

In the **SNOWFLAKE database**, the *ACCOUNT_USAGE* and *READER_ACCOUNT_USAGE* schemas enable querying **object metadata**, as well as **historical usage data**, for your account and all reader accounts (if any) associated with the account.

ACCOUNT_USAGE => Views that display object metadata and usage metrics for your account. In general, these views mirror the corresponding views and table functions in the Snowflake "INFORMATION_SCHEMA", but with the following differences:

- > Records for dropped objects included in each view.
- > Longer retention time for historical usage data.
- > Data latency.

READER_ACCOUNT_USAGE => Views that display object metadata and usage metrics for all the reader accounts that have been created for your account (as a Secure Data Sharing) provider. These views are a small subset of the ACCOUNT_USAGE views that apply to reader accounts, with the exception of the RESOURCE_MONITORS view, which is available only in READER_ACCOUNT_USAGE. Also, each view in this schema contains an additional READER_ACCOUNT_NAME column for filtering results by reader account.

Note that these views are empty if no reader accounts have been created for your account.

Differences Between Account Usage and Information Schema

Difference	Account Usage	Information Schema
Includes dropped objects	Yes	No
Latency of data	From 45 minutes to 3 hours (varies by view)	None
Retention of historical data	1 Year	From 7 days to 6 months (varies by view/table function)