CiteSearcher: A Frontend for Google Scholar

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Motivation

Google Scholar is a useful search tool to find scholarly articles and papers on the internet. However, it is not built for a small display size such as on mobile phones. As it returns a web page it becomes very crowded and clumsy to navigate the results when viewing on a mobile device. Also, it does not calculate any common performance indices such as the h-Index or g-Index which are useful for determining the impact of the authors of articles and papers. Even though Google scholar now provides similar information with user profiles as results, it's still a cumbersome interface to navigate on mobile devices with small screens that aren't meant for full webpages.
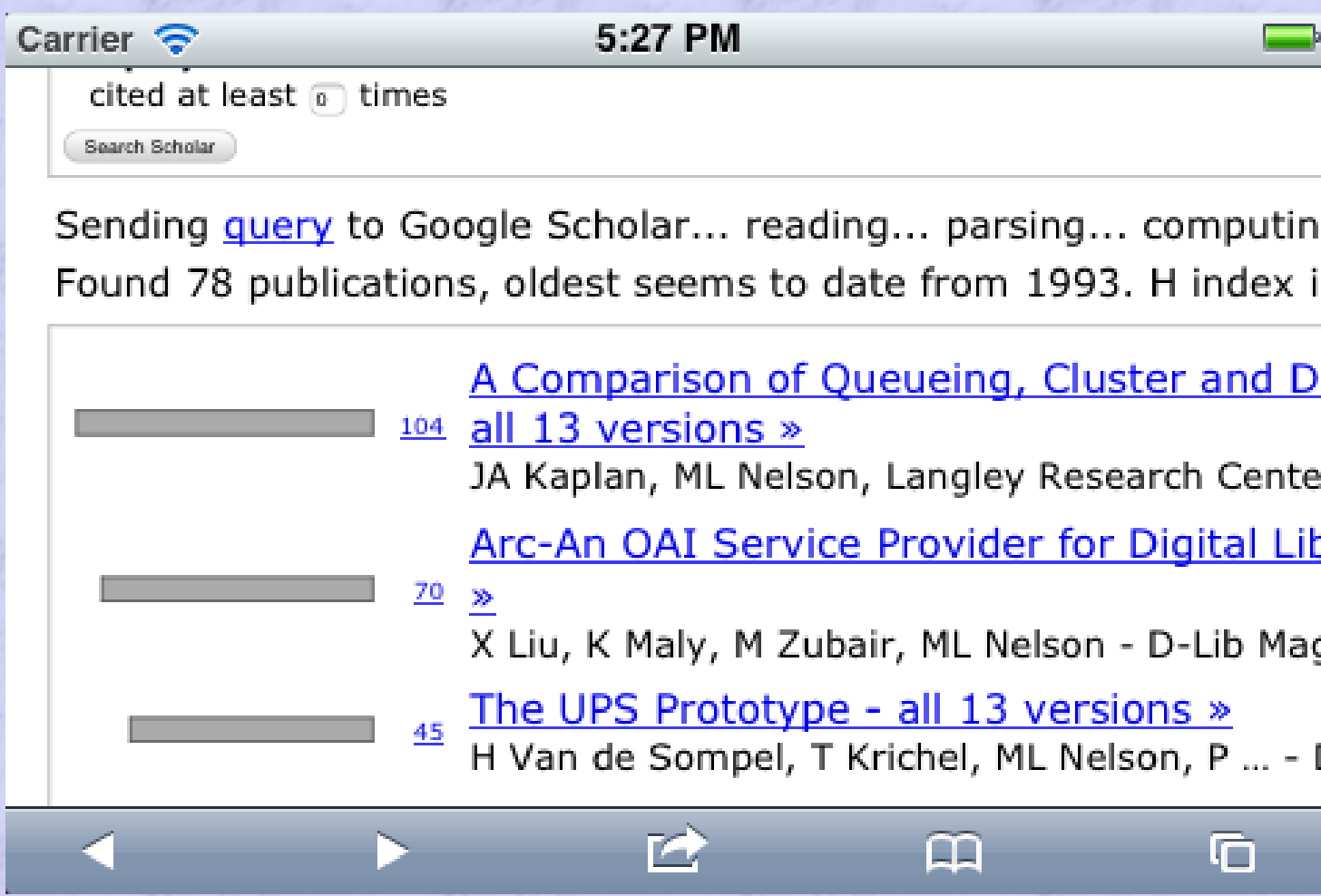
Google results crowded on tiny screen
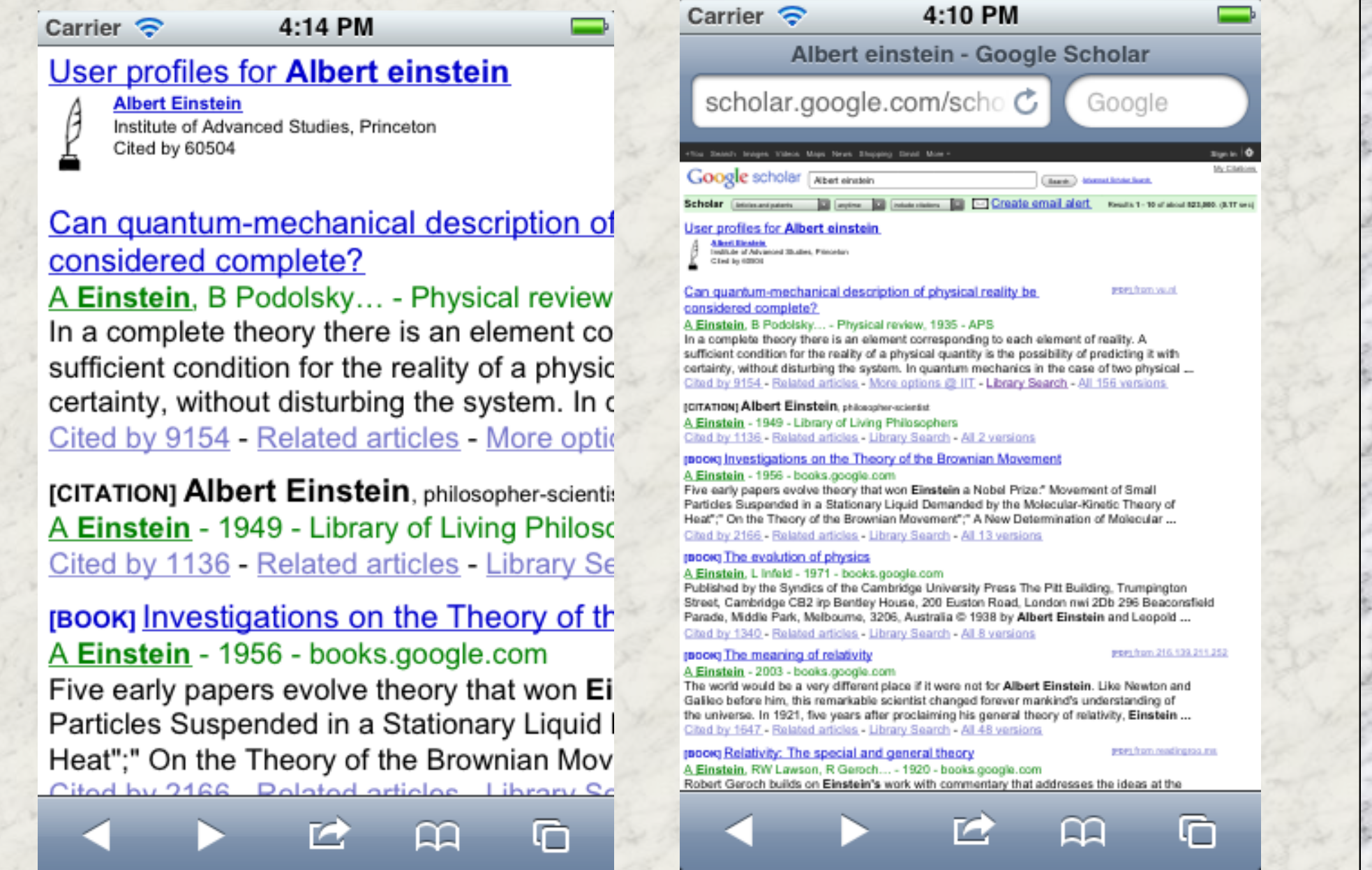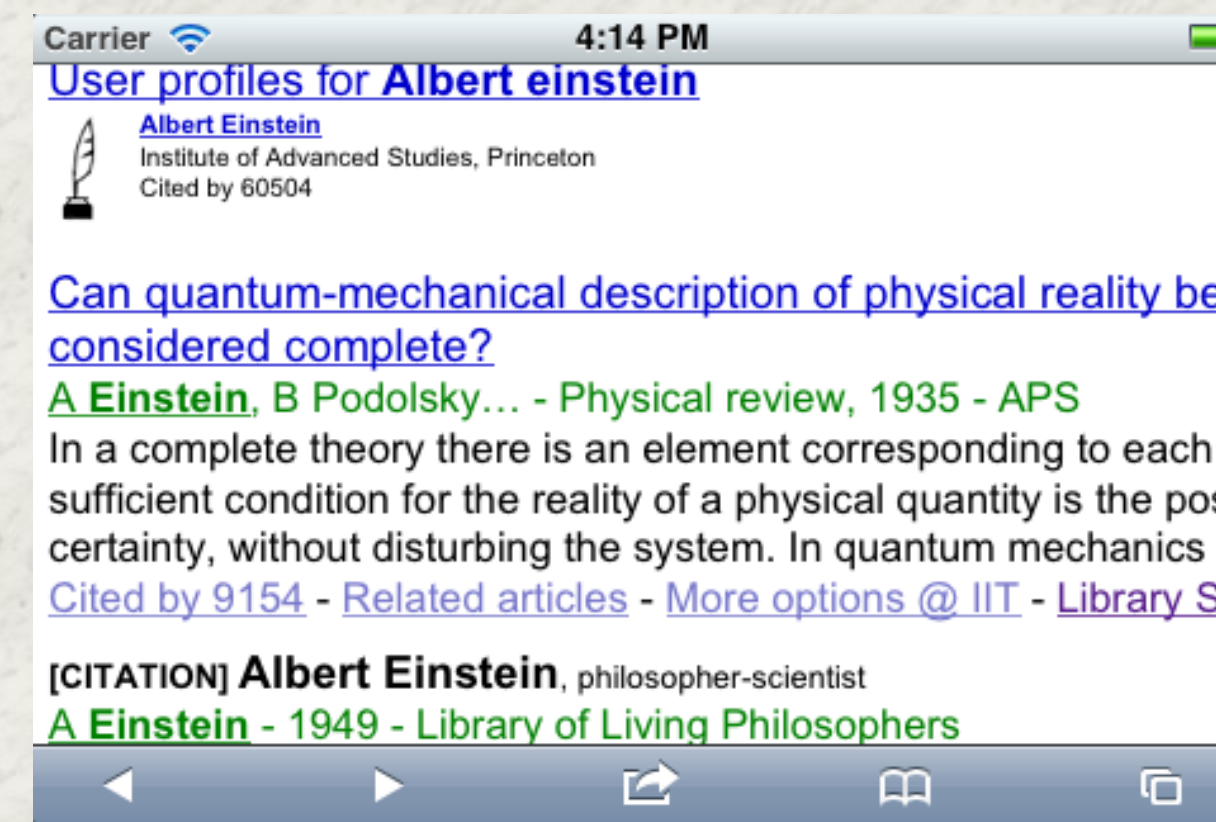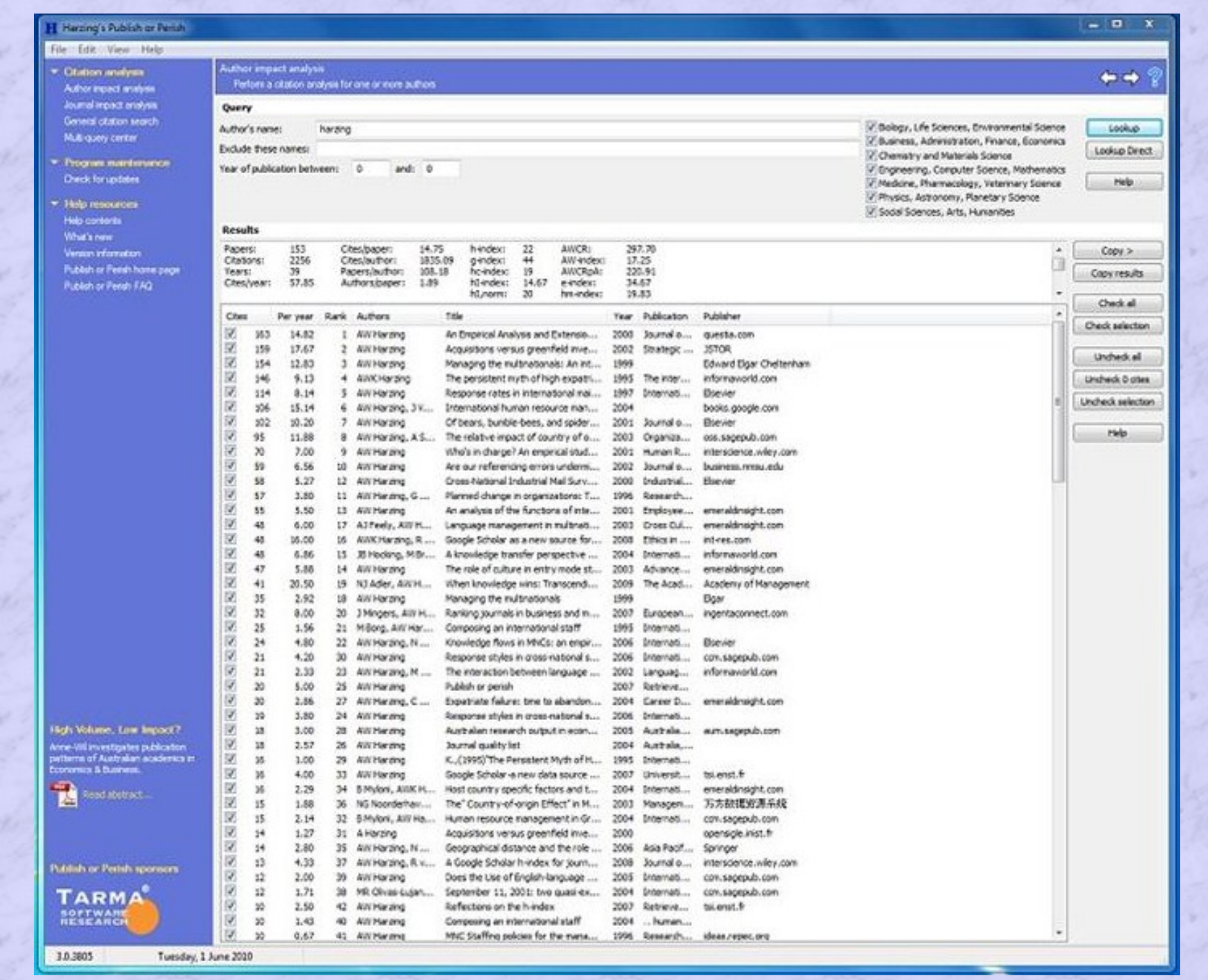
Similar Projects

ODU scHolarindex:
. Web based but also awkward on small screens.

Harzing's public or perish:
. Limited to Windows, and Mac or Linux using Wine
. No mobile optimized application

Goals

. Simple easy to use interface to Google scholar for mobile devices
. Calculate g-Index and h-Index
. Provide links to articles of authors
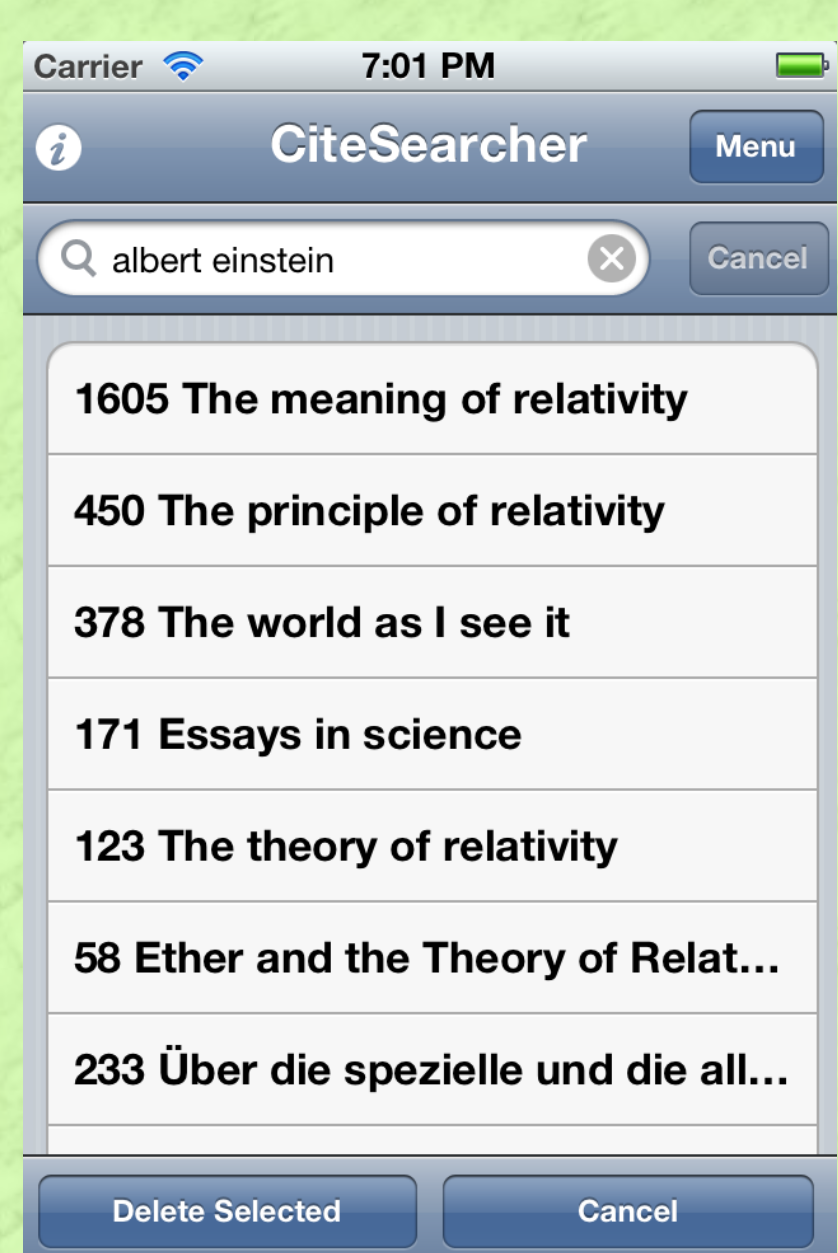. Allow users to remove articles that aren't by the author

Approach

. There is no API for Google Scholar so we had to use http requests to get the results
. Since the requests returned HTML pages, we used parsers to put the data we needed into structures
. For iOS we used a parser hosted on GitHub by zootreeves
. For Java, we used Jericho HTML parser 3.2
. To get around Google's block of automated queries, we modified the user-agent field to spoof a normal browser
. Results are put into list views for easy viewing on mobile devices and can be selected to reveal more information.
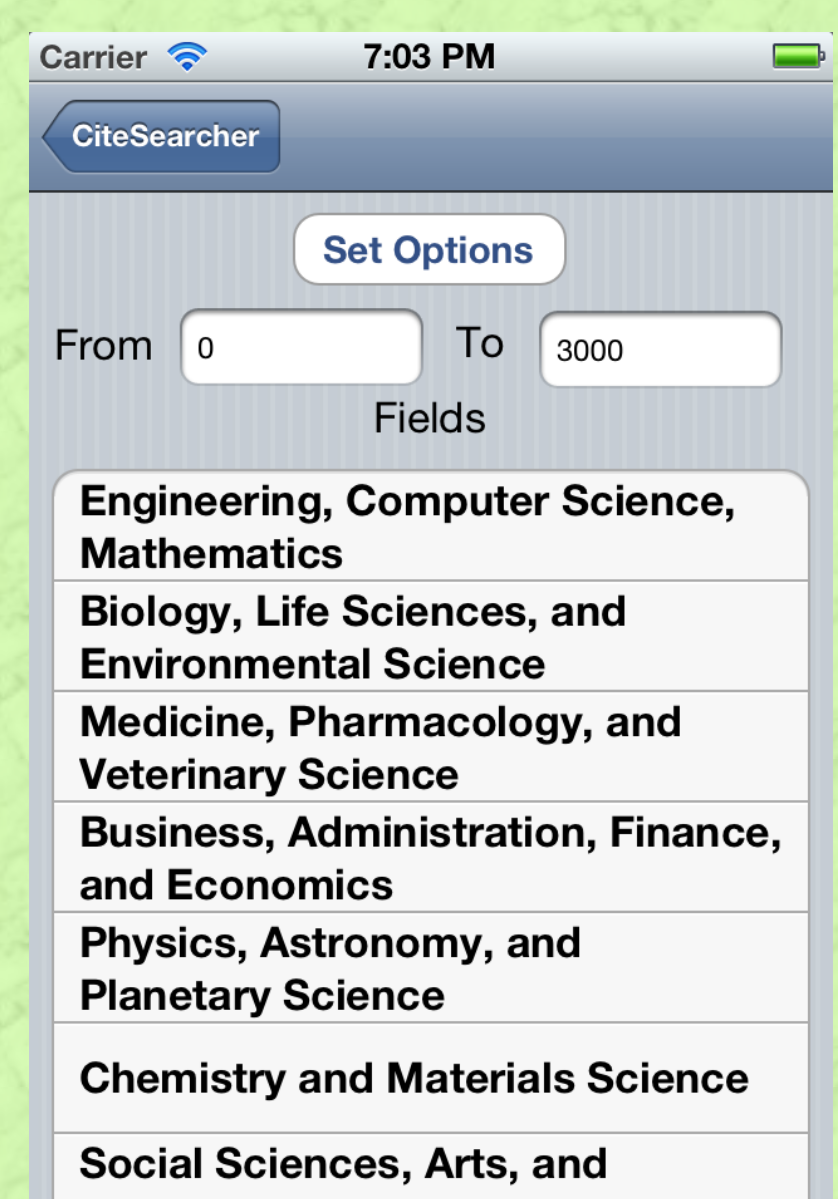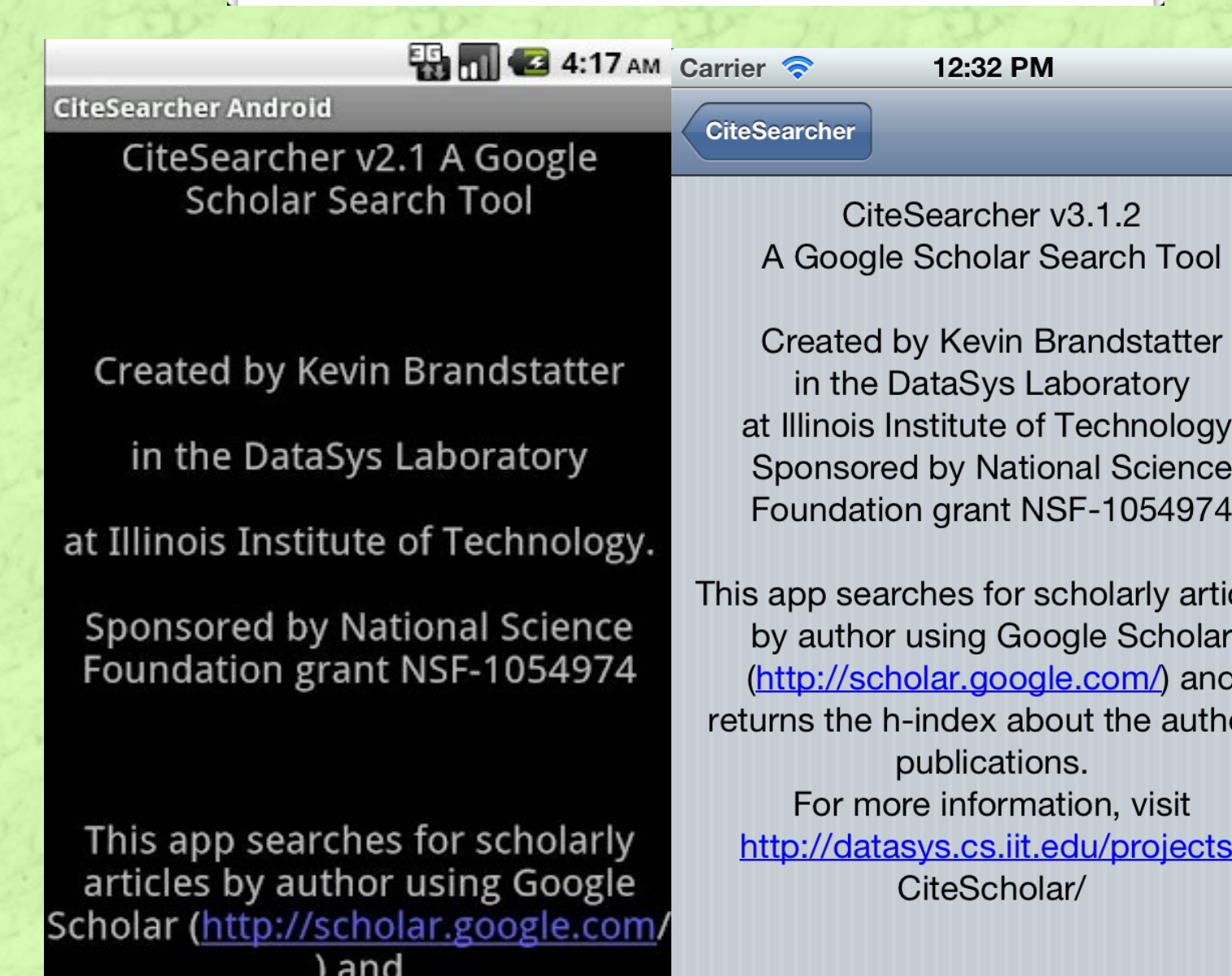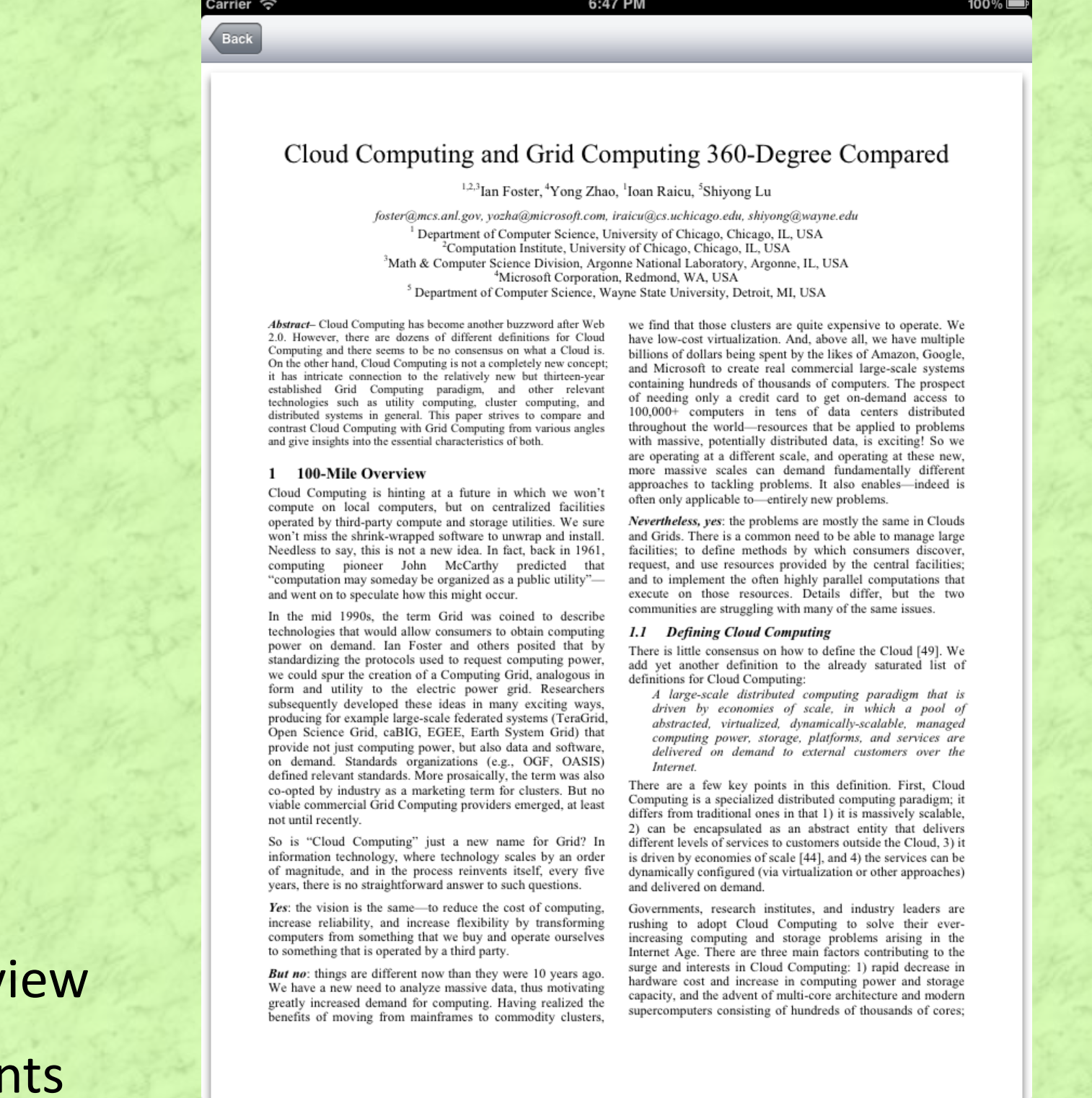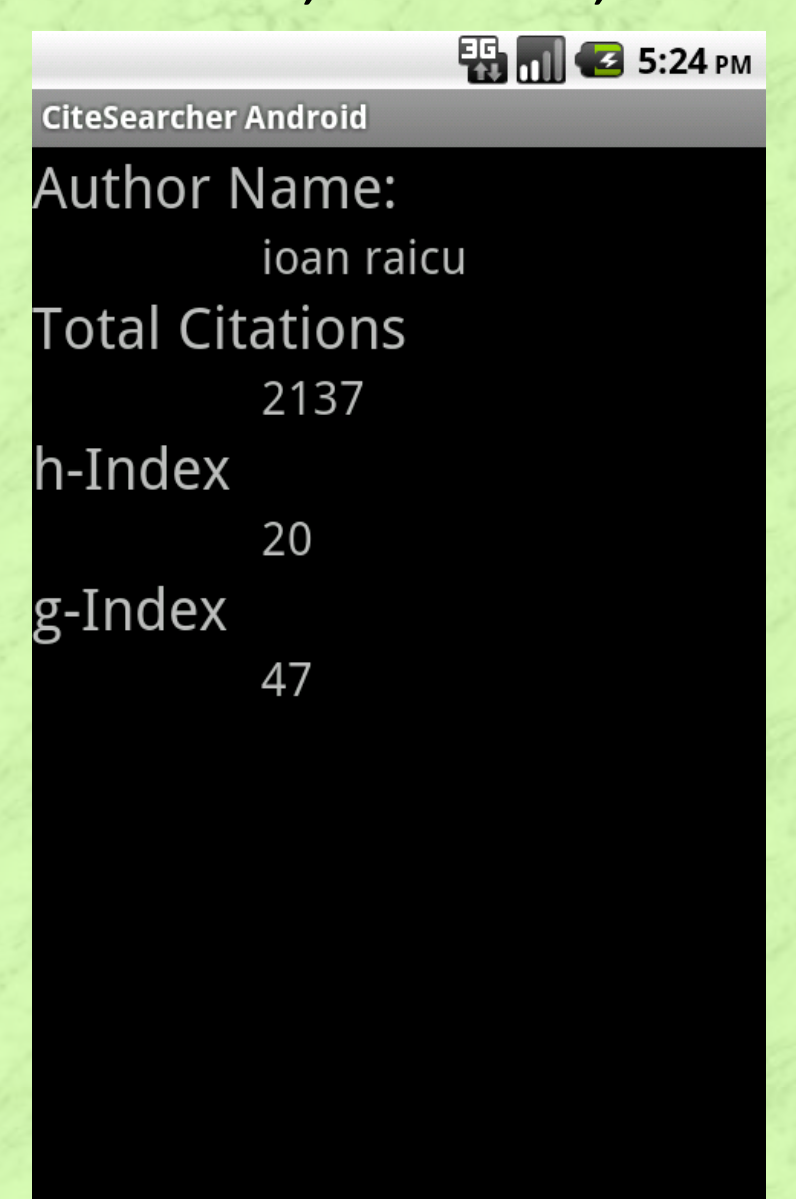
Result

. iPad Version
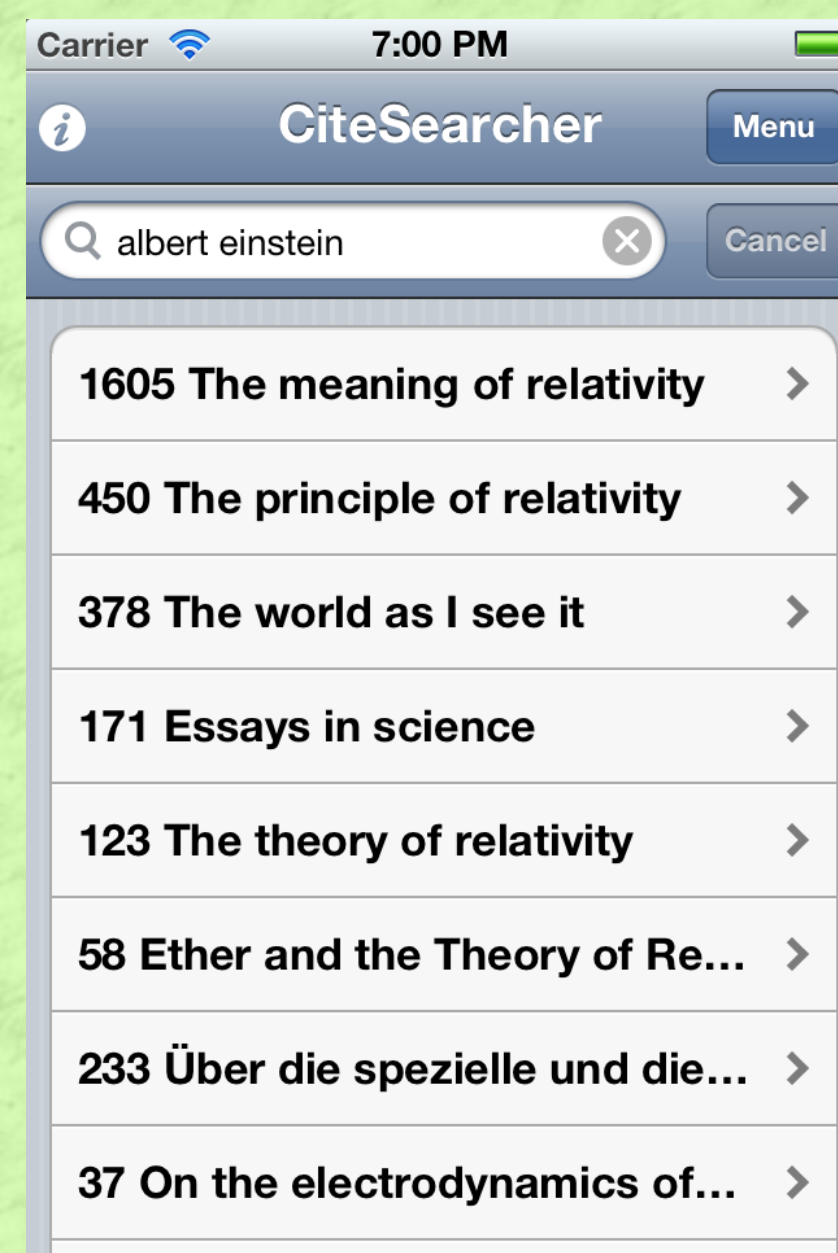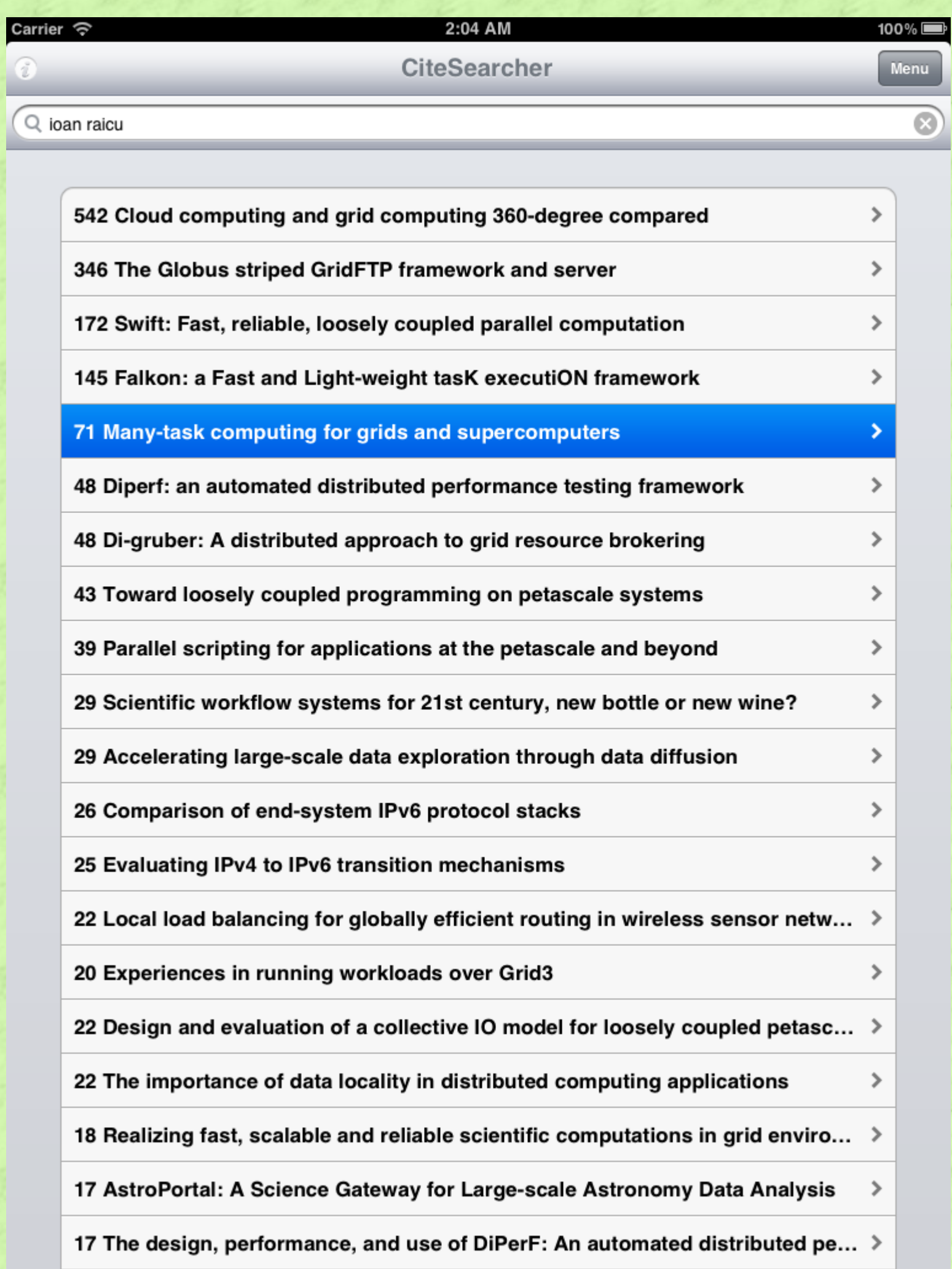
Search results with ability to delete irrelevant results

Search by area of research

Articles info with links to PDF view
H-Index, G-Index, Citation Counts

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