Toolbox for Personal Information Workflow
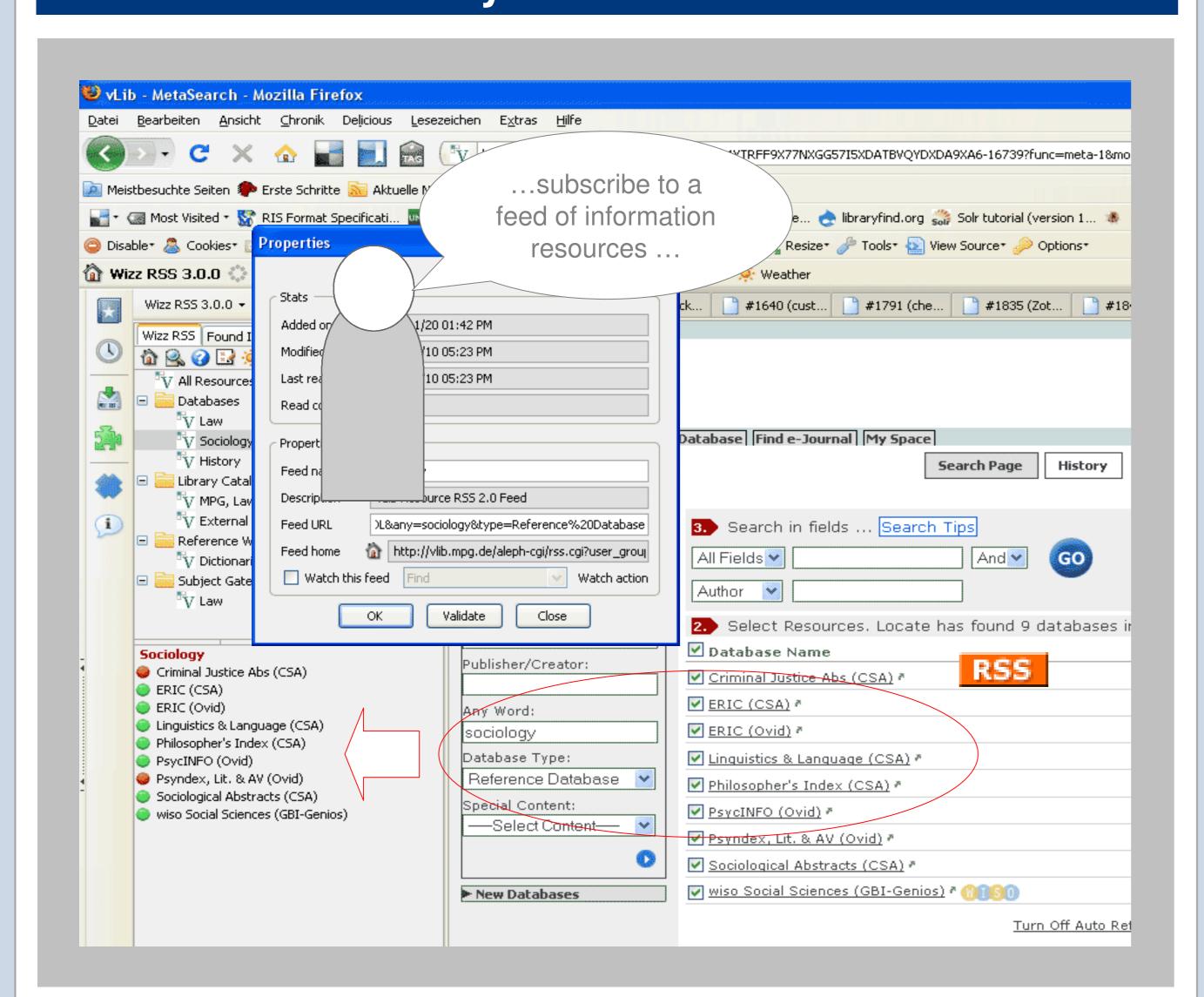
Erik Altmann and Inga Overkamp

vLib Project

Since October 2002, the vLib project has maintained two MPS-wide web-based information systems:

- **vLib Portal** (http://vlib.mpg.de): Referencing of and access to scholarly information resources (e.g. licensed and free databases, journal/book collections on publishers' platforms, library catalogs) via a uniform web interface.
- **MPG/SFX LinkResolver** (http://sfx.mpg.de/citation/sfx_local): Discovery of additional information about a known citation (e.g. electronic full text, holdings).

Both applications selected to implement these services offer a specific user interface, and have been enhanced to support additional interfaces and entry points. Consequently, vLib services can now be integrated with a user's personal information management workflow. As it's up to users which tools to use, we wish be compliant with personalized environments and will continue to offer integration layers for our services.
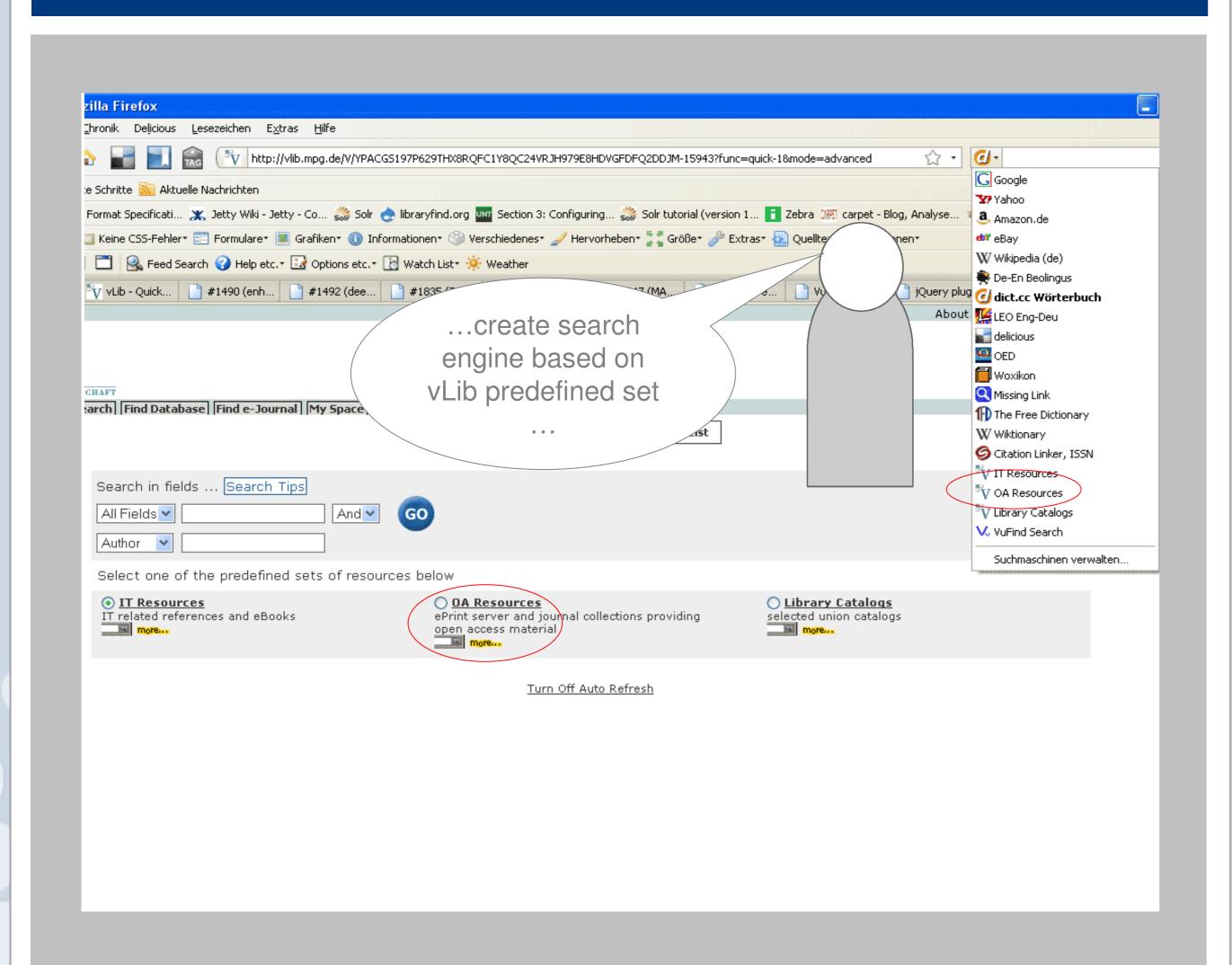
Resource Discovery

…subscribe to a feed of information resources …

Resource feeds

Resources referenced in vLib are available in feed format (presently RSS 2.0). The feed URL may contain a dynamic query to list resources desired.
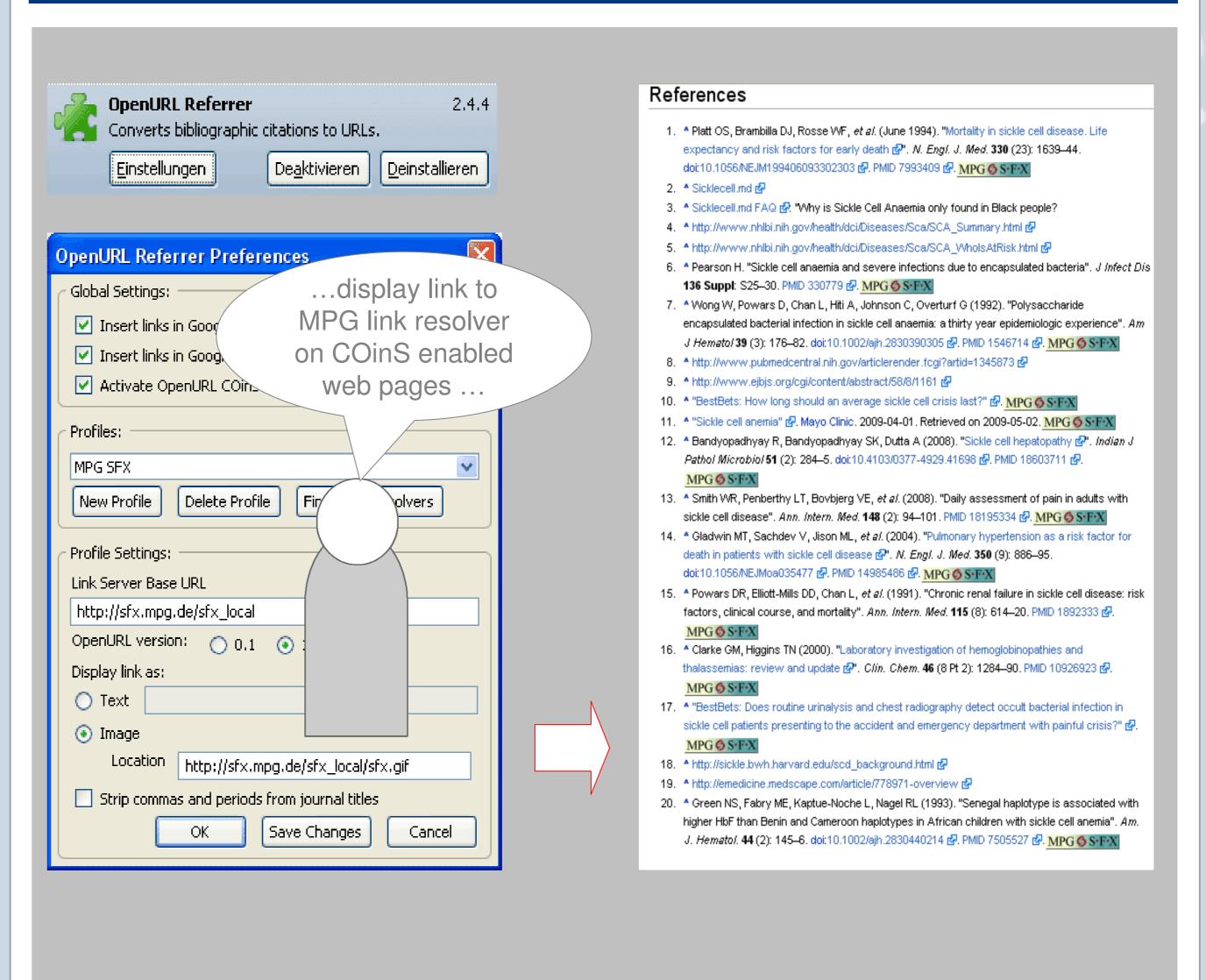
Reference Linking

…display link to MPG link resolver on COinS enabled web pages …

COinS

Provide Context Object/OpenURL information in HTML <span> tags which may be read by browser extensions and user scripts. This way an MPG/SFX button appears in lists of references not specifically maintained for MPS users.

Information Retrieval

…create search engine based on vLib predefined set …

Search interfaces

Librarians may combine information resources to form a unified search interface (metasearch across single resources). Search interfaces are available in OpenSearch format, a javascript installer is provided via the vLib user interface.
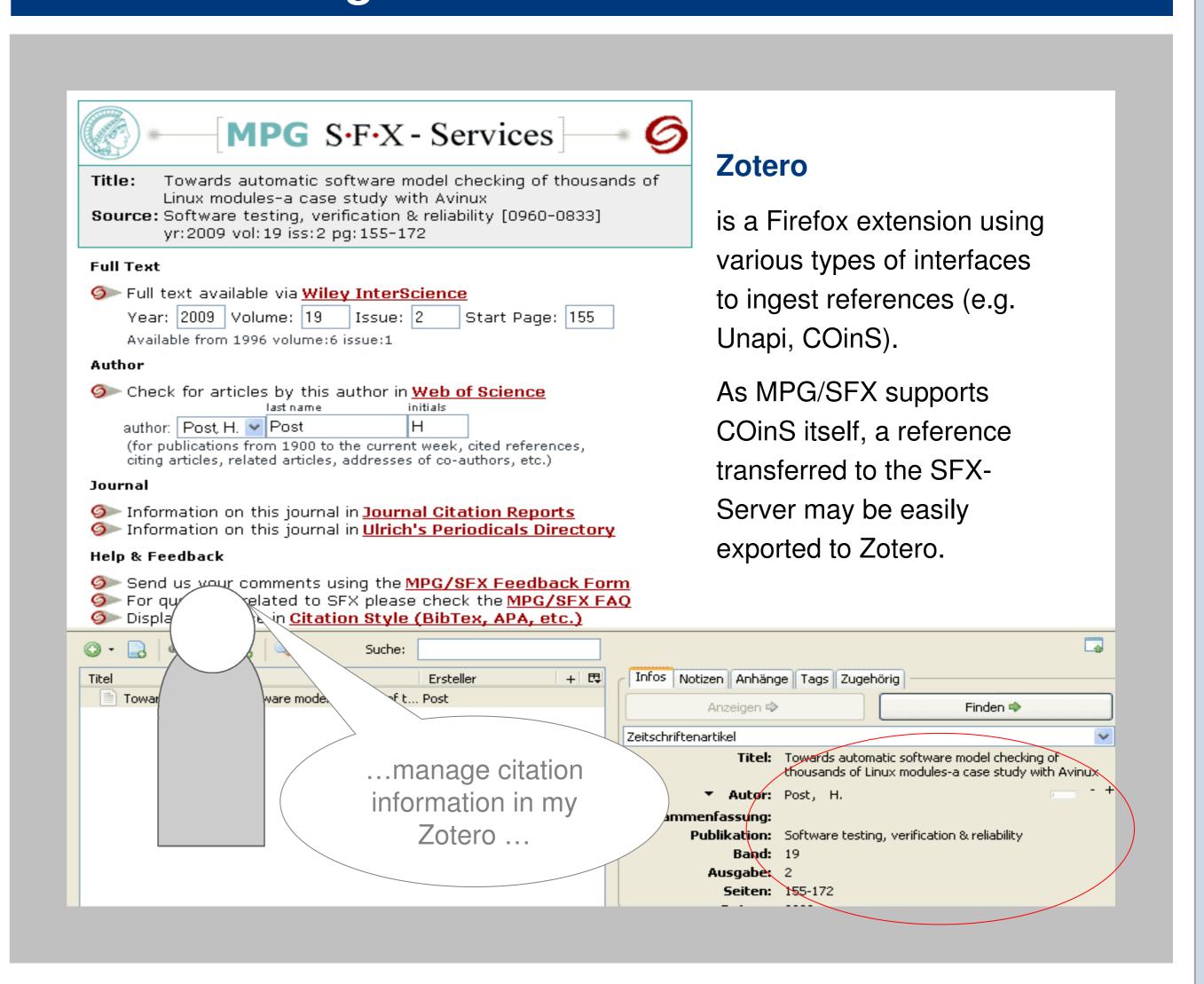
Citation Management

Zotero

is a Firefox extension using various types of interfaces to ingest references (e.g. Unapi, COinS).

As MPG/SFX supports COinS itself, a reference transferred to the SFX-Server may be easily exported to Zotero.

…manage citation information in my Zotero …

Citation Management

The vLib portal and the MPG/SFX server support export of citations in various metadata formats.