

# Astronomy I Essay 2011

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Titan is the largest moon of Saturn and is the only moon in the solar system with a fully developed atmosphere. It is believed that Titan is one of the most likely places that we may find life within our solar system, other than on Earth. In this essay you will survey our current knowledge of Titan, how this knowledge has been obtained and why it leads to the belief by some that life could be found there. Do you think there is life on Titan? Do you think it is important whether or not there is life on Titan?

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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.

<i>Titan</i>	<i>exploration</i>	<i>life</i>
	<i>discovery</i>	

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 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 - "*Titan satellite*")

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](#).

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](#).

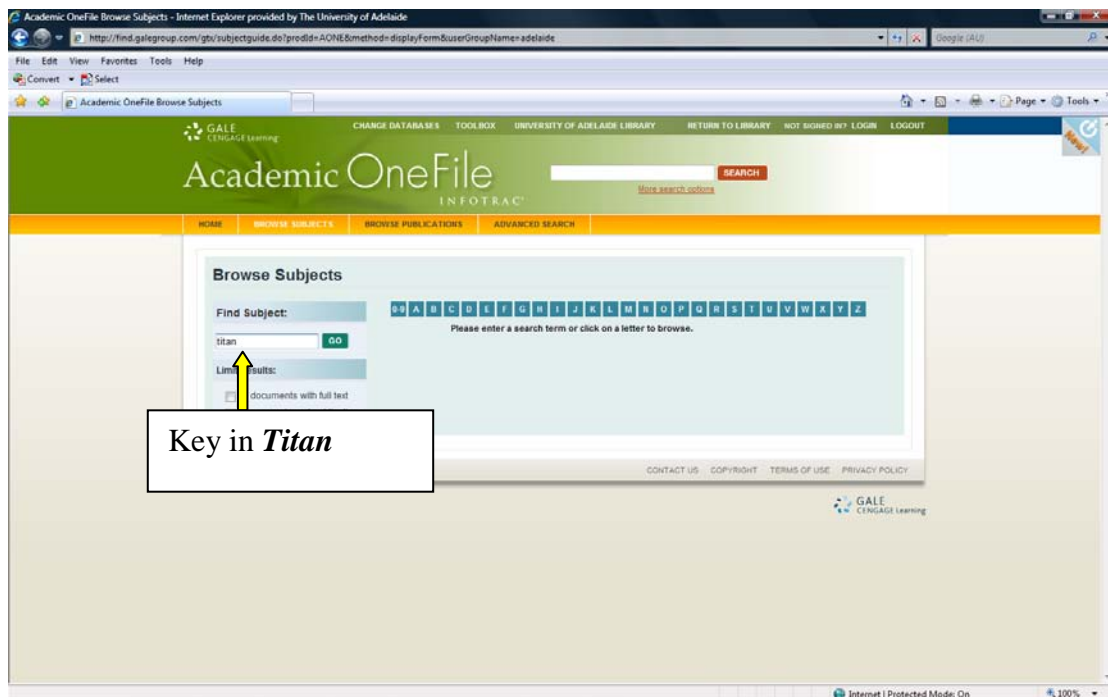
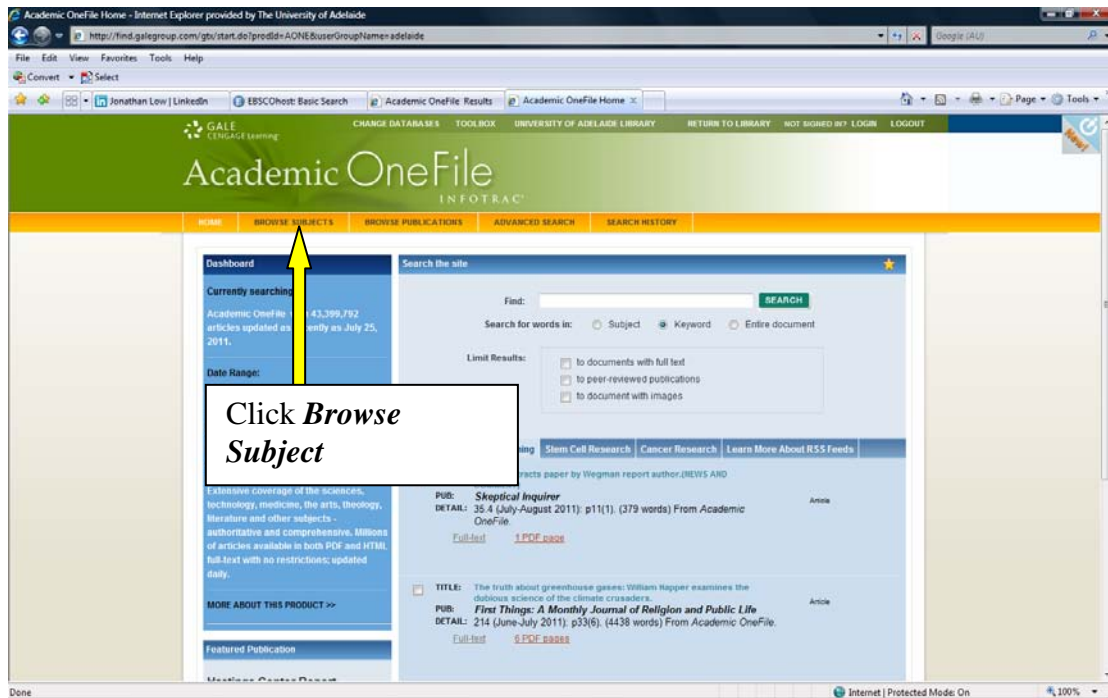
## Suggested Databases

### 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 Titan. There should not be any irrelevant items.

Academic OneFile  
INFOTRAC

Find Subject: titan

Limit Results:  
 to documents with full text  
 to peer-reviewed publications

Subject Terms

Subject Term	Results
Titan	60
Titan (Moon)	2
Titan (Satellite)	626
Titan (Rocket)	10
Titan Aerospace Inc.	1
Titan Airways Ltd.	2
Titan Arum	37
Titan Atlantic Group	2
Titan Books	2
Titan Capital Corp.	2

Click *View Subdivisions* for the for more headings relating to the Titan (satellite)

Titan (Satellite) RELATED SUBJECTS

Hide Subdivisions

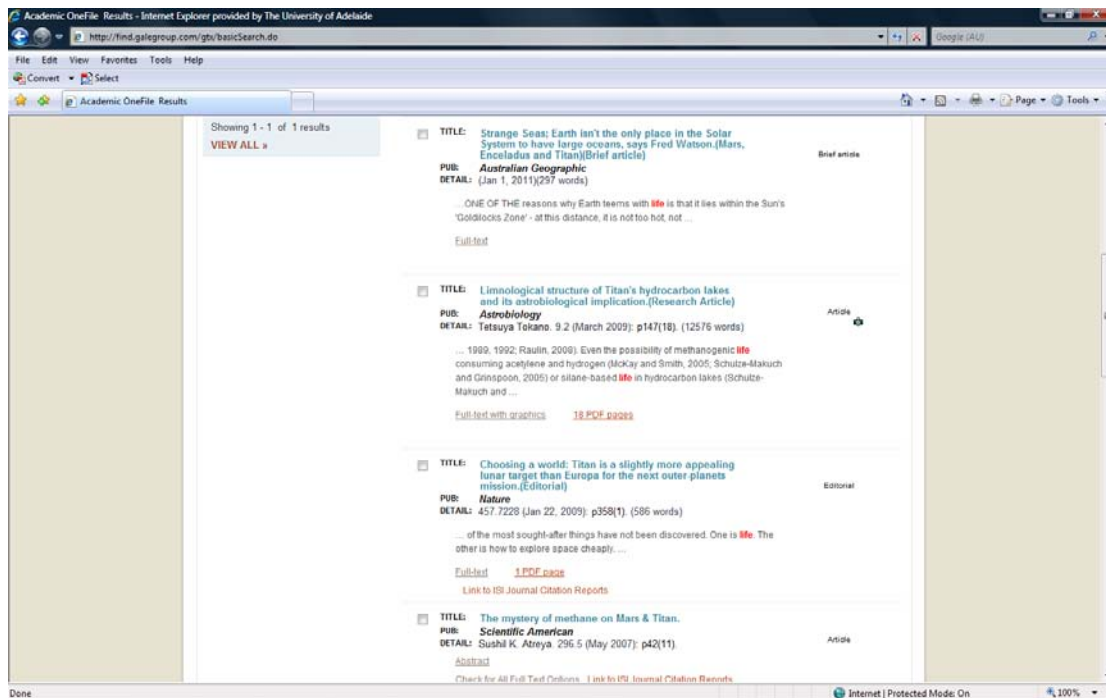
Topics	Results
Analysis	25
Appreciation	1
Atomic Properties	1
Calendars	1
Chemical Properties	14
Comparative Analysis	1
Composition	9
Discovery and Exploration	91
Electric Properties	1
Environmental Aspects	65
Evaluation	1
Forecasts and Trends	1
Location	1
Magnetic Properties	1
Maintenance and Repair	2
Measurement	3
Models	40
Natural History	2
Natural Resources	270
Observations	1
Optical Properties	1
Origin	1
Physiological Aspects	1
Planning	1
Portrayals	2
Product Defects and Recalls	1
Product Development	1
Properties	16
Research	159
Spectra	8
Statistics	1
Structure	5
Study and Teaching	2
Thermal Properties	3

Click here to get the 91 articles on the discovery and exploration of Titan

Or here for 1 article on Evaluation

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

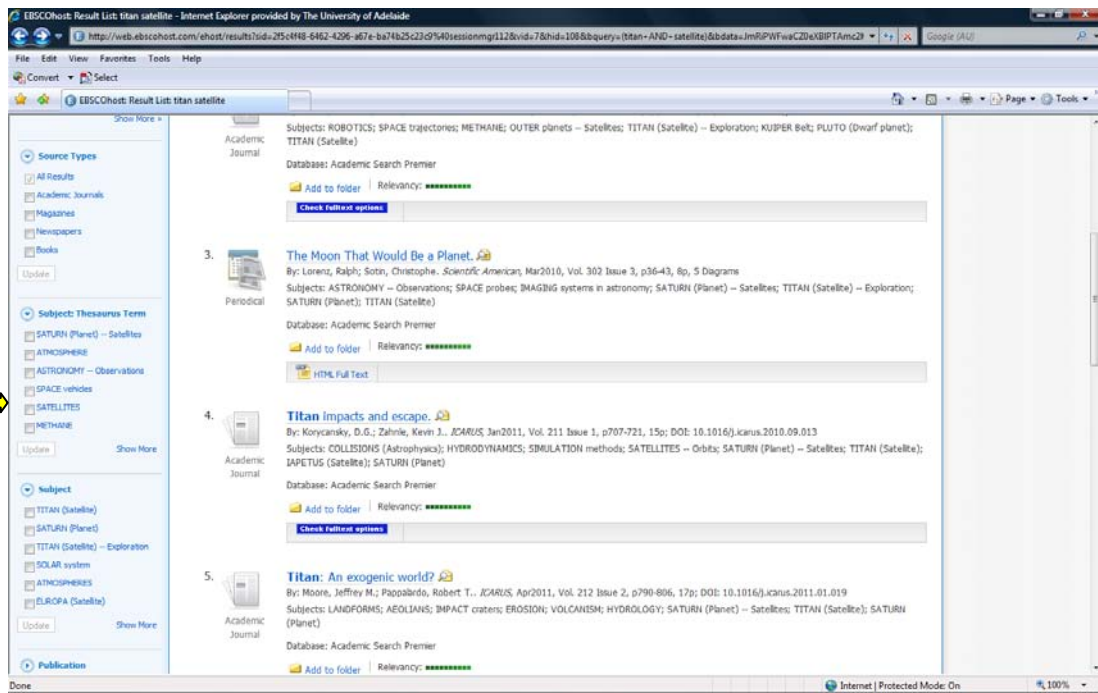
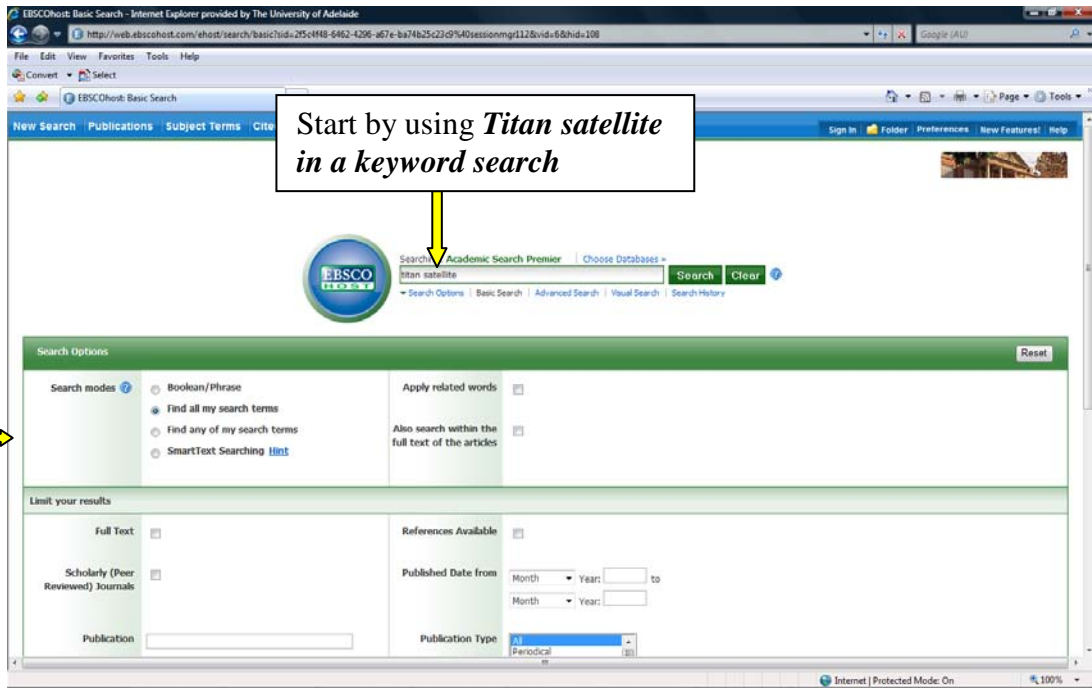




As you can see, this is just a start. You may think of another approach and other keywords that are relevant.

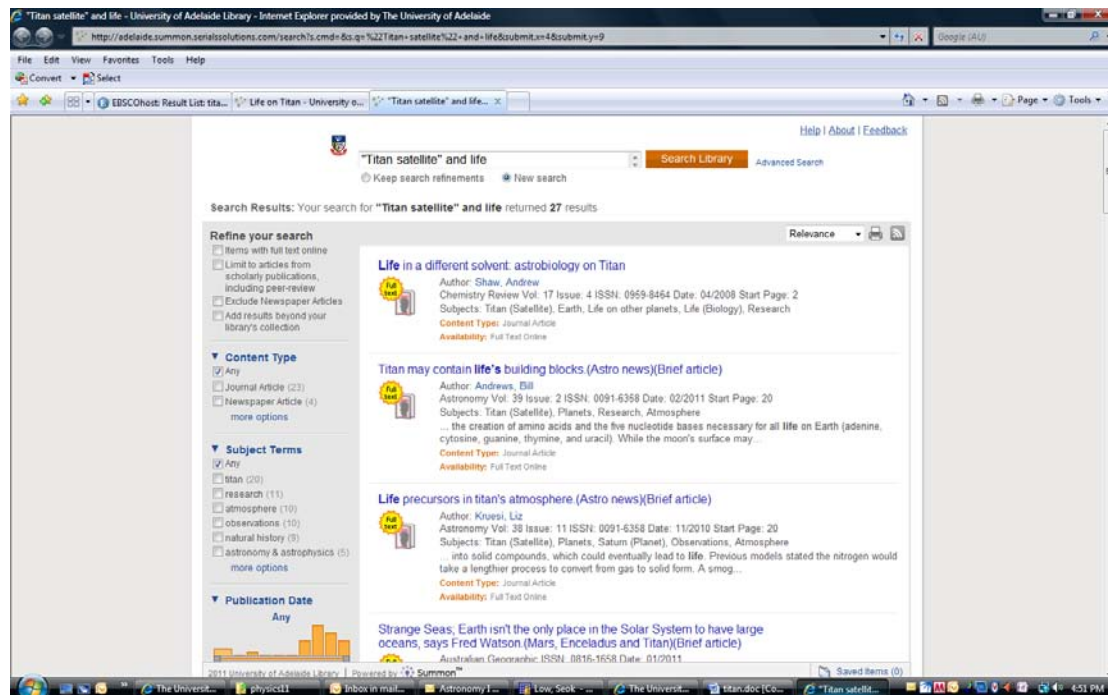
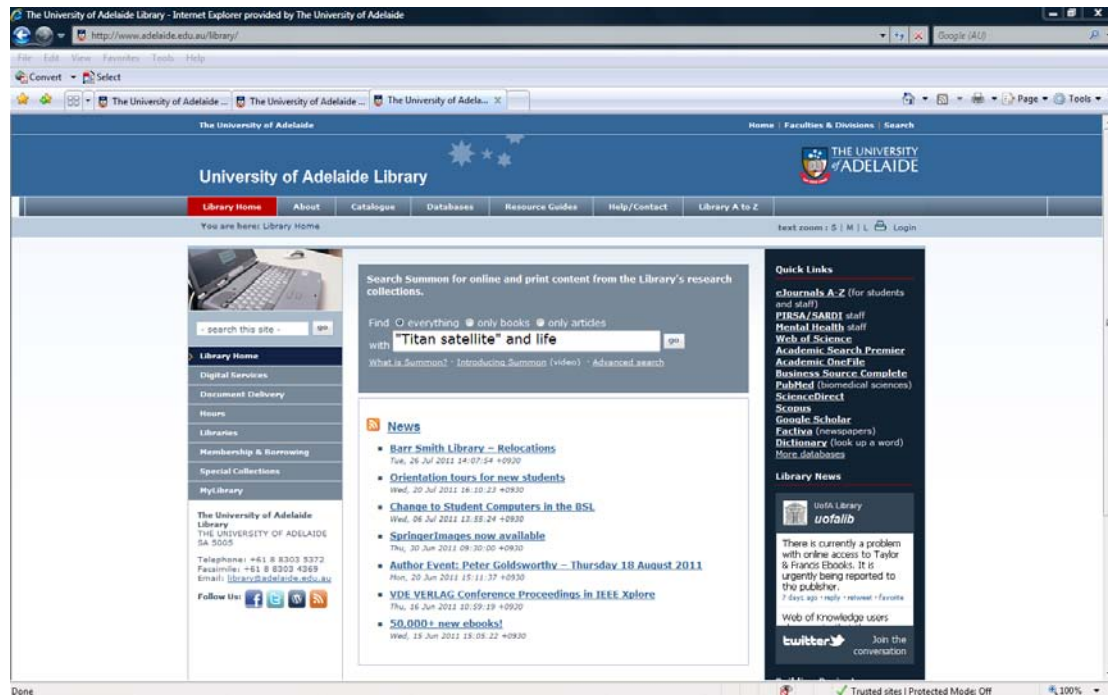
## 2. [Academic Search Premier](#)

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.



### 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 only 27 items and can easily scan through them. However if you choose to use the terms *Titan and Life* or *Life on Titan*, you will now have to decide how to narrow the search using the refine tools at the left hand side as you would have retrieved over 20.000 items.