

Database Navigation Guide

How to Access & Search Academic Databases via MyLOFT

Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Sumait Library — Umma University

This guide will help you access the 45+ academic databases subscribed by Umma University through the MyLOFT e-resources portal. Guidance on e-resources was identified as the highest training need in our 2026 user survey.

Step 1 — Access MyLOFT

- Open your browser and go to: <https://app.myloft.xyz/user/login?institute=ck8iqepqtf1130902doafw940>
- Log in using your Umma University email address and password.
- If this is your first time, click "First Time Login" and use your university email to set a password.
- MyLOFT works on-campus and off-campus — no VPN needed.

■ **Tip:** Bookmark the MyLOFT link on your phone and laptop for quick access anytime.

Step 2 — Find the Right Database

Once logged in, browse by subject area or search by database name. Below are the recommended databases by school:

School / Subject	Recommended Databases
Nursing & Health Sciences	PubMed, Cochrane Library, Hinari, Research4Life, OARE
Business & Technology	JSTOR, Emerald, EBSCOhost, IMF eLibrary, OECD, IDEAS/RePEc
Education & Social Sciences	JSTOR, EBSCOhost, AJOL, ProQuest Ebook Central, DOAJ
Islamic & Religious Studies	Shamela, Waqfeya, BrillOnline, JSTOR
Law	LawAfrica, JSTOR, HeinOnline
General / All Subjects	EBSCOhost, Cambridge Core, Wiley Online Library, AJOL

Step 3 — Search Effectively

- Use keywords, not full sentences. E.g. "diabetes management Kenya" not "what are the management strategies for diabetes in Kenya".
- Use AND to combine concepts: "maternal health AND Kenya"
- Use OR to broaden: "university OR college OR higher education"
- Use NOT to exclude: "mental health NOT depression"
- Use quotation marks for exact phrases: "climate change adaptation"
- Use * (asterisk) as wildcard: "nurs*" finds nurse, nurses, nursing

■ **Tip:** Most databases have a "Peer-Reviewed Only" filter — always tick this for academic assignments.

Step 4 — Access Full Text

- Click the article title to open the full record.
- Look for "PDF Full Text" or "HTML Full Text" buttons.
- If the full text is not available in one database, try another on MyLOFT.
- PubMed Central (PMC) provides free full text for many health articles.

Get Help

- Email: lib@umma.ac.ke | Phone: +254 746 790 207
- Database training: every Wednesday 2:00–4:00 PM at the Library
- One-on-one session: visit the Reference Desk or email sokeyo@umma.ac.ke