Index to pass database evaluation: making the connection

by

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Overview

- Who is the indexer?
- Who are the indexing for?
- The evaluation
- The ideal database
- Two examples

Who are the indexers?

- “Indexing is not a neutral and objective representation of a document’s subject matter but the representation of an interpretation of a document for future use.”
- “The creation of the subject matter is based on the indexer’s social and cultural context”

Mai, J E 2001, “Semiotics and indexing: an analysis of the subject indexing process”, *Journal of documentation*, vol. 57, no. 5, pp. 591-622.

Who are the indexers? (cont.)

- Retrieval effectiveness
- Performance of manually assigned descriptors vs. automatic indexing scheme.
- modern indexing and abstracting services (such as MEDLINE and CAS) make use of human subject analysis and indexing.

Savoy, J 2005, 'Bibliographic database access using free-text and controlled vocabulary: an evaluation', *Information Processing and Management*, vol. 41, pp. 873–890.

Who are the indexing for?

- **The Net Generation**
  - familiar and comfortable with computer and digital technologies
  - dependent on and prefer Google
  - find library resources difficult to figure out
  - want speedy answers and full gratification immediately

Lippincott, J K 2005, Generation students and libraries, *Educause*, March/Apr., pp. 56-66.

Who are the indexing for? (Cont.)

- **OCLC reports 2005 & 2010**
  - start information searches with search engines
  - satisfied with searches
  - self serve
  - do not differentiate
  - Use of ‘Ask an expert’ sites increased over past 5 years

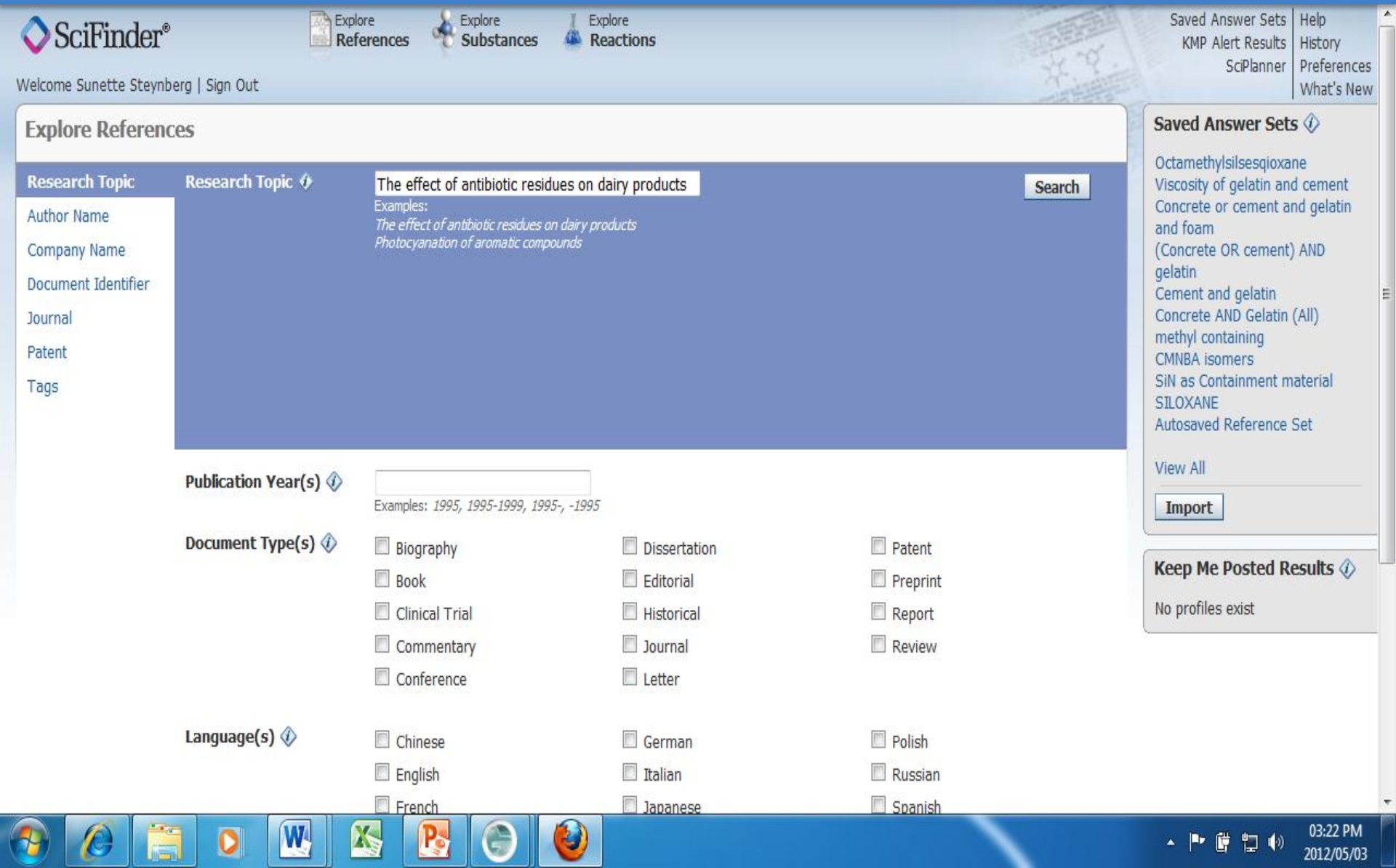
The evaluation

- Content covered
- Appearance and product structure
- Full text options
- Display, save, print and export functions
- Help facility

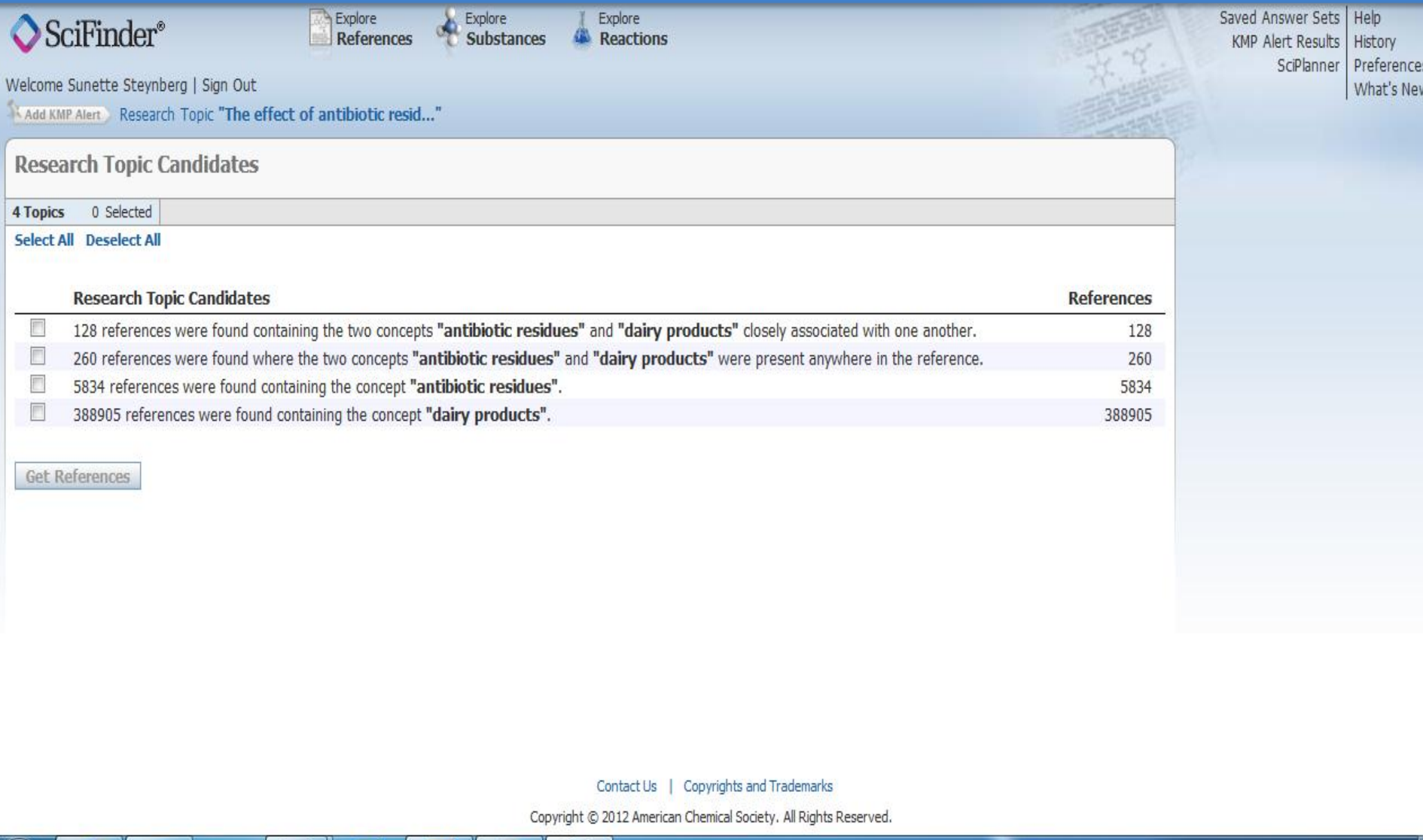
The ideal database

- Easy to use – no training needed
- One stop shop (all databases on one search engine)
- Searches synonyms, English and US spellings
- Link directly to pdf
- Export directly to the reference management software tool of the user's choice

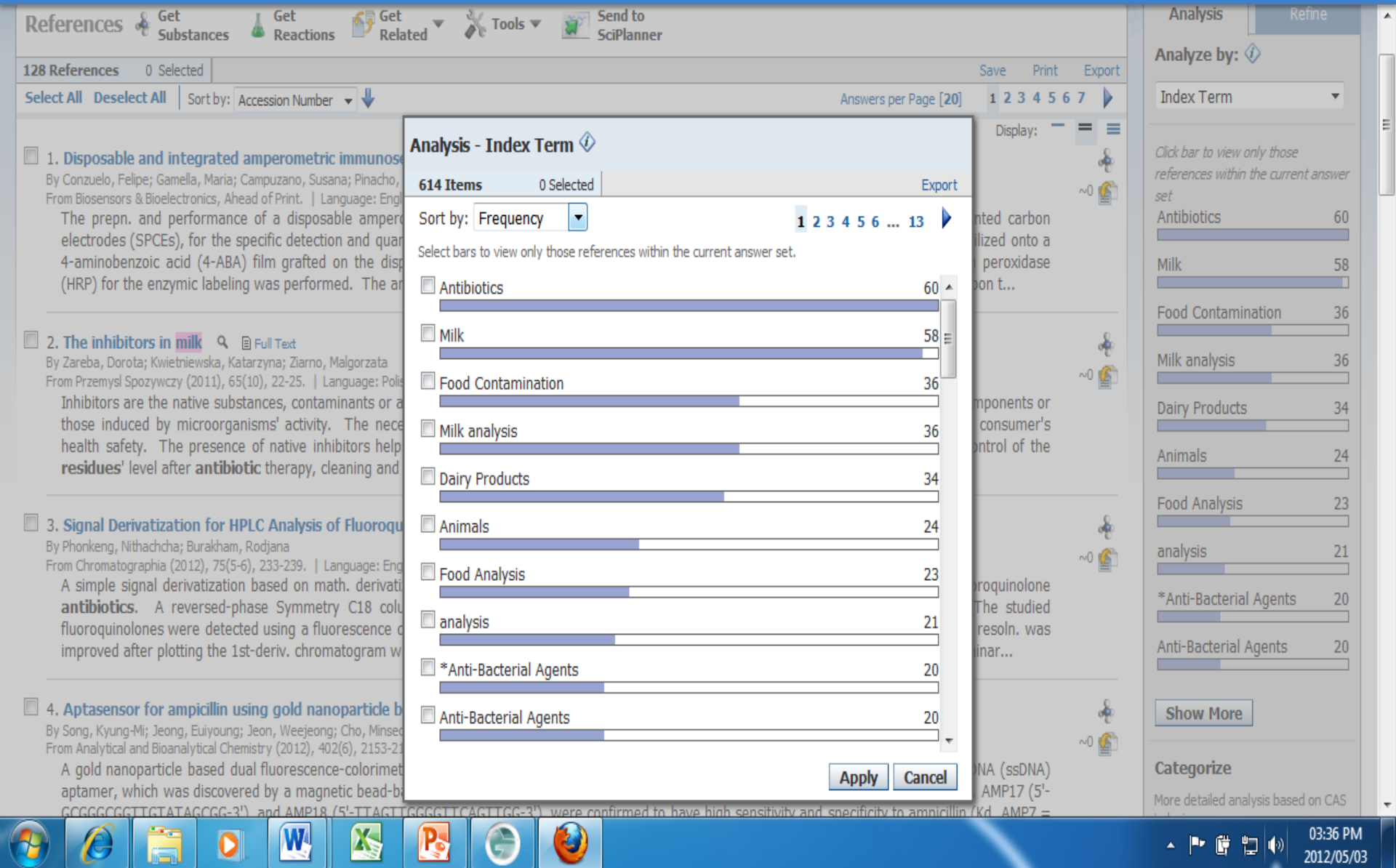
The effect of antibiotic residues on dairy products



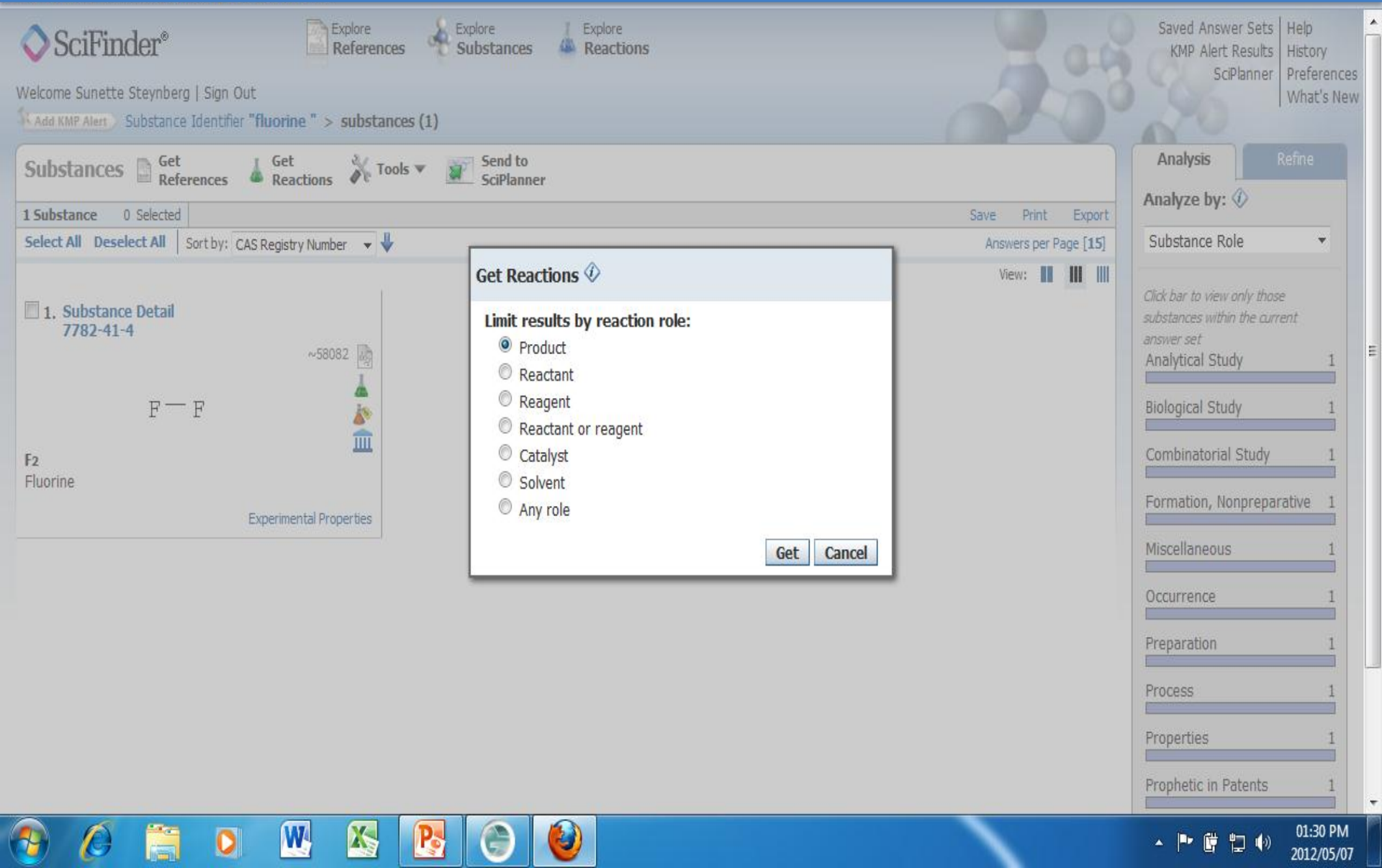
Search results



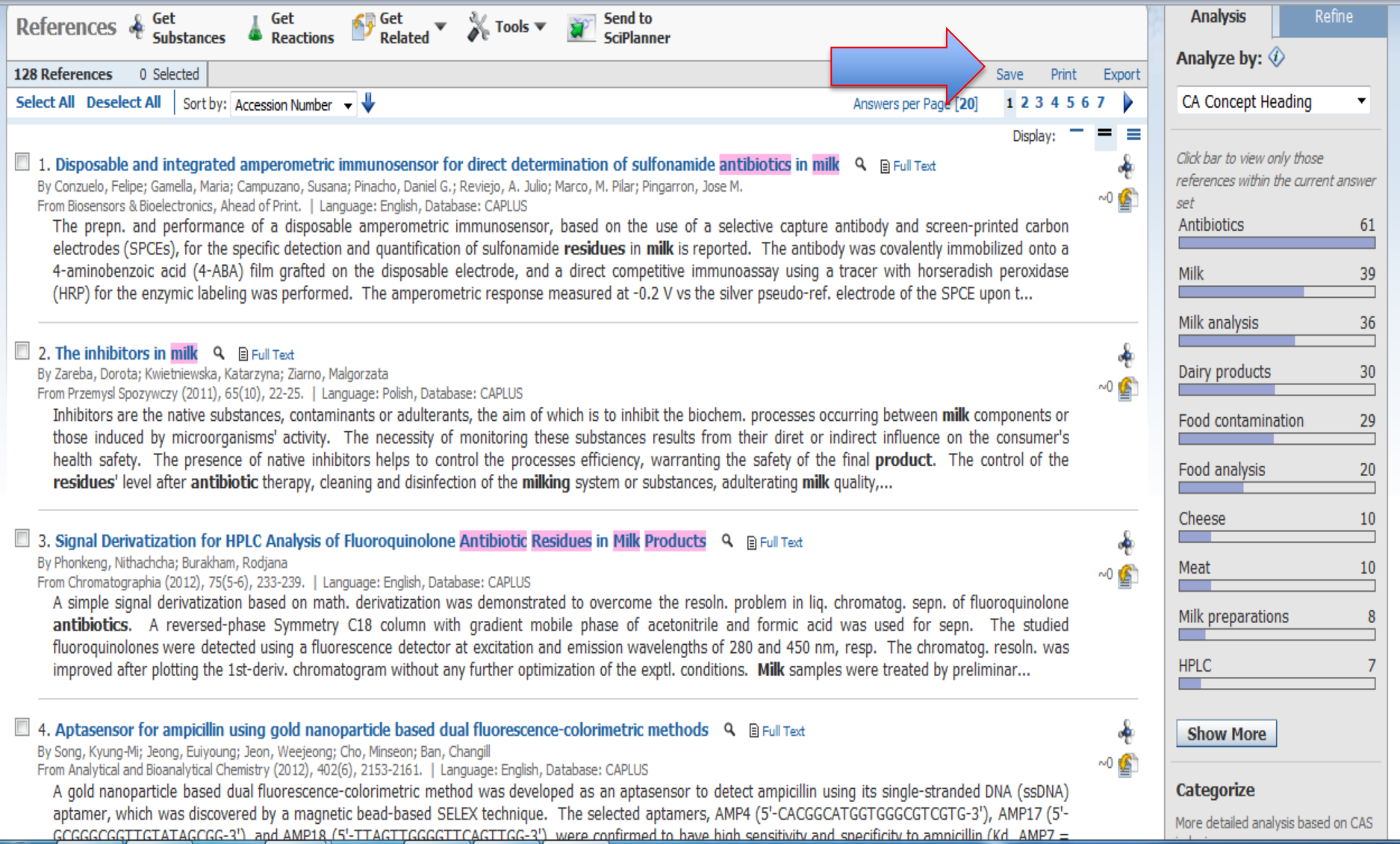
Analyse by index terms



Limit to reaction roles



Save, print, export



What is Scopus?

386 million scholarly Web items, E-prints, theses, dissertations, patents

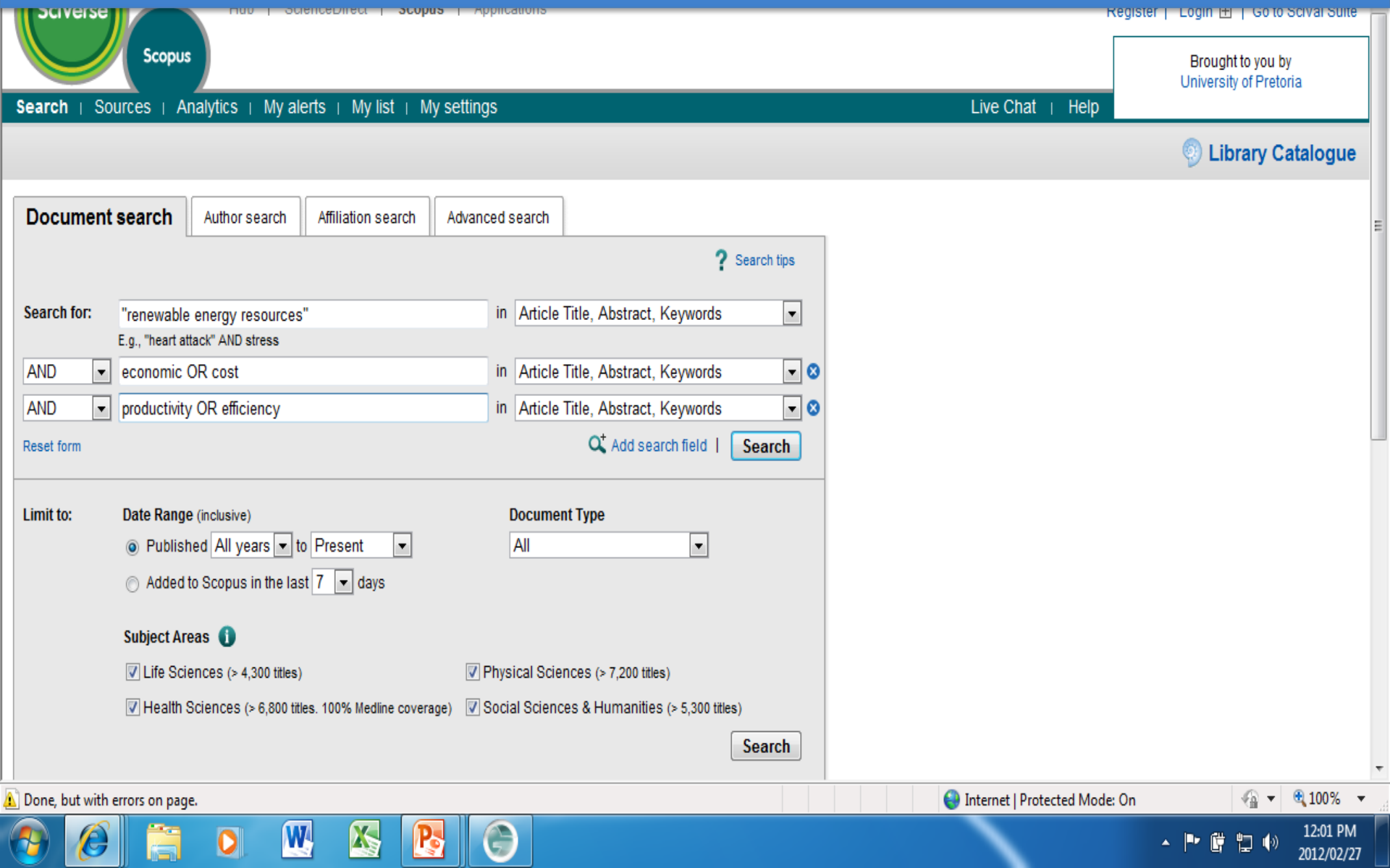
Intuitive search and browse functionality

Fastest route to FullText

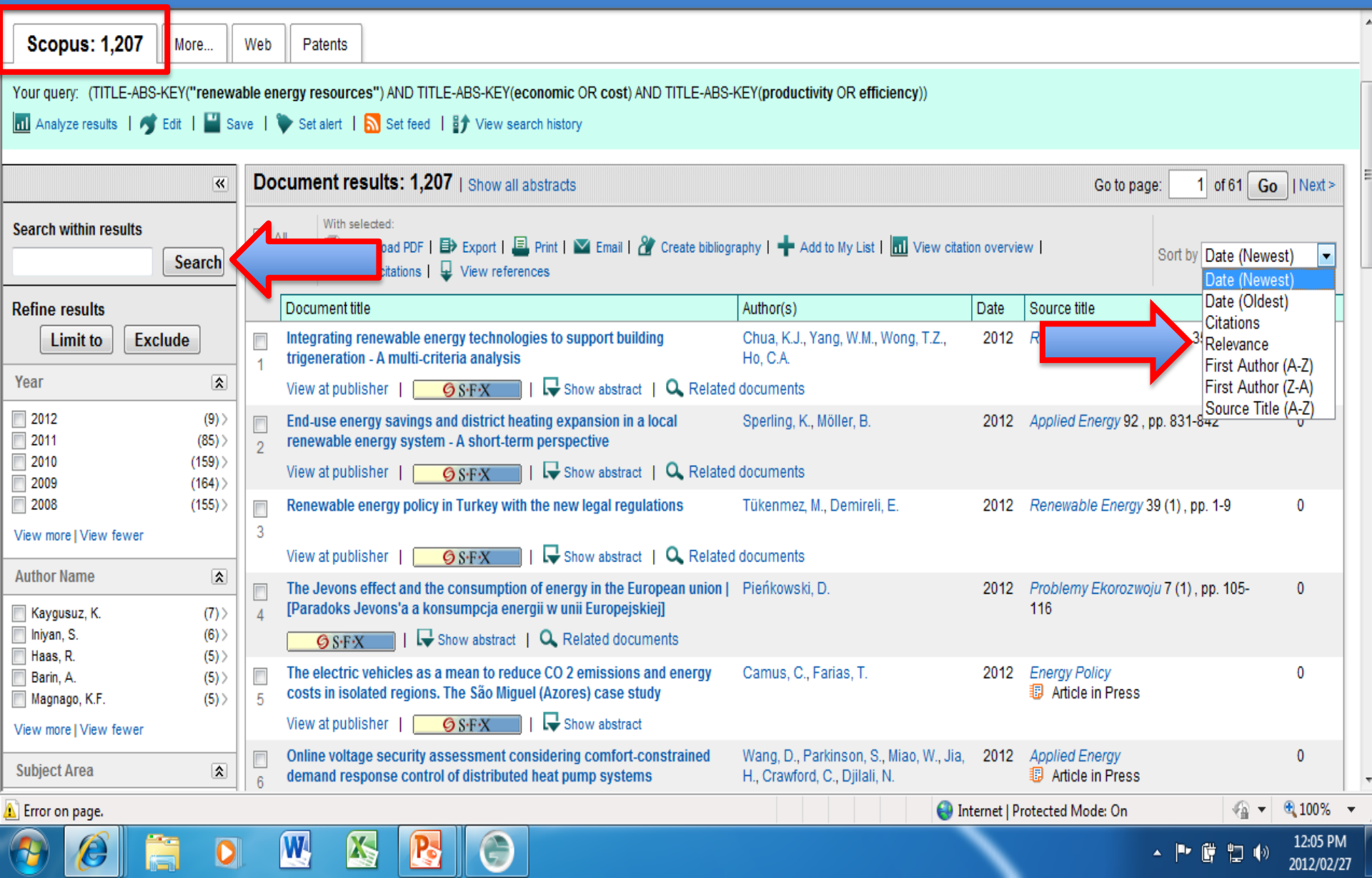
15% Elsevier sources

85% other publishers

Compare different renewable energy resources as far as commercial viability and productivity is concerned.



Narrowing the search



Refining options

Scopus - Document search results - Mozilla Firefox

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0-www.scopus.com.innopac.up.ac.za/results/results.url?sort=plf-f&src=s&st1="renewable+energy+resources"&st2=economic+OR+cost&search1

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Your query: (TITLE-ABS-KEY("**renewable energy resources**") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(**economic** OR **cost**) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(**productivity** OR **efficiency**))

Analyze results | Edit | Save | Set alert | Set feed | View search history

View secondary documents | Go to results: 119 Web

Document results: 1,227 | Show all abstracts

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Limit to | Exclude

Year

- 2012 (23)
- 2011 (92)
- 2010 (160)
- 2009 (164)
- 2008 (155)

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- Kaygusuz, K. (6)

	Document title	Author(s)	Date	Source title	Cited by
1	The economic, environmental and strategic value of biomass	Carneiro, P., Ferreira, P.	2012	*Renewable Energy* 44 , pp. 17-22	0
	View at publisher | SFX | Show abstract | Related documents				
2	Performance evaluation of energy efficient lighting associated with renewable energy applications	Sperber, A.N., Elmore, A.C., Crow, M.L., Cawlfield, J.D.	2012	*Renewable Energy* 44 , pp. 423-430	0
	View at publisher | SFX | Show abstract | Related documents				
3	Flexible design of a pico-hydropower system for Laos communities	Vicente, S., Bludszuweit, H.	2012	*Renewable Energy* 44 , pp. 406-413	0
	View at publisher | SFX | Show abstract | Related documents				
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"Only librarians like to search;
Everyone else likes to find."

- Roy Tennant -

Questions?

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