Kyoto University on the Web

In addition to the university website, which provides general information and news about the university, Kyoto University offers a number of online resources to the general public. In this feature we take a closer look at those online services.

Kyoto University Website

WEB *www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en*

The Kyoto University website provides up-to-date information and news about the university to the general public. The site features the latest reports on the university's education and research undertakings, international cooperation, industry-academia collaboration, and local and international contribution and outreach activities. The university's financial and administrative information is also made publicly available via the site.

The website enables users to access various resources provided by Kyoto University, such as digital versions of university publications and online lectures. In order to comprehensively cover the extensive and diverse activities of the university, most individual faculties and graduate schools also operate their own websites, providing detailed information on their organization and activities. Those sites may be accessed via the main site.

KURENAI: the Kyoto University Research Information Repository

WEB *repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/?locale=en*

The Kyoto University Research Information Repository (KURENAI) is operated by the Kyoto University Library Network, for the purpose of preserving the research and educational output created daily within Kyoto University, and making them available to the public via the web. The website provides access to peer-reviewed journal articles, theses, departmental bulletin papers, and the full range of other scholarly works produced at the university. As of October 2012, the repository contains over 100,000 articles and 100 journals. Over 1.8 million items were downloaded in 2011.

The quality of KURENAI as an academic resource was acknowledged in 2011, when it was ranked the number one repository in Japan and eighth in the world by the Ranking Web of World Repositories of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas research institute in Spain.
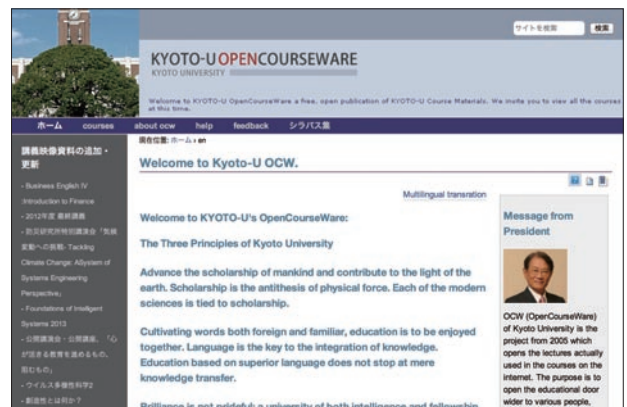
The KURENAI website is currently offering a key Research Paper by Nobel laureate Dr. Shinya Yamanaka and Dr. Kazutoshi Takahashi: *Induction of Pluripotent Stem Cells from Mouse Embryonic and Adult Fibroblast Cultures by Defined Factors*. Dr. Yamanaka was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine on the basis of this groundbreaking publication. (Made available by exceptional permission from *Cell* Press.)

KYOTO-U OpenCourseWare

WEB *ocw.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en*

The KYOTO-U OpenCourseWare (OCW) project was launched in 2005 in an effort to make the university's lectures widely available through the internet. It aims to bring the benefits of Kyoto University's education activities to as many people as possible: not only to students and academics, but also to members of the general public seeking to further their personal knowledge. In this way the project aspires to the worldwide pool of human knowledge. The KYOTO-U OCW website is available in both English and Japanese.

Recent additions to the OCW content include the course *Introduction to Classical Japanese Literature* by Associate Prof. Shikiko Kawakami of the Kyoto University International Center.

Kyoto University on iTunes U

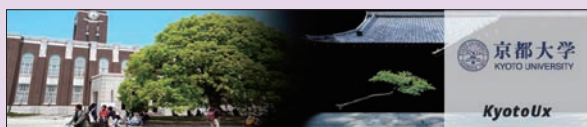**WEB** *www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/*

A range of Kyoto University material, including course lectures, seminars, and English reference resources are currently available as a free downloads on iTunes U, an area of the iTunes Store dedicated to educational content. The content includes lectures by Noble Laureate Dr. Shinya Yamanaka and other leading international scholars, as well as general information about Kyoto University.

KyotoUx (edX)

Bringing the higher education to students around the world.
WEB *www.edx.org/school/kyotoux/allcourses*

Kyoto University has joined edX (http://www.edx.org), the international consortium of 27 prestigious universities—including the two founding institutions, Harvard and MIT—that offers free online courses (as known as MOOCs: Massive Open Online Courses) as the first Japanese university. The consortium has approximately 900,000 registered students from around the world who are able to take any of the over 60 courses that edX is currently providing.

The first edX course from Kyoto University will be *Chemistry of Life* by Professor Motonari Uesugi at the Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences. The course will start next spring and those students who completed homework and passed the examinations throughout the course will be awarded a certificate of mastery under the name of KyotoUx.

Joining edX enables Kyoto University to reach out to hundreds of thousands learners globally with its high-quality education as well as to actively learn from and build upon each consortium member institution's educational innovations. It is also expected that the development of KyotoUx courses will help further enhance the quality of learning and teaching at Kyoto University.

Author: **Dr. Toru Iiyoshi**
Professor, Center for the Promotion of Excellence in Higher Education
WEB www.educause.edu/members/toru-iiyoshi