4.3.1

Public resources (lifelong learning)

Year 2023

C O N T E N T S

4.3.1 Public resources (lifelong learning)

Ajman University continued to promote lifelong learning in the year 2023, by providing public resources through its website to the broader community. AU offers free courses leading to certificates, free access to campus facilities and equipment, and free access to online resources. The AU Library provides books, articles, and databases to community members, school students (ages 15+), researchers, and government employees, with 64 of its 90 online databases available to the public. AU also offers free online courses on topics like IT tools, sustainability, climate action, and social skills, all accessible through its website. Additionally, AU supports open access to research articles through its repository. By providing these public resources, AU advances lifelong learning and knowledge sharing, aligning with its mission of fostering holistic access to education and promoting climate action.
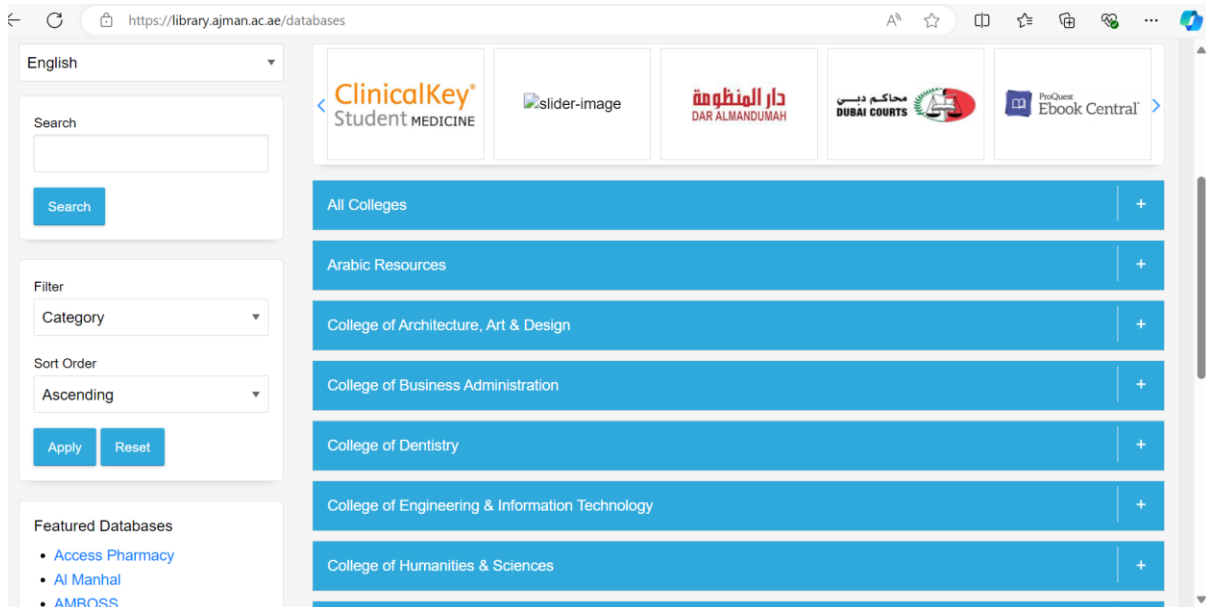
A. Library Resources and Access

Ajman University's Library is a vital hub for learning, teaching, and research, providing resources and services that support the University community as well as the broader public whenever possible. With two branches in the Students Hub Building, the Males Library and Females Library offer an extensive collection of books, e-books, journals, and databases, accessible via iPads, laptops, smartphones, or library computers. Through advanced discovery tools like EDS, users can easily access and navigate digital content. The Library further supports users through a team of dedicated Reference librarians who assist with research needs and inquiries.

Please refer to the link below: https://library.ajman.ac.ae

The Library collections include high-quality scholarly resources spanning all disciplines from top academic publishers, with 90 subscribed online databases available. Of these, 64 databases are open-access and freely accessible to the public. Users can benefit from additional services via the Library homepage, such as Ask-A-Librarian, Document Delivery, and mobile library app. Following ACRL Standards, AU Library ensures timely access to both print and digital resources, organizing its catalog by AACR2 and LCC. This commitment extends resources not only to students, faculty, staff, and researchers but, where possible, also to the external community.
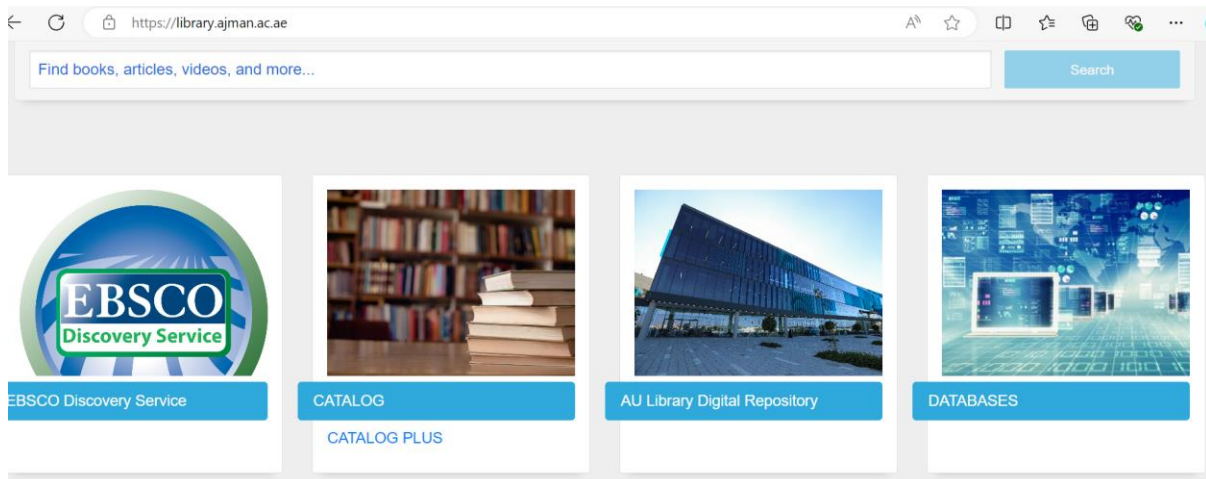
Circulation Services:

Users must present a valid ID to the Circulation desk staff or when using a Self-Check workstation to check out a loan item.

a) AU students, faculty, and staff: University ID

b) AUD University and CUCA students, faculty, and staff must present valid IDs showing their home institution's ID number and barcode.
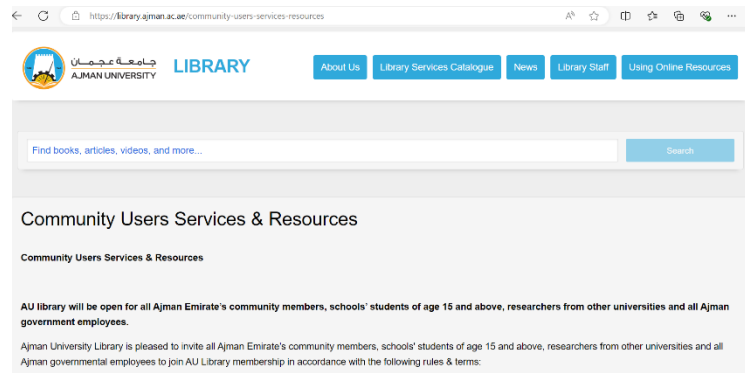
c) UAE Community Users: Library Membership ID.

The circulation desk is responsible for all transactions related to borrowing and returning books and periodicals, placing materials on reserve, recalling borrowed material, assessing fines, etc. Borrowing stops 30 minutes before closing time. Faculty members borrow 20 books per semester, postgraduate students borrow 20 books per semester, undergraduate students borrow 15 books per three weeks renewable for another three weeks, and AU administrative staff borrow 05 books per 3 weeks renewable for another three weeks. Community users borrow 03 books per 3 weeks, renewable for another three weeks. Renewals can be done over the phone, online, or in person.

B. Educational Resources and Services for Community Users

AU library is open to all Ajman Emirate's community members, school students aged 15 and above, researchers from other universities, and all Ajman government employees.

Please refer to the link below:

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/community-users-services-resources

Ajman University Library is pleased to invite all Ajman Emirate's community members, school students of age 15 and above, researchers from other universities, and all Ajman governmental employees to join AU Library membership under the following rules and terms.

Ajman University Library invites community members to conduct research on campus by participating in our Community Borrowers program.

Community Borrowers provide a AED 500 refundable deposit to establish a membership, which allows them to use most of the Library's resources for free, subject to availability.

When a user submits a completed form to cancel membership to Library staff and surrender the library card, they can refund their deposit.

Annual membership and Borrower Card fees are 50 Dirhams.

Community Borrowers are required to abide the guidelines to access the Internet and use the library's online databases inside the library following the AU Library Internet Access Policy. They can also borrow items from the library collection, excluding media and software.

Please refer to the links below:

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/circulation-services

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/computer-internet-use-policy

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/au-library-copyright-policy

These guidelines include respecting the rules and customs of the University and nation and the library timing for each gender.

Interested community members should complete the application for Community Borrower status and bring it with a photocopy of their EID and the 500 AED deposit to the university campus (Finance Office) to establish Community Borrower status.

Approved applicants will be issued a membership card to access the library and borrow materials on future visits.

It is preferred to pre-arrange a date and time to bring these items to ensure that the services of the cashier at the Finance Office will be available.

C. Free Access to Online Resources

Free-access resources are electronic research materials and resources made available to the general public free of charge: data and datasets, books and articles, including scholarly research articles. This is not the same thing as public domain works or items that have fallen out of copyright protection; open-access authors have chosen to share freely so that anyone can use the works legally without permission or fees.

Please refer to the links below:

Library circulation services to the Public

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/circulation-services

Computer and Internet Usage Policy for General Community

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/computer-internet-use-policy

Alums free access to Library resources

As part of its commitment to providing Quality education for all *(SDG#4)*, the Office of Alumni Affairs extends all its alumni access to Library services at Ajman University. Kindly present your card during working hours to have free access.

Please refer to the links below:

https://alumni.ajman.ac.ae/page/services

Open access guides and resources at the Library:

https://library.ajman.ac.ae/databases

http://digitalrepository.ajman.ac.ae:8081/xmlui/
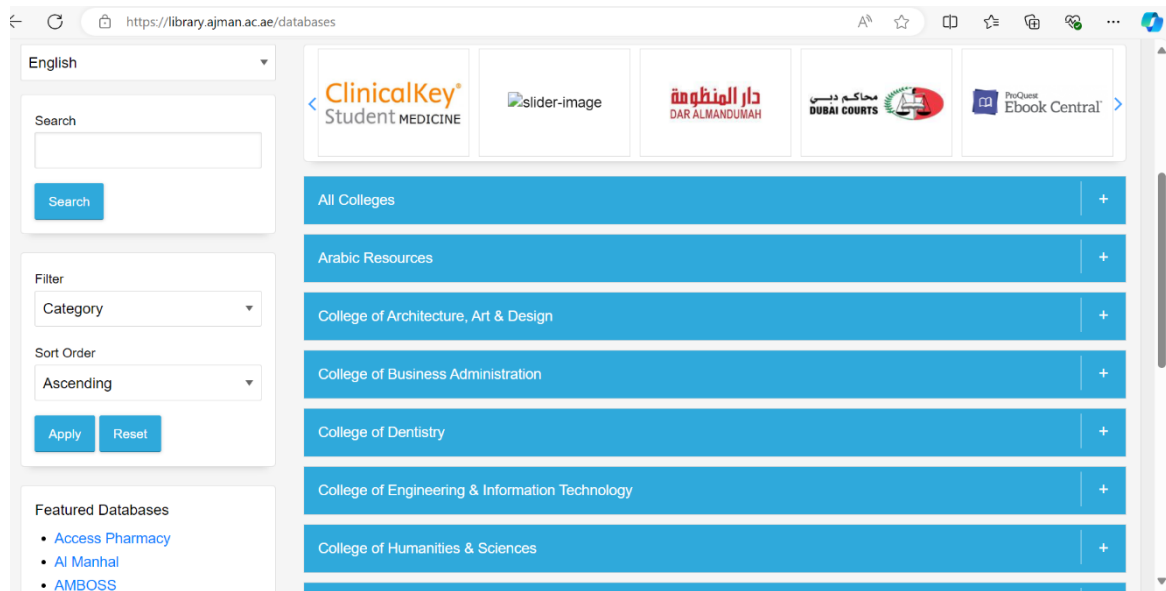
D. Free Access to Educational Resources and Research Centers Articles

In line with AU's strategy to disseminate its research and scholarship to a broader community and to enhance its contribution to the academic community and society, AU has developed an 'Open Access Article Processing Charge policy.' The policy aims to facilitate the publishing of high-quality research articles by AU researchers and their outside collaborators in free-access journals. This will make our research more accessible, increasing its visibility, impact, and citations for the benefit of researchers, the university, and society.

Please refer to the link below:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/research/research-at-au/info-for-research-collaborations

1. Ajman University Joins the Prestigious International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

In the year 2023, Ajman University Library, now a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). IFLA is an international organization representing the profession's interests and working to improve services worldwide. The global voice of libraries with members from 150 countries, IFLA advocates for libraries to be recognized as essential partners for inclusive, sustainable development through their work to provide meaningful access to information for all.

Please refer to the link below:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/news/2023/ajman-university-joins-the-prestigious-international-federation-of-library-associations-and-institutions

2. Free Access to Online Resources, Equipment and Campus Facilities

Ajman University's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan aims to promote "cutting-edge and innovative support services" to foster sustainable practices and promote "green" solutions. The specific objectives include:

- increasing the reliance on innovative and sustainable solutions in all areas;
- introducing smart and technology-based services;
- maintaining a green and paperless working environment;
- focusing on Artificial Intelligence in managing campus facilities; and,
- Enhancing continuous improvement and innovation are crucial success factors in business.

AU has made strides to be "green" within our desert environment. By "recycling" perceived obstacles into golden opportunities, we've established and promoted sustainable practices for our campus, classrooms, and community.

As part of its commitment to offer Quality Education for All, Ajman University is committed to serving the internal and external community student body within the UAE region and beyond. Several school sessions are organized throughout the year to give students an understanding of different education concepts, including medicine, pharmacy, financial tools, engineering techniques, and new IT tools.

In the year 2023, several weekly, monthly, or ad-hoc learning sessions are organized at the University premises, schools, external locations, or online portals to provide thorough knowledge on the topic and make the student body aware of 21st-century skills. As knowledge-sharing, the learning resources are shared on the college page, and students can freely access them for future learning or knowledge enhancement.

All students and the general community can access these resources ***free of cost***.

3. College of Engineering and Information Technology

Student Development Sessions

The College of Engineering and Information Technology organizes training on IT tools and new software for school students, charity organizations, and other ad hoc events like Winter Fest. The course is available on the university website for the public and includes course slides, PPTs, code sheets, practice exercises, and workshop recordings (if applicable).

These courses include but are not limited to, Python training, LATEX training, Unity 3D game development, machine learning, etc.

Please refer to the links below:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/engineering/student-development-sessions-events

Some of the courses listed are:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/engineering/student-development-sessions-events/latex-workshop

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/engineering/student-development-sessions-events/python-workshop

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/engineering/student-development-sessions-events/unity-workshop

4. College of Humanities and Sciences

College of Humanities and Sciences organizes training or workshops on various behavioral tools, digitalization trends, etc., to educate the external community on advancement in Psychology and Sociology. These workshops include, but are not limited to, Social skills, Communication skills, Mental Health, etc.

All students and the general community can access these resources ***free of cost***.

Please refer to the links below:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/chs/student-development-sessions-events

Some of the courses listed are:

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/chs/1._Behavioural_and_Social_skills_workshop.pdf

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/chs/3._Effective_Communication_Skill.pdf

5. Office of Sustainability

In the year 2023, Ajman University, through its Office of Sustainability, provided free workshops, training sessions, and certificate courses in collaboration with its partners to educate both internal and external communities on sustainability and climate action. Additionally, the university has made learning resources and best practices readily accessible on its website.

Please refer to the link below:

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/

- **Sustainability Lifelong Learning**

  Ajman University (AU) emphasizes sustainability education as a cornerstone of its commitment to fostering an environmentally and socially responsible community. Through free, mandatory programs for students, faculty, and staff—and optional programs for the public—AU equips its community with essential skills and knowledge to support a sustainable future. Key initiatives include Environmental Sustainability Training, covering critical topics like climate change impacts, resource conservation, sustainable business practices, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation strategies, as well as Social Impact Training, which focuses on social responsibility, diversity and inclusion, ethical leadership, mental health, and quality education. AU provides an average of 25 hours of sustainability training annually for its employees and students, supplemented by relevant workshops, encouraging the AU community to drive positive change across environmental and social domains.

  Please refer to the link below:

  https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/community/sustainability-lifelong-learning

- **AU Climate Change Learning Program**

  Ajman University (AU) continued to offer comprehensive climate change training programs in the year 2023 that empower students, educators, professionals, and the external community to take meaningful action against climate change. These programs, in partnership with Coursera, the United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership, and the UN Institute for Training and Research, cover a wide array of topics: from climate science and risk assessment to sustainable finance, human health impacts, and climate justice. Courses are tailored to different audiences—students preparing for climate-focused careers, educators gaining resources to teach climate concepts, professionals integrating climate into their fields, and citizens advocating for local action. Foundational courses, like "Climate Change: From Learning to Action," are mandatory for the AU community, while specialized topics such as carbon taxation and ecosystem-based adaptation are optional. AU also offers community-oriented programs, including junior school workshops and local awareness campaigns, supporting the integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into personal and professional impact. Through these initiatives, AU is cultivating a generation of climate champions equipped with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to drive sustainable change.

  Please refer to the link below:

  https://ehs.ajman.ac.ae/en/pages/au-climate-action-learning-program

- **Guides and Documents**

The Office of Sustainability has made available online the collection of guides, reports, white papers, and other documents covering diverse sustainability topics, available for PDF download. Highlights include *The Lazy Person's Guide to Saving the World* by the UN SDGs, *Students, Sustainability and Study Choices* by Times Higher Education, and the *Sustainable Development Report 2023* by SDSN. Other notable resources encompass practical guides like *The SDG Partnership Guidebook*, strategic documents such as *ESG in Higher Education* by EY Parthenon, and significant insights on ESG investments and sustainability-linked finance. Specialized regional publications include the *National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050* and briefs on UAE's clean hydrogen initiatives. These resources offer valuable insights for individuals and organizations seeking to advance their understanding and practice of sustainability.

Please refer to the link below:

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/resources/guides-and-documents

In 2023, the Office of Sustainability has organized several events to raise awareness among students and the external community on Sustainability, Health and Safety measures, etc. These workshops or sessions are organized as part of university study or at conferences or schools. As knowledge-sharing, the learning resources are shared on the college page, and students can freely access them for future learning or knowledge enhancement. All students and the general community can access these resources ***free of cost***.

https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/en/community/development-sessions-and-events

- **Some of the development sessions and courses are in 2023:**
  - Emergency Plan & Procedures Workshop

    https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/Emergency_Plan_%26_Procedures_Workshop.pdf
  - Sustainable Development Goals and ESG in Higher Education

    https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/Sustainable_Development_Goals_and_ESG_in_Higher_Education.pdf
  - Understanding Sustainability - Junior School Groups

    https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/Understanding_Sustainability_-_Junior_School_Groups.pdf
  - Understanding Sustainability - Senior School Groups

    https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/Understanding_Sustainability_-_Senior_School_Groups.pdf
  - Workshop on Sustainable Nudges

    https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/Workshop_on_Sustainable_Nudges.pdf

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Workshop Presentation

  https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/SDG6_Clean_Water_and_Sanitation_Workshop-Maya.pdf

- A Healthy Planet, a Healthy You: The Connection Between Sustainability and Healthcare Awareness Session

  https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/Sustainability_and_Healthcare.pdf

- The Climate Dictionary Workshop

  https://sustainablecampus.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/sustainablecampus/DOC-20230725-WA0013..pdf

- Sample Workshop and Course Certificates

  1. Workshop Certificate - https://www.linkedin.com/in/purnima-krishnan-35583580/

  2. Course Certificate

6. Student Success Center

Student Success Centre offers a variety of student-centered services to ensure academic excellence. From free tutoring and individualized academic coaching to seminars and workshops, the SSC will provide the tools and resources necessary to achieve its mission. Some sessions the center organizes yearly for new and continuing students are added here. Students can access these to understand the subject at a later stage:

All students and the general community can access these resources ***free of cost***.

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/en/student-life/student-success-center/student-support-resources

Some of the courses listed are:
https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/ssc/2._Examination_Preparation_Strategy_Your_Guide_to_Assessments.pdf

https://www.ajman.ac.ae/upload/files/ssc/1._Bullying_and_its_Impact_on_Academic_Performance__-__Compatibility_Mode.pdf