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December 2008

## SLA 2008 Session Report

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## **2008 Annual Conference Session Report**

### **SUSHI: Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative: The Next Step in Standardized Automation of Usage**

Monday, June 16, 2008

Presented by: Information Technology Division,  
Technical Standards Committee

Sponsored by: IEEE

Reported by: Karen Buxton, Karen.buxton@  
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Three very knowledgeable speakers were featured at the session: Margie Hlava of Access Innovations, Oliver Pesch of EBSCO and Tim Jewell of the University of Washington. Margie Hlava gave a brief overview of information technology standards in a talk titled, "What's happening in Standards?" She covered the latest developments from NISO, W3C, ISO, IFLA, and the Library of Congress

Oliver Pesch of EBSCO began his presentation by providing a brief overview of usage statistics and of the "Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources" or COUNTER Code of Practice, which is the foundation for SUSHI. He provided a timeline of usage-related standards to demonstrate the evolution of COUNTER and showed why SUSHI was a natural outgrowth of it. Pesch explained that "COUNTER provides an excellent model for usage data; however, librarians need a more efficient method for getting the data. Currently they must download spreadsheets a file at-a-time from each vendor

site then load them. A background query/response model is much more efficient and scalable – in other words, automate the process." The role of SUSHI will be to automatically harvest statistics from vendors without human intervention. The standard is in the very early stages of adoption by publishers and vendors. It should be much more widely implemented by end of 2009 because it will be made mandatory in release 3 of the COUNTER Code of Practice.

Tim Jewell talked about how the University of Washington (UW) has implemented the SUSHI standard. UW is using ScholarlyStats (<https://www.scholarlystats.com>) to consolidate and analyze their usage data. The Electronic Resource Management (ERM) tool used by the libraries there is set up to accept SUSHI feeds from ScholarlyStats. The ERM easily generates COUNTER-style reports and brings in ERM order information to calculate cost per use. At this point there is still a lot of manual labor involved in manipulating the data provided by vendors to create reports. However, this should become more automated as the SUSHI standard becomes more widely adopted.❖

[Ed. Note: This SLA 2008 Conference session report was inadvertently left out of our August issue.]

