

Long Term Archive Howto

This is a short manual on how to search for and retrieve data from the Long Term Archive.

User Access

To access the LTA you need to have an account in MoM that is enabled for the archive.

1. This automatically happens if you were a member of the original project proposal in MoM.
2. Otherwise Science Support needs to add you to the project to which you need access.
3. For public data you can use an anonymous account.

You might get an email asking you to set a new password in [ASTRON Web Applications Password Self Service](#). This will set not just a new password for the LTA *but for MoM (LOFAR/WSRT) and Northstar as well*.

Finding data

Once your account is set up, you can navigate to [LTA Catalog site](#) Please note that this address might change before full operations in December 2012.

Currently you can only search the LTA catalog per project. This means you need so select a project first.

[login \(awsciencesupport\)](#) | [project \(Commissioning2012\)](#) | [Search](#) | [Show Latest](#)

After this you can either use

1. The *Search* screen which allows you to search by RA/Dec, ObservationId, Frequency, etc.
2. The *Show Latest* screen which shows you the most recently added data for this project ordered in several ways.

The result of either query will be a list of data products similar to this:

Interferometric Data 1 to 256 (showing 256 of total 44709)

[edit columns](#) | [stage](#) [uris](#)

#	<input type="checkbox"/>	DataProduct Identifier	Target Name	Right Ascension [degrees]	Declination [degrees]	Central Frequency [MHz]	Chann Width [
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400453	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	155.859375	3051.7578
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400408	Hercules-A	252.784166667	4.9925	156.25	3051.7578
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400429	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	130.6640625	3051.7578
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400445	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	146.09375	3051.7578
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400450	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	151.171875	3051.7578
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400462	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	165.8203125	3051.7578
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400442	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	145.5078125	3051.7578
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400463	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	166.015625	3051.7578
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400465	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	166.40625	3051.7578
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400469	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	171.2890625	3051.7578
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400464	3C218	139.523541667	-12.0955555556	166.2109375	3051.7578

Retrieving data

Once you have a list of dataproducts, you can use the check boxes to select which files you want to download. The first check box can be used to select or deselect all files on the page.

[edit columns](#) | [stage](#) [uris](#)

#	<input type="checkbox"/>	DataProduct Identifier	Target Name	Right Ascensi [degree
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400453	3C218	139.52354
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400408	Hercules-A	252.78416
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400429	3C218	139.52354
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400445	3C218	139.52354
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400450	3C218	139.52354
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400462	3C218	139.52354
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400442	3C218	139.52354
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400463	3C218	139.52354
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3400465	3C218	139.52354
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400469	3C218	139.52354
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	3400464	3C218	139.52354

When you have made your selection of files, you click on *stage*. This show you the following message. It means that a request has been sent to the LTA staging service to start retrieving the requested files from tape storage and make them available. You will get an e-mail when this tape retrieval is complete.

The following file(s) are requested for download. You will receive an email when the files can be retrieved.

Size	Filename
758.2 MB	L75432_SAP004_SB215_uv.MS_f6b663ca.tar

The e-mail that you get when the tape retrieval is complete gives you a list of files and has two attachments, `html.txt` and `srm.txt`:

Your data retrieval request with id 25 has been staged and is ready for retrieval.

List of files:




`srm://lofar-srm.fz-juelich.de:8443/pnfs/fz-juelich.de/data/lofar/ops/projects/commissionin_04d3730c.tar`

The attached files can be used to retrieve the staged files.

For more information visit http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=public:lta_howto

This mail has been automatically generated by the ASTRON/LOFAR LTA staging service.

Do not reply to this message. If you have any questions or remarks, please contact sciencesupport@astron.nl and provide the id of the request in your message.

Name	Size	Type
 Message	4KB	Message Attachment
 <code>html.txt</code>	214 Bytes	File Attachment
 <code>srm.txt</code>	189 Bytes	File Attachment

There are two ways you can use this list to retrieve the files: `http` and `srm`

HTTP download

If you open `http.txt` this file contains a list of `http` links that you can feed to a unix commandline tool like `wget` or `curl` or even use in a browser. For `wget` you can use the following command line:

```
wget -i http.txt
```

This will download the files in `http.txt` to the current directory. Do not set the username and password on the `wget` command line because this allows other users on the system to view them in the process list. Instead you should create a file `~/.wgetrc` with two lines according to the following example:

```
user=lofaruser
password=secret
```

SRM download

If you open the file `srm.txt` this file contains a list of `srm` locations which you would feed to `srmcp`. SRM is a GRID specific protocol that is currently supported for data at the SARA and Jülich locations. It is faster, especially if you have significantly more than 1 GB/s bandwidth. It requires a fully fledged GRID account and access and installation of the [GRID srm software](https://www.astron.nl/lofarwiki/). Contact Science Support if you think you might need a GRID account but it can not be provided by your own institute. An example command line would be:

```
srmcp --server_mode=PASSIVE srm://lofar-srm.juelich.de:8443/pnfs/fz-  
juelich.de/data/lofar/ops/projects/commissioning2012/file.tar  
file:///data/files/file.tar
```

You only need `--server_mode=PASSIVE` if you are behind a firewall or on an internal network. This will result in a slower transfer speed as it will only use one instead of multiple streams.

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