

The Tracker protocol V3.1

When a user clicks on a link to (downloads) a file from a Repository with the tracker protocol in operation, an OpenURL log entry is sent to a remote server for further processing.

Constructing the OpenURL log entry Generation

The OpenURL log entry should be based on a subset of the NISO OpenURL 1.0 standard *KEV ContextObject Format*. The OpenURL string values must be URL encoded, with key-value pairs separated by &.

Element	OpenURL Key	OpenURL Value (example)	Notes
OpenURL version	url_ver	Z39.88-2004	Identifies data as OpenURL 1.0. String constant: Z39.88-2004 (Mandatory)
Usage event datestamp	url_tim	2010-10-17T03%3A04%3A42Z	Date/time of usage event (Mandatory)
Client IP address	req_id	urn:ip:138.250.13.161	IP Address of the client requesting the article (Mandatory)
UserAgent	req_dat	Mozilla%2F4.0+%28compatible%3B+MSIE+7.0%3B+Windows+NT+5.1%3B+Trident%2F4.0%3B+GoogleT5%3B+.NET+CLR+1.0.3705%3B+.NET+CLR+1.1.4322%3B+Media+Center+PC+4.0%3B+IE+MB3%3B+InfoPath.1%3B+.NET+CLR+2.0.50727%3B+IEMB3%29	The UserAgent is used to identify and eliminate, by applying COUNTER rules, accesses by robots/spiders (Mandatory)
Item OAI identifier	rft.artnum	oai:dspace.lib.cranfield.ac.uk:1826/936	(Mandatory)
FileURL	svc_dat	https://dspace.lib.cranfield.ac.uk/bitstream/1826/936/4/Artificial_compressibility_Pt2-2005.pdf	(Mandatory)
HTTP Referer	rfr_dat	http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=http%20referer&source=web&cd=4&sqi=2&ved=0CEoQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatismyreferer.com%2F&ei=zIBCU6fbEoOqhQf67YCwBg&usg=AFQjCNft-KMqneTZfEb6OxjPZID4ogiJcQ&sig2=wZJYkoWgNScNjgxRbRs29w&bvm=bv.64125504,d.ZWU	(Mandatory) The HTTP header field that identifies the address of the webpage (i.e. the URI) that linked to the resource being requested. The 'HTTP referer' is used to help identify and eliminate accesses by robots/spiders.
Source repository	rfr_id	dspace.lib.cranfield.ac.uk	(Mandatory)

Eliminating robots

Information about Robot downloads need not be transmitted to the remote server. Before attempting to transmit the OpenURL, a check may be carried out to eliminate robots as defined in the COUNTER official list, updated in Jan 2014, available as a series of user-agent regexes in a text file at:

- [Appendix J: List of internet robots, crawlers, spiders, etc.](#) TXT (3KB)

Checking against these regexes should be case insensitive.

OpenURL Transmission

Once the OpenURL has been constructed, it will need to be transmitted to a remote server where it will be stored and processed.

If the transmission is successful the remote server will return a 200 OK code.

If the transmission is *not* successful, e.g. a 4xx or 5xx code is returned, the OpenURL string should be queued for processing later, e.g. appended to a file held on the local server. A script, that can be scheduled to run periodically, should check if there are queued entries and, if there are, re-transmit them.