statistics (only one interaction per user per session), in order to avoid bias.

Practical Example:

A user searches for the anatomical structure “brain” and then selects the “Cranial Nerves” module. The module page opens.

Triggered Metrics:

- PR – Total_Item_Investigations, Total_Item_Requests, Unique_Item_Investigations & Unique_Item_Requests
- DR – Total_Item_Investigations, Total_Item_Requests, Unique_Item_Investigations & Unique_Item_Requests

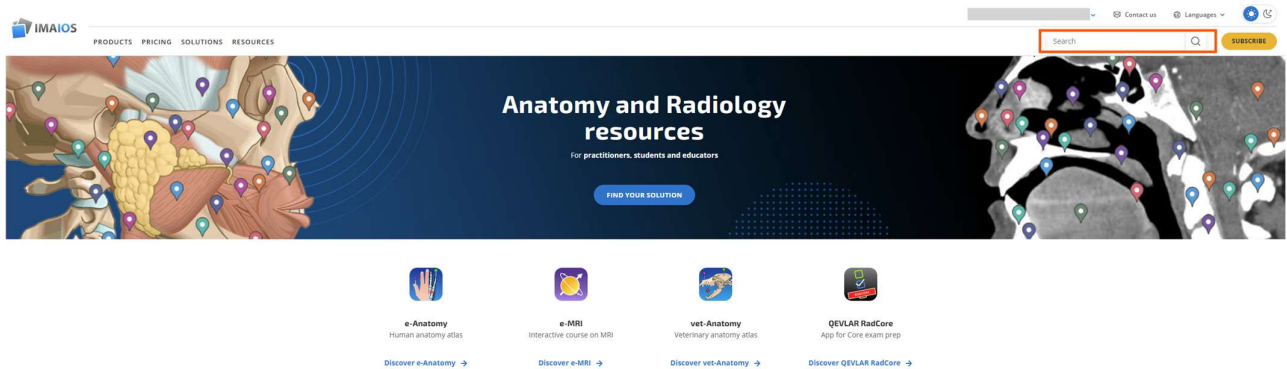


2. Search Metrics

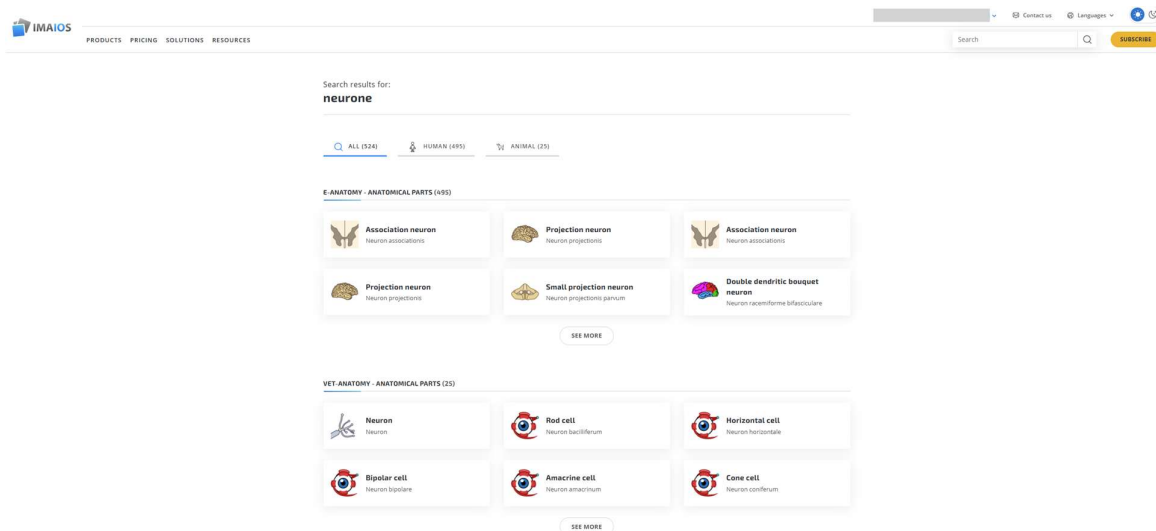
Key COUNTER terms

- **Search_Platform:** the user searches at the platform level.
- **Search_Automated:** the user does not have the option to select a specific database when searching.
- **Search_Regular:** the user can choose among the various databases of a publisher's platform.

On the home page, a user performs a search by entering an anatomical structure into the search bar, then confirms it.



A search results page is displayed:

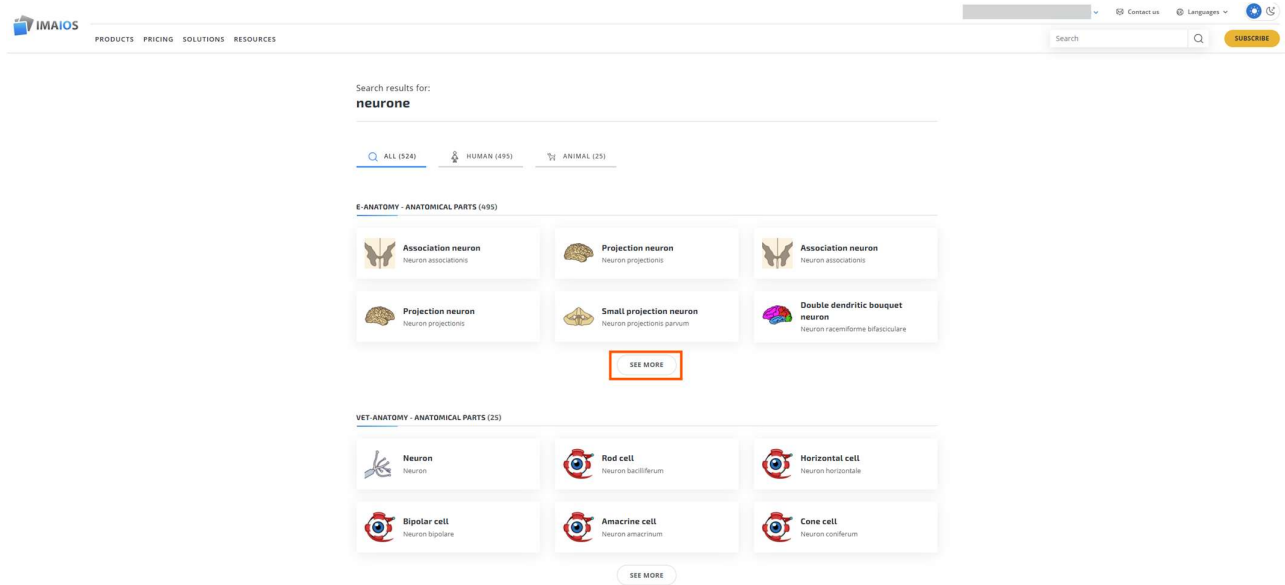


Triggered Metrics:

- PR – Searches_Platform (1)
- DR – Searches_Automated (“e-Anatomy” = 1 / “vet-Anatomy” = 1)



A user clicks on the “SEE MORE” button.



👉 Triggered Metrics:

- PR – Searches_Platform
- DR – Searches_Regular (on the corresponding data base, either “e-Anatomy” or “vet-Anatomy”)

3. Access Denials

For IMAIOS, there is only one type of access denial, as we do not impose any limit on the number of simultaneous connections.

Key COUNTER term

- **No_License:** The user does not have access rights (no license).

🔗 **Practical Example:** A user without a subscription attempts to access a *premium* module on e-Anatomy.

👉 Triggered Metrics:

- PR - Total_Item_Investigations + Unique_Item_Investigations
- DR - Total_Item_Investigations + Unique_Item_Investigations + No_License



COUNTER Reports

How to retrieve your COUNTER reports?

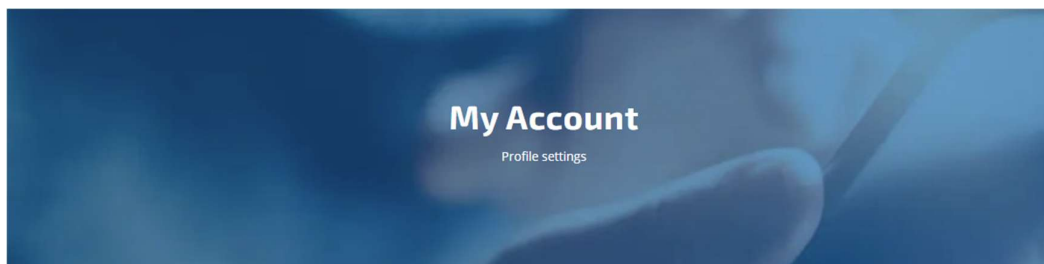
1. Access

To access the statistics platform, you must be logged into an administrator account with statistics access rights.

Once logged in, select "Administration" from the menu.



Then click on the statistics icon:



HOME / MY ACCOUNT: ADMINISTRATION

PROFILE

SECURITY

INVOICES

SUBSCRIPTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

Access

show 10 entries

Name	Product	Max. users	Expiration date	Status
IMAIOS	e-Anatomy	2000	Dec 31, 2035	ACTIVE

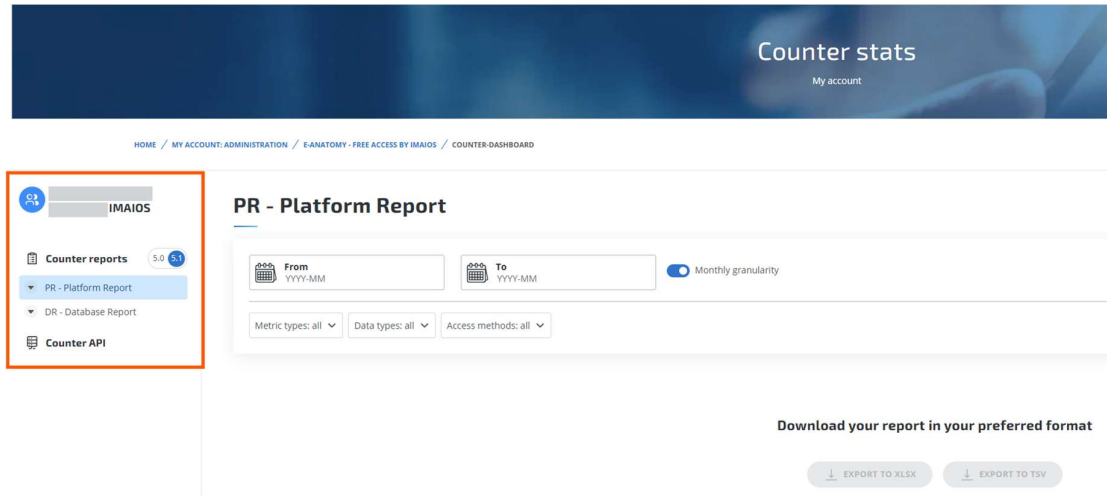
1 to 1 of 1



2. Navigating the interface

The left-hand sidebar menu contains the “COUNTER reports” category.

The switch is set to COUNTER version 5.1. by default.



You can generate version 5.0 reports by switching the toggle.

3. Selecting reports

Usage reports are available by default. By clicking on the arrow, the standard COUNTER reports are displayed. These reports are pre-configured and cannot be changed dynamically.

▼ PR - Platform Report

- PR_P1 - Platform usage

▼ DR - Database Report

- DR_D1 - Database Search and Item Usage
- DR_D2 - Database Access Denied

4. Defining a period

When you place the cursor in the calendar date field, a panel with the months is displayed, and you can directly select the desired months.



PR_P1 - Platform Usage

The screenshot shows a date selection interface for the year 2025. At the top, there are two input fields: 'From' with a calendar icon and the value '2025-01', and 'To' with a calendar icon and the value '2025-02'. Below these is a calendar grid for 2025. The months are arranged in a 4x3 grid. The first row contains 'January 2025' (highlighted in blue), 'February 2025' (highlighted in blue), and 'March 2025'. The second row contains 'April 2025', 'May 2025', and 'June 2025'. The third row contains 'July 2025', 'August 2025', and 'September 2025'. The fourth row contains 'October 2025', 'November 2025', and 'December 2025'. To the left of the calendar grid, there are four radio button options: 'Last month', 'Last three month', 'Last 12 month', and 'Last year'. The 'Last month' option is selected. The year '2025' is displayed in the center of the calendar grid. Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the calendar grid.

5. Downloading your reports

Once the period has been selected, you can download the reports. Two formats are available: .xlsx and .tsv.

6. Using the COUNTER API (formerly SUSHI)

The COUNTER API URL (formerly SUSHI) has changed. The new URL (for version 5.1) is: <https://www.imaios.com/api/counter/r51>. To access all the necessary information for using the COUNTER API, click on the "COUNTER API" section in the left-hand menu.

Learn more

You can find additional information at: <https://www.countermetrics.org/>.

If you have any questions that aren't answered in this documentation, feel free to contact us at: contact@imaios.com.

