

**Standardization of Usage Statistics of Electronic Journals**  
**Thieme Publishing Group Supports COUNTER International Initiative**

**Stuttgart, July 2003 – Thieme Publishing Group support with immediate effect the COUNTER initiative (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) aiming at comparability and compatibility of the usage statistics of electronic journals. This initiative originated in Great Britain and is supported by an international combine of libraries and publishers. Many U.S. and English publishers have already joined hands to effect its realization. By the end of the current year Thieme Publishing Group will have adjusted statistics to COUNTER standard.**

Thomas Connertz, director electronic journals ([www.thieme-connect.com](http://www.thieme-connect.com)), says:  
„Costumers of e-Journals , such as libraries, for instance, ask for us age statistics that are comparable.“ In December 2002 the British initiative COUNTER laid down rules for an international procedure for usage statistics of electronic journals and databases. For example, it was stipulated how and what data should be evaluated for usage statistics and how to present them. This procedure ensures comparability of statistics and hence of the individual specialist journals.

COUNTER certifies statistics programmes evaluating the data in accordance with the rules: the initiative examines the technical process underlying the preparation of the statistics. This control is repeated annually before COUNTER certifies the validity of the statistics.

Both providers and users of electronic information will equally benefit from these worldwide effective standards measuring online usage. This establishes reliable standards of assessment for valid data, and hence Thieme Publishing Group support this international initiative with immediate effect an join the organization. By the end of the current year Thieme will have readjusted their usage statistics to supply them as prescribed by COUNTER.

The contents of Thieme Publishing Group’s specialist journals are available online via [www.thieme-connect.de](http://www.thieme-connect.de) or [www.thieme-connect.com](http://www.thieme-connect.com). These more than 130 specialist journals focus on all medical specialities an on those of borderline natural sciences.