Astronomy I Essay 2011

Origin of the chemical elements. Modern astronomy tells us that all of the chemical elements that make up our Earth, ourselves and everything around us have been made either in the cauldron of the Big Bang or by stars. Give a broad overview of the origin of the chemical elements. Be sure to discuss the mechanisms that produce the some of the very light and very heavy elements, not just the mechanisms that operate inside stable stars.

You may want to check the Library's Catalogue to see if there are relevant books.

Check the Encyclopaedias as they generally give a history to a topic.

You may also want to search the electronic databases for more materials.

Search Logic for electronic databases

Before you begin a database search you may like to make a table to ensure that your search logic is appropriate.
Write down the main concepts and then list below them all the synonyms and alternative terms.

Chemical elements	*origin*

Are there other terms that you can think of that are not included in the table? Search techniques vary in different databases but they use the same search principles. Check the individual database's help screens to find out about techniques such as truncation etc.

Think of terms to cover each concept in your topic.

Gather useful terms from the first articles you retrieve. Use a thesaurus if the database has one.

Combine terms with **Boolean operators** unless the database has natural language searching.

Truncate terms (check the database's truncation symbol- * or ?) and check how to search phrases (e.g. with or without quotes - "***chemical elements***")

Consider **limiting** searches to English language, review articles etc

Check how to **display references** or mark them for **saving, printing or emailing**.

Once your database search has given references to articles, look for the full text of the journal article.

Sometimes you can link directly through an html or pdf link within the database to the **electronic full text** of articles.

If not, always **search the journal title (NOT the article title)** in the Library catalogue. You can also search Summon by putting the title in quotation marks e.g. "*Formation of the chemical elements and the evolution of our universe*"
The catalogue lists the call numbers and holdings of print journals and also lists electronic journals with links to the electronic full text of articles.

The Barr Smith Library does not hold all journals indexed in databases. You can also try:

Other libraries' catalogues

Libraries Australia, a database of journals & books held by libraries in Australia.

Report writing

If you need help writing an essay or report, try looking at the essays and thesis writing style guides.

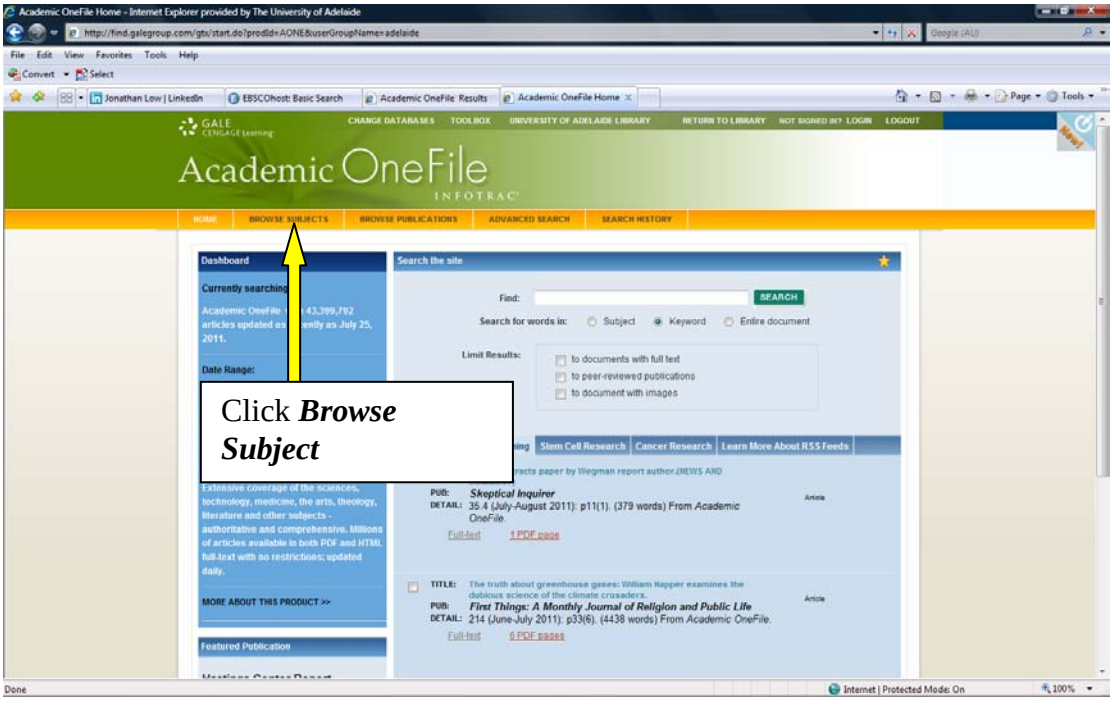
Suggested Databases

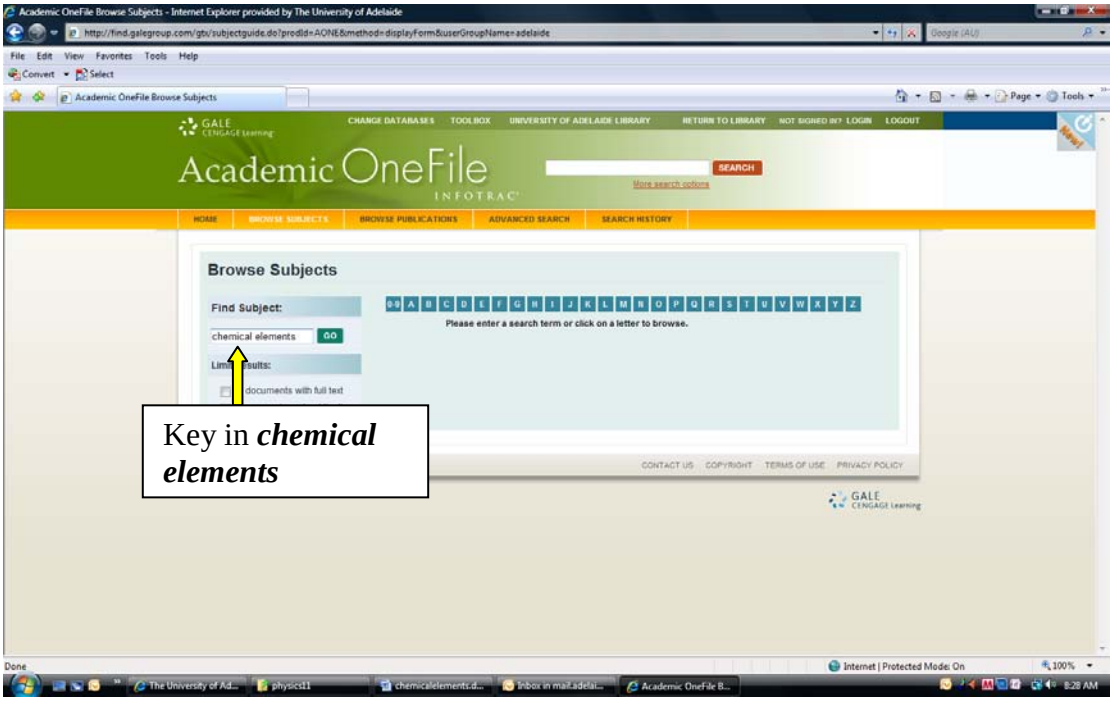
1. Academic OneFile

Full text articles are available in this database. This means you do not need to look for the article on the shelves in the Library.

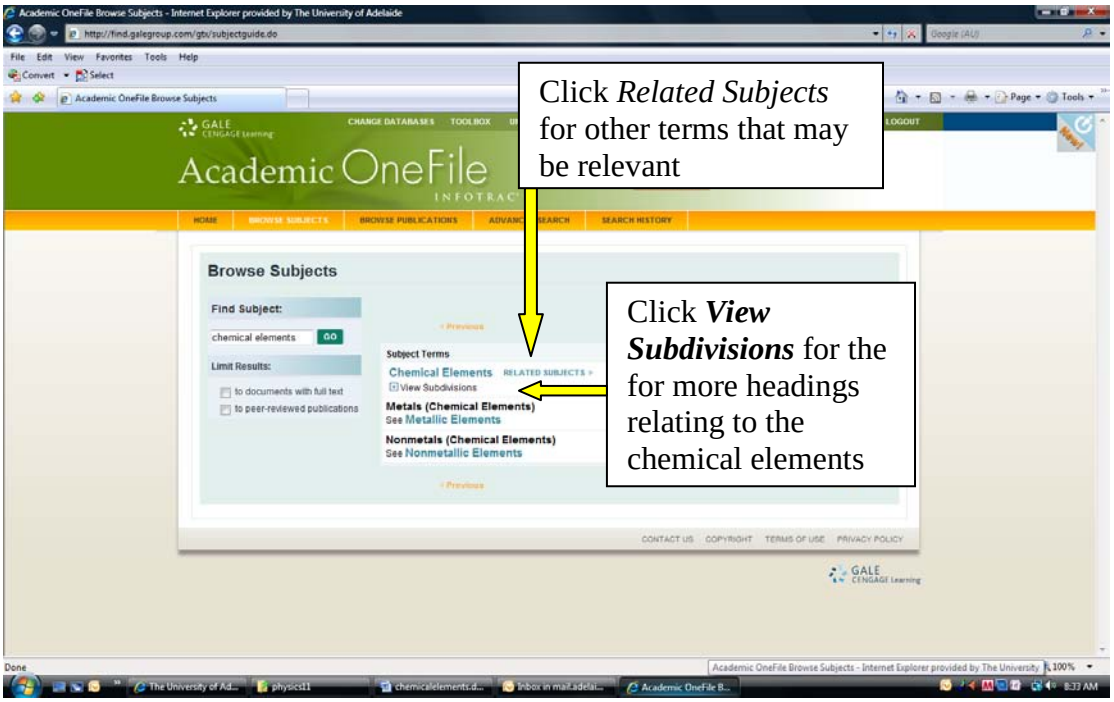
I have given you some examples of how to search below. Use your imagination and try other ways of doing the search. The more you practice the better you get with your strategy.

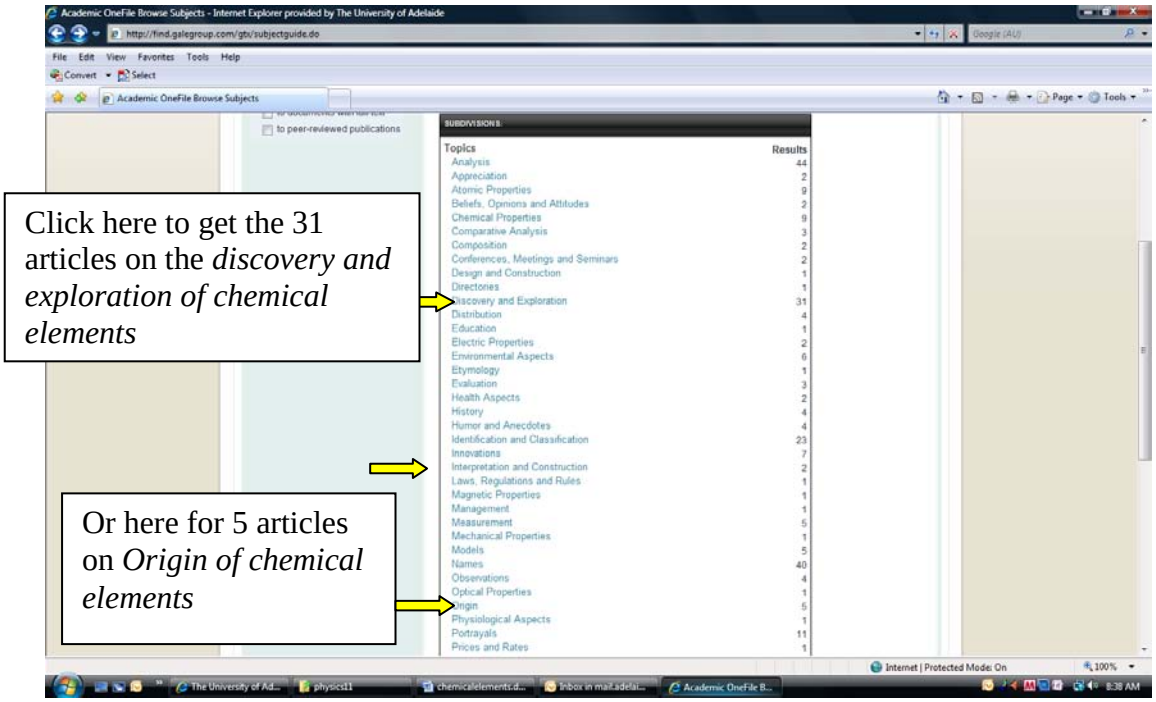
Using ***Titan*** in a keyword search will retrieve many irrelevant items. You may want to try ***Browse Subjects*** for this topic.





Doing it this way will give you articles more specific to chemical elements. There should not be any irrelevant items.

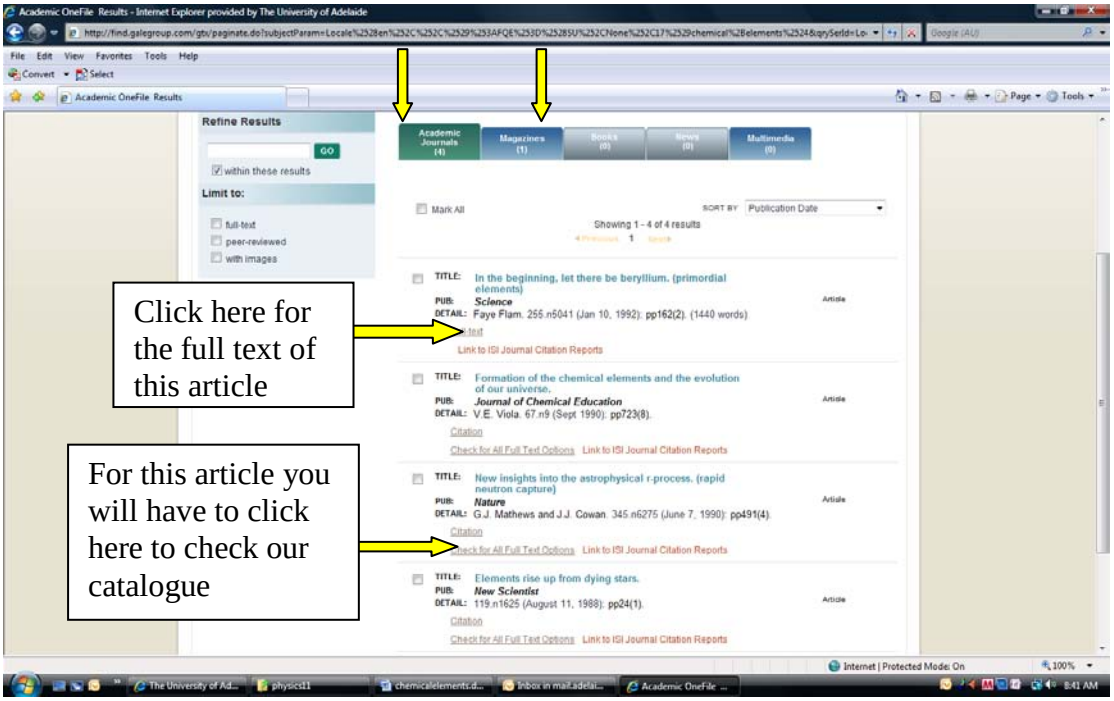




You may want to just look through the subdivisions. Scroll down for the rest of the subdivisions.

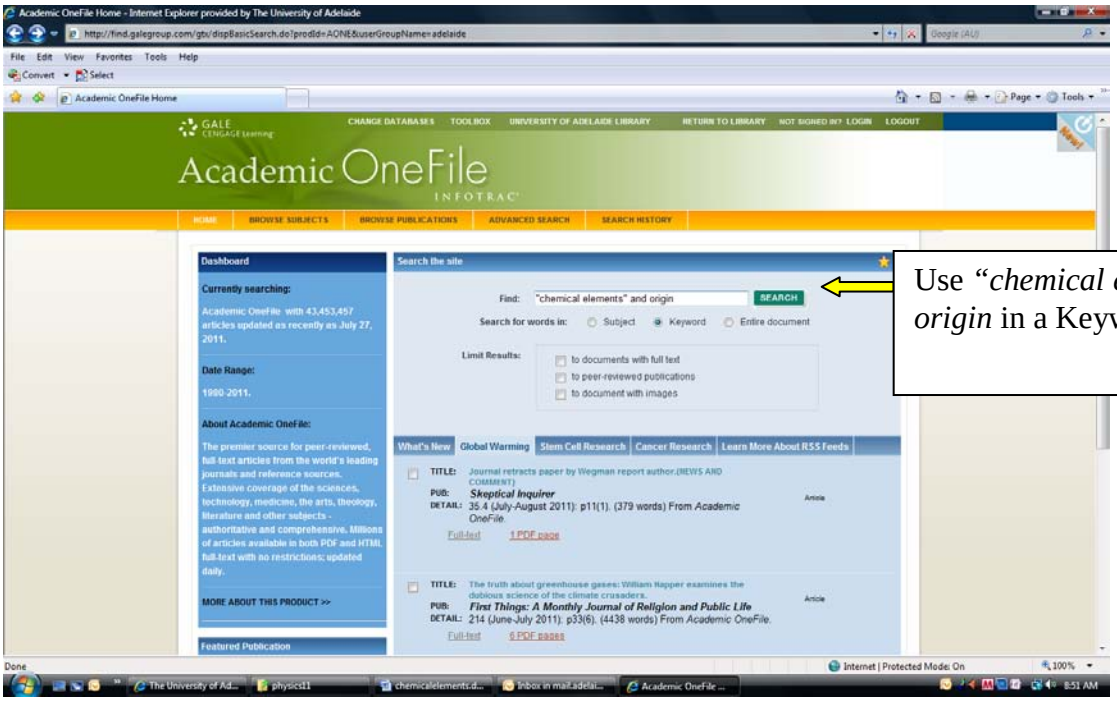
It is now displaying 4 items from Academic Journals

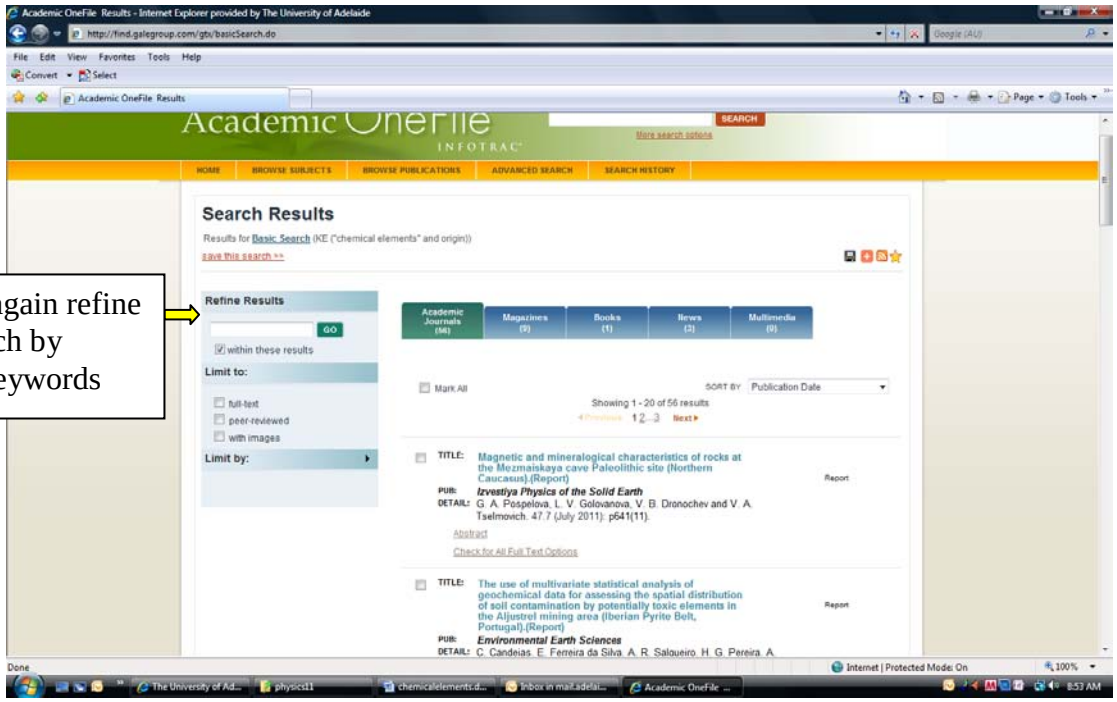
Click here if you want the 1 item from Magazines



Subject Guides Search will retrieve articles that are generally more specific to that subject area than keyword search.

You may now want to *"chemical elements" and origin* as a keyword search



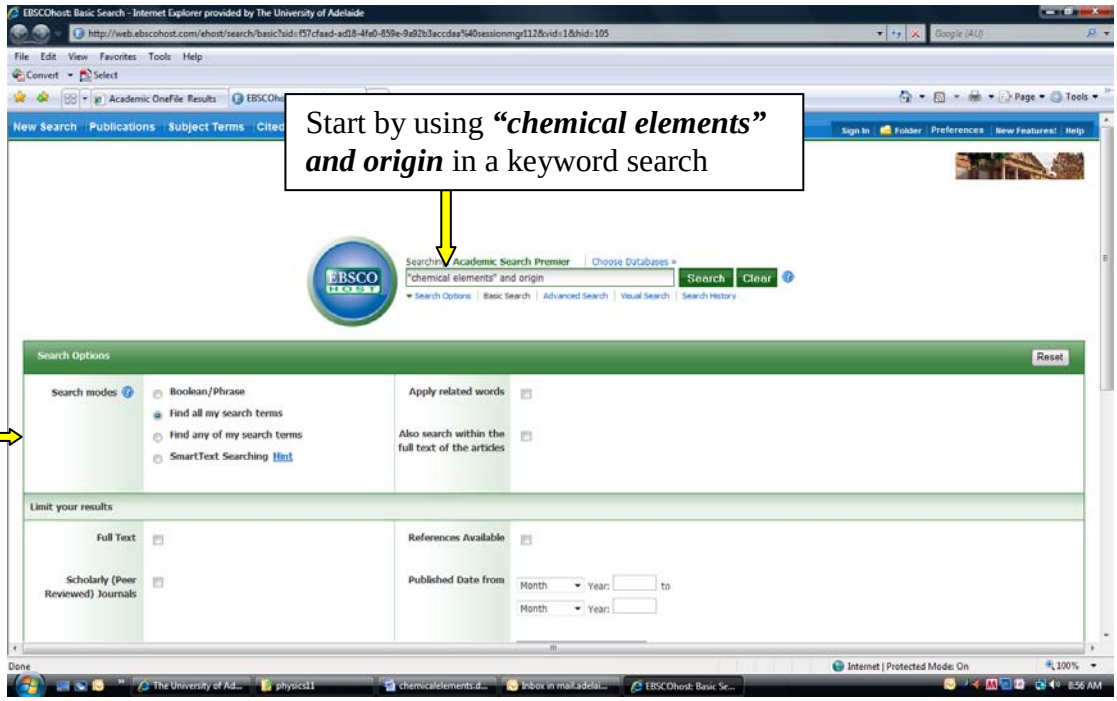


As you can see, this is just a start. You may think of another approach and other keywords that are relevant.

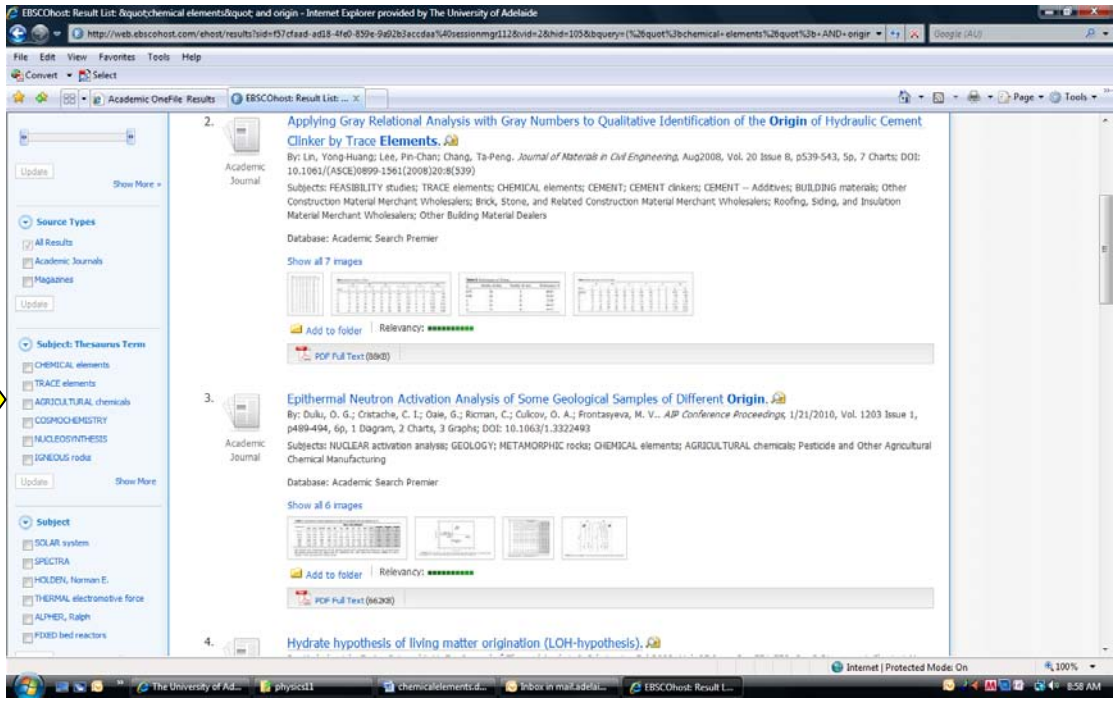
2. Academic Search Premier

This is another database with full-text articles that you may want to try. The search logic is the same although the screen looks very different. Again try the different ways of searching, using keywords, using keywords phrase, using truncation, etc.

Start by using ***"chemical elements" and origin*** in a keyword search



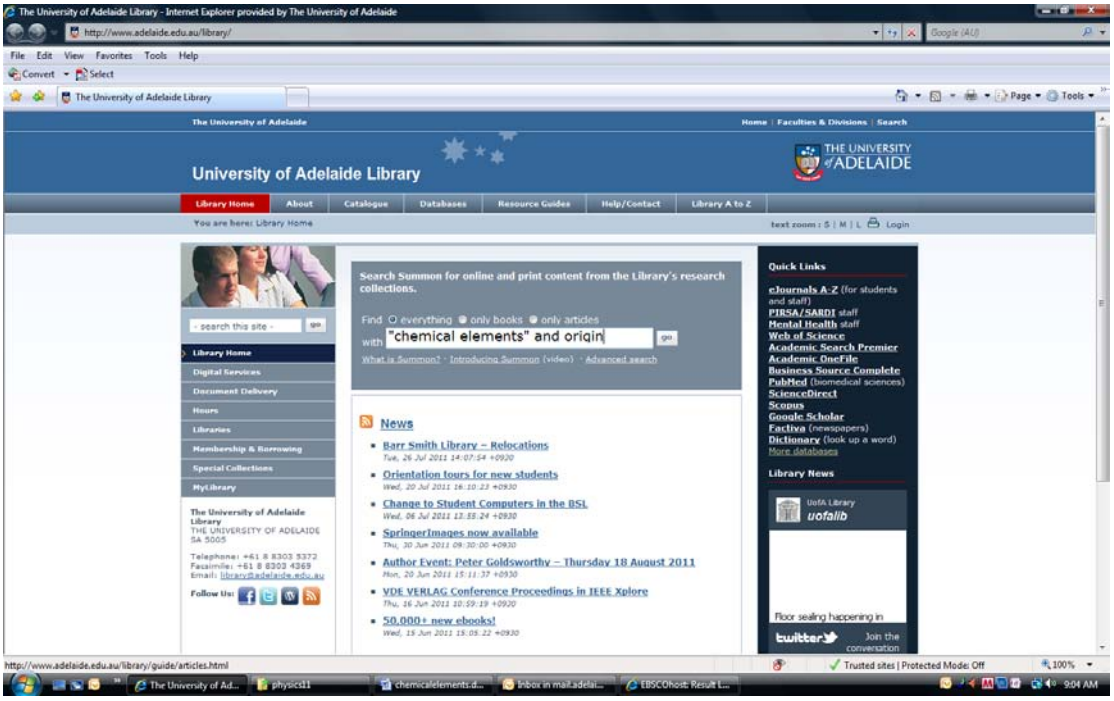
You may want to consider these search option

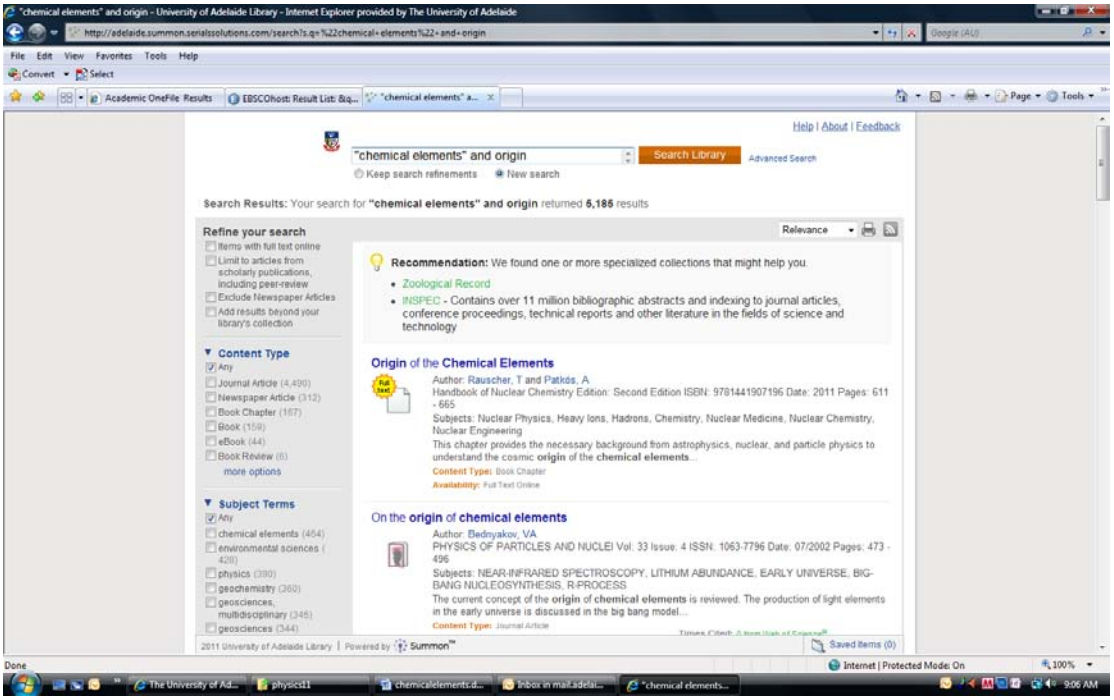


You can still refine your result by ticking the Subject Thesaurus Term "*Chemical elements*" and "*Astronomy* " which appears if you click ***show more*** for more subject Thesaurus Terms

3. Summon

This is a bit like google that searches the Library's Collection. It will include all the electronic books, the printed books and all the journals articles indexed that we hold.





As you can see, you have retrieved 5,185 items. You will now have to decide how to narrow the search using the refine tools at the left hand side.