How to… Create a Reference Answer Set

Find references quickly and easily

In SciFinder®, you search bibliographic content from two of the world's largest sources of publicly available references for chemistry and related sciences: CAplusSM from CAS and MEDLINE® (PubMed) from the National Library of Medicine®. Select from various reference search options, based on the information at hand and your research needs. This guide explains how to conduct each type of reference search. When you have your answer set, refer to "How to … Work with Reference Answer Sets" for ways to evaluate the results and target the most relevant answers. For more detailed information about SciFinder, consult the online help or visit www.cas.org/training/scifinder.

Types of Reference Searches

1 On the **Explore** tab, under **REFERENCES**, you can search by any of the seven options.

2 Click **Advanced Search** to see criteria for narrowing a search:

- These search limiters are available as part of the **Refine** and **Analyze** functions, so you can also apply them later in your search process.

Tip
- For most keyword searches, it is often best to start with a broad search and narrow the results later.
- To find specific references, add **Advanced Search** criteria.

Search by Research Topic

Explore ▾ | **Saved Searches** ▾ | **SciPlanner**

REFERENCES
1. Research Topic
   Author Name
   Company Name
   Document Identifier
   Journal
   Patent
   Tags

SUBSTANCES
   Chemical Structure

REFERENCES: RESEARCH TOPIC ❓

2. clean up of oil spill in ocean

Examples:
The effect of antibiotic residues on dairy products
Photocyanation of aromatic compounds

Search

3. ⌃ Advanced Search   ☑ Always Show

1 To begin, click **Research Topic**.

2 Enter your search concept(s) in the text box.
- A search concept, or keyword, is a term or phrase relevant to your topic of interest.
- Enter up to seven concepts, separated by prepositions, in English.
  - Recommendation: enter two or three concepts, separating each concept with a preposition. Use additional concepts to refine your answer set later.
- Use "not" or "except" to exclude a term.

3 Click **Search**.

Continued

Tip
You can include up to three synonyms or acronyms for a concept. Place them in parentheses immediately following the concept and separate them with commas. E.g., cat (kitten, feline, felis catus)

Screenshot panel

1 of 11 Research Topic Candidates Selected | **References**

	Candidate	References
☐	**4** 193 references were found containing all of the concepts **"clean"**, **"oil spill"** and **"ocean"** closely associated with one another.	193
☑	670 references were found where all of the concepts **"clean"**, **"oil spill"** and **"ocean"** were present anywhere in the reference.	670
☐	1578 references were found containing the two concepts **"clean"** and **"oil spill"** closely associated with one another.	1578
☐	2403 references were found where the two concepts **"clean"** and **"oil spill"** were present anywhere in the reference.	2403
☐	3306 references were found containing the two concepts **"clean"** and **"ocean"** closely associated with one another.	3306
☐	8579 references were found where the two concepts **"clean"** and **"ocean"** were present anywhere in the reference.	8579
☐	3685 references were found containing the two concepts **"oil spill"** and **"ocean"** closely associated with one another.	3685
☐	5291 references were found where the two concepts **"oil spill"** and **"ocean"** were present anywhere in the reference.	5291
☐	645013 references were found containing the concept **"clean"**.	645013
☐	15717 references were found containing the concept **"oil spill"**.	15717
☐	562745 references were found containing the concept **"ocean"**.	562745

5 Get References

SciFinder returns a set of **Topic Candidates**.

4 Select the answer set that you want to use.
- Click the box to select an option.
- A checkmark indicates it has been selected.

5 Click **Get References**.

SciFinder Considers Terms to be…	When the Terms Are Found…
"As entered"	Exactly as you have entered them
"Closely associated with one another"	Within the same sentence or title
"Present anywhere within a reference"	Anywhere (perhaps widely separated) within a record's title, abstract, or indexing
"Containing the concept"	Somewhere in the record

Now what?

After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

Tip
All concepts "present anywhere in the reference" is often a good starting point if comprehensiveness is important. If the number of references is too large or you only need a few good answers, consider selecting the narrower option in which all of the concepts are "closely associated with one another."

Search by Author Name

Explore ▾ | **Saved Searches** ▾ | **SciPlanner**

REFERENCES
- Research Topic
- **① Author Name**
- Company Name
- Document Identifier
- Journal
- Patent
- Tags

⚙ SUBSTANCES

REFERENCES: AUTHOR NAME ❓

② Last Name * Kobilka | First Brian | Middle

☑ Look for alternate spellings of the last name

③ **Search**

Tips
- For complicated names, try multiple searches and determine which search gives the best results.
- Under the Tools drop down, you can also combine answer sets.

REFERENCES

Select All   Deselect All

④ 4 of 4 Author Name Candidates Selected | References
- ☑ KOBILKA B — 17
- ☑ KOBILKA B K — 111
- ☑ **KOBILKA BRIAN** — 110
- ☑ KOBILKA BRIAN K — 284

⑤ **Get References**

Now what?
After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

① To begin, click **Author Name**.

② Enter as much of the name as you know.
- Only the **Last** name is required. Include the **First** and **Middle** names or initials to improve the search results.
- Enter punctuation (spaces, hyphens, etc.) as if you were writing the name.
- Replace special characters with equivalent character(s), e.g., ae replaces ä.
- For optimal retrieval, "Look for alternative spellings of the last name" is selected by default.

③ Click **Search**.

④ SciFinder returns a list of authors. The number of references associated with each name appears on the right.
- Click the box next to any name(s) you want to select and a checkmark appears.

⑤ Click **Get References**.

Tip
Create a Keep Me Posted (KMP) automatic alert if you want to know when new records for this author become available. See "How to Create a Keep Me Posted (KMP) Alert" for more information.

Search by Company Name

1. To begin, click **Company Name**.

2. Enter the name of one organization into the query entry text box.

3. Click **Search**.

Tip
Create a Keep Me Posted (KMP) automatic alert if you want to know when new records for this author become available. See the "Create and Manage Alerts (KMPs)" guide for more information.

Company Name Searching Guidelines

- SciFinder considers various spellings, acronyms, abbreviations, and related terms when retrieving results. It does not consider mergers and acquisitions.

- SciFinder automatically searches common synonyms and abbreviations. For example, entering "Company" or "Co." returns the same results.

Now what?
After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

Search by Document Identifier

1 To begin, click **Document Identifier**.

2 Enter up to 25 identifiers, one per line, in the query entry text box.

3 Click **Search**.

Tip
SciFinder ignores punctuation and accepts both two-digit and four-digit formats for years. Therefore, the search term 1983:4296 will retrieve both the PubMed ID 834296 and the CAplus Accession Number 1983:4296. Select the document of interest when you review the answers.

Searchable Document Identifiers

Type of Identifier	Example
Accession number: A unique number applied to a record when it is created. It begins with the year followed by sequential numbering.	CAplus: 2012:1527010 MEDLINE: 1998010009
Digital object identifier (DOI): an alphanumeric character string that uniquely identifies an electronic document over the course of its lifetime.	10.1021/jp204843r

Now what?
After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

Search by Journal

To begin, click **Journal**.

Enter a **Journal Name** (required).
- Enter data in additional fields to retrieve more specific answers.

Click **Search**.

Tip
Create a broad search and then narrow search results by using refine and analyze options.

Field	Data Accepted
Journal Name	▪ Full name, abbreviation, or acronym ▪ Abbreviations or acronyms must not contain spaces or punctuation ▪ Maximum of 30 characters
Volume	Number (38) or alphanumeric string (45a) ▪ A Journal Name must be specified before a Volume, Issue, or Starting Page can be recognized
Issue	Number (16) or month (June)
Starting Page	Number (46), letters (iii), or alphanumeric string (m287)
Title Word(s)	Key words, a partial title or a full title

Now what?
After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

Search by Patent

Explore ▾   Saved Searches ▾   SciPlanner

REFERENCES
- Research Topic
- Author Name
- Company Name
- Document Identifier
- Journal
- **1** Patent
- Tags

SUBSTANCES
- Chemical Structure
- Markush
- Molecular Formula
- Property
- Substance Identifier

REACTIONS
- Reaction Structure

REFERENCES: PATENT ❓

Patent Number
2 | US 6448377 |
Examples: WO 2001011365

Tip
One number can retrieve both a granted patent and an unrelated patent application. You can easily select the record of interest while reviewing the search results.

Assignee Name
| |
Examples: Cancer Research Technology Limited

Inventor Last Name *   First   Middle
| | | | | |

Publication Year
| |
Examples: 1995, 1995-1999, 1995-, -1995

3 **Search**

1 To begin, click **Patent**.

2 Enter a **Patent Number**.
- Acceptable patent numbers include any number that identifies a patent, such as patent application numbers, priority application numbers, and patent numbers.

Type of Identifier	Example
Patent Application Number	WO 2012-US29090
Priority Application Number	US 1996-15450P
Patent Number	JP 2001519650

Alternatively, you can enter an **Assignee Name** or **Inventor Name**.
- Enter data in several fields to create a narrower search.

3 Click **Search.**

Now what?
After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

Search by Tags

A tag is a user-defined keyword that you can apply to references in one or more answer sets. When you save an answer set, the tag is saved with the associated reference. Search a tag to retrieve any references to which the tag was applied.

1 To begin, click **Tags**.

**2** From the displayed list, select the tag that you want to search.

SciFinder retrieves all of the records to which that tag has been applied. This feature allows you to pull references from several different answer sets and place them all into a new answer set.

Tip
Search a tag to create a new answer set that contains documents from different answer sets that have the same tag.

Now what?
After you click **Get References**, SciFinder will retrieve the answers which meet your query requirements. To learn about working with the answers, please see the companion document titled, "How to… Work with Reference Answer Sets."

Explore ▼ **Saved Searches** ▼ **SciPlanner**

REFERENCES
- Research Topic
- Author Name
- Company Name
- Document Identifier
- Journal
- Patent
- **1** Tags

SUBSTANCES
- Chemical Structure
- Markush
- Molecular Formula
- Property
- Substance Identifier

REACTIONS
- Reaction Structure

REFERENCES: TAGS ?

Click a tag to retrieve references associated with that tag.

B
2 biosensors

C
coffee
comment

G
g-protein-coupled receptors
gpcr

I
ice cubes

K
kobilka

P
pharmacology

Tip
When reviewing your search, you can apply tags to records by selecting Add Tag from the Tools menu. In the dialog box, enter the key word(s) that you want to apply as a tag. After they are created, tags become searchable.

🔧 Tools ▼ | Creat Me P
Remove Duplicates
Combine Answer Sets
Add Tag

SciFinder®
A CAS SOLUTION
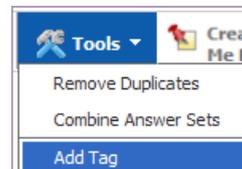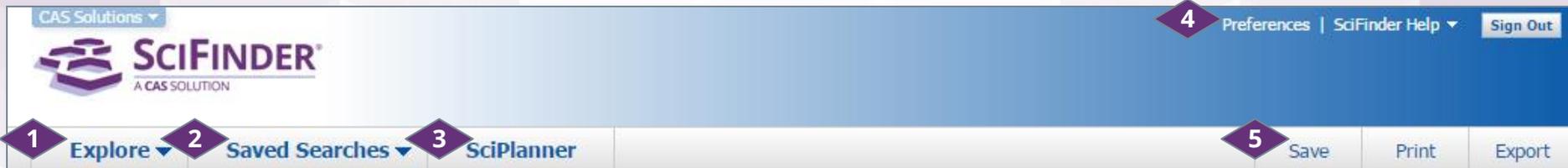
Manage Your Search

1 Start a new **References**, **Substances** or **Reactions** search.

2 Access **Saved Answer Sets**, **Keep Me Posted** automated alert results, and your search **History**.

3 Open the **SciPlanner** interactive workspace where you can organize your reference, substance and reaction search results.

4 Access **Preferences** and **SciFinder Help** options: **Help**, **Training**, **What's New** and **Contact Us**.

5 Click **Save**, **Print** or **Export** to open a dialog window and initiate these procedures. See "How to… Save, Print and Export Answers" for more information.

Tip: Other Ways to Create a Reference Answer Set
You can also create a reference answer set by starting with a reaction or substance search. After you get a reaction or substance answer set, just click the "Get References" icon at the top of the page.
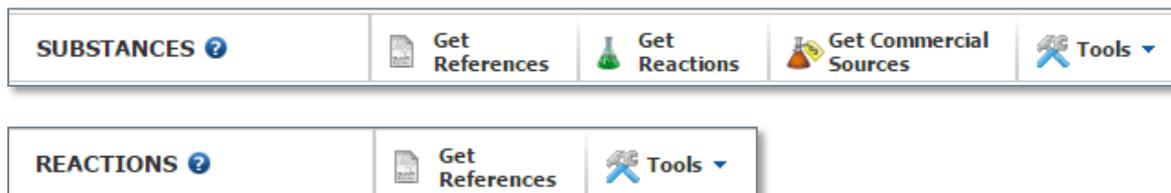
CAS Customer Care Center
E-mail: help@cas.org
Phone numbers: http://www.cas.org/contact-us/cas-customer-center