Suppose you are doing a paper on, say, hip hop. You want an in depth discussion of the topic. One way to narrow a search in Academic Universe for "depth" of articles is to focus on the length of an article. The longer the article, the greater the depth. That's not to say that terrible articles cannot be long or shallow ones or both. They can (and often are)--but they will be terrible (or terrific) at length.

Getting Academic Universe to search by "length" of article is easy.

Here's what the search looks like.

Hip hop, the primary search term, went in the Search for: box, which is set to examine the Headline and Lead Paragraph(s). The next box contains the length syntax which is length>4000. 4000 is the number of words, or about sixteen double spaced pages at 250 words a page. You must set this part of the search to Full Text -- or you will get an error message.

4000 words is long for a newspaper story. That's why the date delimiter is set at All Available Dates, to "balance" the 4000 words limitation. The search produces 91 results. Searching by length is an efficient way to narrow searches on very broad topics, like AIDS, abortion, crime, etc. You'll tend to get "overview" or "the state of _____" stories.