

Kyoto University Library Network

— Overview —

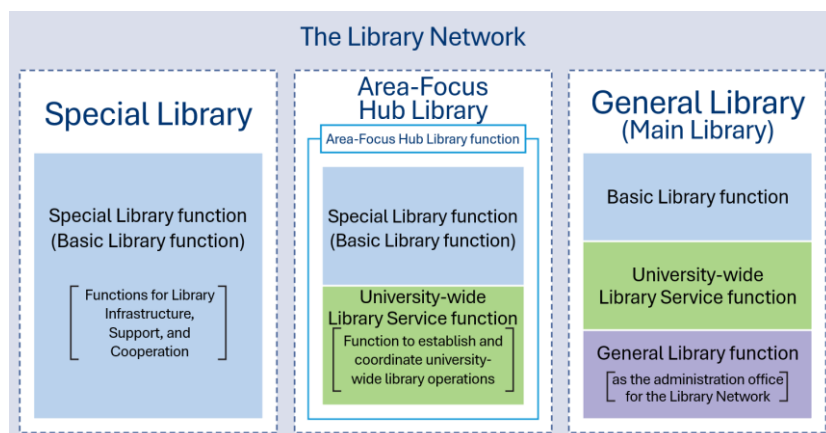


Left to right: Katsura Library, Main Library, Yoshida-South Library

Function and organization

The Library Network is a university-wide organization that develops academic research infrastructure, advances university-wide initiatives, and manages campus-wide operations at Kyoto University. Comprising individual libraries with General Library, Area-Focus Hub Library, and Special Library functions, the Network fulfills its overall mission by enhancing each library's unique capabilities while strengthening inter-library collaboration.

Future Vision and Strategy
www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/about/1385163?lang=en



Mission Statement and Goals

The Kyoto University Library Network's mission is to provide first-rate academic and information infrastructure that is consistent with our university's mission statement and, as well, worthy of an educational and research center that ranks as one of the highest in the world. The Library Network collects, classifies and preserves academic information resources and newly created intellectual knowledge, the intellectual property of humankind, disseminates related information, and constantly develops and offers the highest-quality and most advanced information service possible. The end goal is to support the teaching and research objectives of the university and to contribute to the academic community at large, both in Japan and internationally, now and in the future.

In pursuit of the above-mentioned purposes, the Kyoto University Library Network endeavors to realize the following specific goals:

1. To place maximum priority on understanding, and responding to, the needs of students and faculty in order to ensure that all the libraries of the Kyoto University Library Network are able to provide support for teaching and research in a thorough and effective manner;
2. To select and collect appropriate materials and resources, to classify them and, using appropriate research and development, to strive to always make them readily accessible, in order to develop the university's library collections and information services as part of its academic information infrastructure;
3. To preserve and disseminate the outstanding, world-ranking intellectual achievements that are produced regularly at Kyoto University;
4. To develop and maintain frameworks for the preservation and management of the various kinds of human intellectual property that are in Kyoto University's possession so as to ensure their accessibility now and in the future;
5. To build high-quality user support systems that are helpful in making the best use of academic information;
6. To enhance the skills and commitment of all library staff members and improve library facilities and equipment to help users utilize academic information in an effective and pleasant environment;
7. To strengthen the partnerships both between the libraries of the Kyoto University Library Network and with related departments and organizations in the university, and
8. To coordinate and collaborate with other libraries both in Japan and abroad and to contribute to our localities and society at large.

Promoting Open Access and Research Support

Promoting Open Access

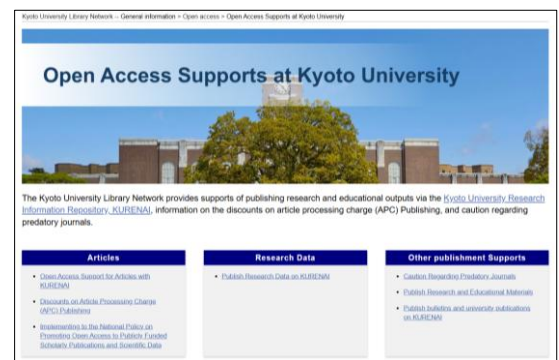
Kyoto University adopted the "Kyoto University Open Access Policy" in April 2015, making open publication of faculty research outputs a general principle. In March 2020, it established the "Kyoto University Policy on Research Data Management and Sharing" to guide researchers in managing, storing, and sharing data. Since FY2024, the Library Network, IIMC, and KURA have operated a joint one-stop helpdesk for research data management to support the full research lifecycle.

Open Access Support via KURENAI

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in October 2026, the Kyoto University Research Information Repository (KURENAI) is a platform providing open access to KU's research and educational outputs. It adds approximately 6,000 items annually (FY2025 breakdown: 3,200 journal articles, 1,300 bulletin papers across 130 journals, 850 dissertations, and 50 research datasets; all figures approximate), bringing total holdings to nearly 250,000 items.

Open Access Publishing Support

The Library Network enters into transformative (Read and Publish) agreements with major publishers, integrating journal subscriptions with open access publishing. Eligible KU-affiliated authors can publish open access in participating journals with APC waivers or discounts, easing their financial burden.



Open Access Supports at Kyoto Univ.

www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/openaccess/1404035?lang=en



Kyoto University Research Information Repository (KURENAI)

repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/home?locale=en



Promoting Learning and Teaching Support

In collaboration with faculties, graduate schools, and the Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Library Network supports self-directed study rooted in diverse learning and dialogue. To upgrade the university's education and research infrastructure, we are developing library functions into a digital, global knowledge hub harmonized with our vast academic collections.

Enhancing Self-Study Spaces for Diverse Learning Styles

We opened privacy booths in the Main Library and the Library Commons East/West in the Yoshida-South Library to accommodate online classes, job interviews, meetings, and other activities. Together with the Main Library Learning Commons, students actively utilize these spaces to suit their individual learning styles.

Enhancing Self-Study Environments and Content

The Library Network offers various support tailored to learning and research workflows and target audiences. Guided by target levels in the "Route Map to Becoming a KU Libraries Ultimate Power User," students can select materials matching their specific stage. We also actively develop e-learning content, including our YouTube "KU Library Network Channel" (launched September 2023).



Main Library Learning Commons



Library Network YouTube channel
(@kulibrarynetwork)

Study Tips

~contents for international students~

www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/support/1399524?lang=en

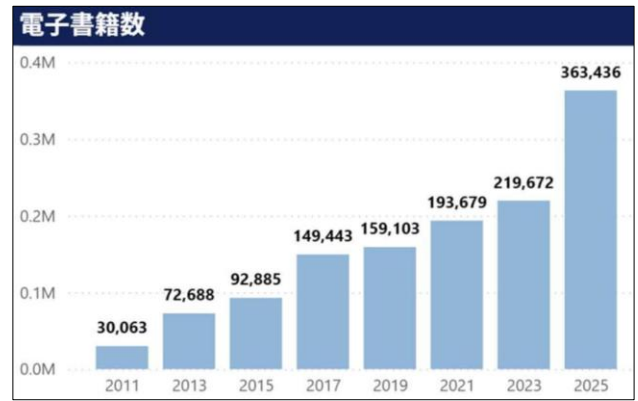


Enriching Collections and Enhancing Access

Along with approximately 7.47 million print volumes, the Library Network offers extensive e-resources—including approximately 360,000 e-books, 80,000 e-journals, and 110 databases—providing a wide range of materials essential for research and learning.

To better reflect student needs, three facilities—the Main Library and Area-Focus Hub Libraries (Yoshida-South and Katsura)—have jointly selected e-books since FY2025 based on usage statistics and history.

For efficient access, our catalog (KULINE) and discovery service enable seamless, cross-media searches—ensuring smooth access to all information, whether print or digital, on or off campus.



E-book holdings

(Source: Kyoto University in Data: Accountability Report 2026)

Distinctive Collections and Their Dissemination

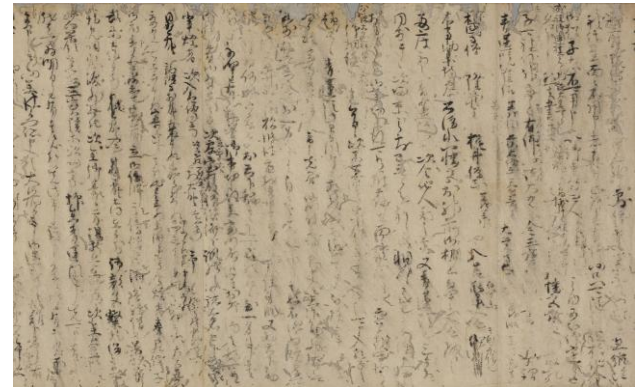
Kyoto University Libraries build collections reflecting their distinctive profiles. Notable holdings include the National Treasure *Konjaku Monogatarishū* (Suzuka Edition) (Main Lib.) and Important Cultural Properties such as *Dainihonshi Hensan Kiroku* (Grad. School of Letters), *Architectural Drawings by Josiah Conder* (Katsura Lib.), and *Kennaiki* (Main Lib.). To pass such rare materials on to future generations, we undertake restoration and proper conservation.

Disseminating Rare Materials via KURare

Launched in September 2017, the Kyoto University Rare Materials Digital Archive (KURare) provides online access to digitized materials—such as rare books and historical documents—to support academic and cultural development. Featuring National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, it houses over 27,000 titles and 2.3 million images, representing one of Japan's largest digital collections. Most images can be freely reused by citing the holding library.



Neue Zeyttung auss der Insel Japonien (Main Lib.)



Part of *Kennaiki* (Main Library / Important Cultural Property)



Part of *Hachi Katsuki* (Yoshida-South Library)



Part of *Flora Japonica* (Grad. School of Science)





Yoshida Campus

Main Campus

[General Library] Main Library

Letters

Education

Law

Economics

Engineering North

Engineering South

IRH [Jimbun]

Energy

Informatics

Global Environmental Studies (GES)

Kyoto Institute of Economic Research (KIER)

Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS) - Asia

Yoshida-South Campus

[Area-Focus Hub Library] Yoshida-South Library

Medicine/Pharmaceutical Sciences/

University Hospital Campus

Medical

Human Health Sciences (Med. Health Sci.)

Pharmacy

Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS) - Africa

Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)

North Campus

Science (Common)

Science

Mathematics / Physics / Astronomy

Earth / Chemistry / Biology

Agriculture

Natural Resource Economics (Agr. Nat. Res. Econ)

Field Science Education and Research Center (FSERC Forest)

Center for Informatics in Humanistics (CIH) [Jinse]

Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics (YITP) [Yukawa]

Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences (RIMS)

Katsura Campus

[Area-Focus Hub Library] Katsura Library

Uji Campus

Uji Library

Others

Institute for Integrated Radiation and Nuclear Science (RNS)

Inuyama Campus Library (ICL) [Inuyama]

Center for Ecological Research (CER)

Field Science Education and Research Center (FSERC) Seto

沿革

Jun 1897	Kyoto Imperial University founded; Main Library established
Apr 1984	Computerized library system introduced
Apr 1985	Research Office established (reorganized into R&D Laboratory in 1996)
Jun 1996	<i>Konjaku Monogatari</i> (Suzuka Edition) designated a National Treasure
Apr 2005	Kyoto University Library Network established
Jun 2006	Institutional Repository launched (trial in Jun, official in Oct)
Dec 2009	"Kyoto University Library Network Future Vision and Strategy" formulated
Apr 2014	Learning Commons opened at Main Library
Apr 2015	Kyoto University Open Access Policy adopted
May 2017	Yoshida-South Library designated as an Area-Focus Hub Library
Sep 2017	Rare Materials Digital Archive launched (trial in Sep, official in Dec)
Feb 2018	Katsura Library designated as an Area-Focus Hub Library (opened Apr 2020)
Feb 2020	"Kyoto University Library Network Future Vision and Strategy 2020-2027" formulated
Apr–Jun 2020	Open Access Project won the MEXT Commendation and JANUL Award
Apr 2024	Partnership launched with the Center for Data-Driven Operations (IIMC)

Activity Reports

[www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp
 /about/1400746?lang=en](http://www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/about/1400746?lang=en)



Statistics

[www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp
 /about/1401282?lang=en](http://www.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/about/1401282?lang=en)



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