



Welcome Week for New International Students at the Main Library

On Friday, April 3rd, during the first week of the Spring 2026 semester, the Main Library held a guidance tour for newly arrived international students. Blessed with clear blue skies and a gentle spring breeze, the day provided a perfect setting for students to begin their campus life and connect with new friends.

The session began with a brief introduction to the library system at Tohoku University. As the university has several library branches, each with its own unique features, students were given an overview of how these libraries support their academic activities. The session then highlighted key information about the Main Library, including opening hours, borrowing rules, available facilities, and how to access the MyLibrary online service. Students were also guided through the OPAC system, learning how to efficiently find books and academic resources.



Library Guidance

This session served as a valuable opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the library environment, helping them feel more confident and comfortable in using the facilities for their studies.

Following the presentation, participants were divided into smaller groups and guided by concierge members on a tour of the library. The tour covered key areas from the lounge spaces to Building 2, where academic journals are stored. Students were also shown how to use the printing services and how to reserve study rooms. Throughout the session, friendly conversations created a welcoming and engaging atmosphere.



Library Tour

We hope that all participants gained useful knowledge about the library services and feel encouraged to make full use of the facilities. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to visit the International Concierge Desk.

We look forward to supporting your academic journey at Tohoku University.

Reported by Yin May Zin Han

New Members!!

This section introduces new members of the International Student Concierge.

Wang Jiaxin



Hello everyone!

My name is Wang Jiaxin. I come from Sanmenxia City in Henan Province, China. I am currently a second-year Master's student, and my main research focus is American electoral politics.

As is well known, Donald Trump has run for president three times, and this victory marks his second successful election. There are many reasons for his success. In order to conduct a deeper analysis, I am carrying out a systematic study on the relationship between his 2016 election strategy and populism.

I have many hobbies, such as traveling, listening to music, and taking photos. Last winter, I also went to Hokkaido, visiting Hakodate, Lake Toya, and Sapporo. I also really enjoy cooking by myself. I mostly

make Chinese dishes, and I also like various kinds of curry. It is especially delicious when paired with tonkatsu.

I'm very happy to meet you! Let's enjoy the time in the library.

Jing Yuyan



My name is Jing Yuyan, and I am from Jilin, China.

Currently, I am a third-year doctoral student at the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, majoring in Japanese linguistics. My research mainly focuses on daily Japanese conversation and grammar. Since I have completed my Master's Degree at Tohoku University, this is my fourth year living in Sendai.

In my free time, I enjoy learning traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Through practicing tea ceremony, I have learned not only the procedures and etiquette, but also how to calm my mind and appreciate each moment. It has given me a deeper understanding of Japanese aesthetics and the spirit of hospitality. I also find it very interesting that although Chinese tea culture and Japanese tea ceremony are different in form and style, they share a common essence — valuing harmony, respect, and mindfulness in daily life.

In addition, I also learn Japanese flower arrangement. This experience has helped me develop a sense of balance and aesthetics and taught me how to express emotions through simple and natural forms. It also allows me to better understand the cultural background behind Japanese ways of thinking.

Another hobby of mine is reading. I spend at least one hour reading every day. For me, reading feels like having a conversation with the author and even with people from different times in history, which is truly fascinating and inspiring.

I am also very fortunate to have the opportunity to join the Tohoku University Library International Student Concierge. Please feel free to ask me any questions about the library. Nice to meet you!

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pique your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!

In this edition's Reader's Choice, we would like to offer our audience a taste of Japanese detective fiction. To do so, what better way than to turn to a novel by one of its greatest masters? *Tokyo Express*, a relatively short work by Seichō Matsumoto, is exactly that.

The story begins, as one would imagine, with a death scene. In a rocky cove along the shores of Hakata Bay, a young couple's bodies are found in a state that suggests a lovers' suicide. For the police, it is a clearly a closed case. However, in the eyes of Torigai Jutarō, a senior detective, and Kiichi Mihara, a young gun from Tokyo, something seems distinctly off. Together, they will seek the truth behind what turns out to be a fiendish and meticulously calculated crime.

Seichō Matsumoto (1909-1992) is a leading figure of the so-called "social school" within the genre of Japanese detective fiction, and *Tokyo Express* is widely recognized as one of his masterpieces. In contrast to the "orthodox school", which is known to follow conventional formulas of the "whodunit?" trope in mystery fiction, the social school tends to portray crimes in ordinary settings, and to frame its motives within a broader context of social injustice and/or corruption, embracing a form of social realism.

In addition, Matsumoto's works are also known to be some of the first to place

greater emphasis on aspects of human psychology. A combination of all these elements has contributed to the popularization of mystery and detective fiction in Japan, a cultural phenomenon for which the author is credited to this day.

Tokyo Express is a compelling blend of all the aforementioned elements that brought the author to his enduring relevance, and it will definitely make the reader fall in love with this dark, addictive, and yet exciting side of contemporary Japanese literature.

Book: Tokyo Express

Editor: Seichō Matsumoto

Publisher: Penguin Modern Classics

Call No.: KH336/4

Location: Main Library 2F-Global-for-InternationalStudent

Language: English

*Written by **Ana Maria Simplicio***

My Hometown: San Men Xia (China)

In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you a glimpse into their culture and some traveling tips from locals!

China is a vast country with many large cities. My hometown is Sanmenxia City in Henan Province, which is a place with a beautiful environment. It is located near the China's Yellow River and has many wetlands. Every winter, swans from Siberia fly here to spend the winter. Every year from January to March is the time when the swans fly here to live. If you want to see the swans, this is the best time to visit.



Swan, Yellow River Park, taken by Author

The swans stay each year at the Yellow River Wetland Park. There are fences nearby, allowing people to observe and photograph the swans from a close distance. In addition, there is a Swan Café in the park, where visitors can enjoy coffee and swan-themed cakes. There are also some related souvenirs, and they are very cute.

Regarding delicious food, I have a highly recommended food, that is, **Hu La Tang**.



Hu La Tang, San Men Xia, taken by Author

Hu La Tang, a traditional breakfast from my hometown, is very famous. It is a spicy soup made with ingredients such as beef and black fungus, and there are many different variations. If I had to compare it to a Japanese dish, I would say it is somewhat similar to **soup curry**.

What makes it even more special is the variety of foods that can be enjoyed with it. For example, you can dip youtiao (fried dough sticks) or baozi (steamed buns) into the thick soup before eating—it tastes absolutely delicious.

It is one of my favorite foods, and I highly recommend everyone to try it.

Written by Wang Jiaxin

Quote of the Month

This section introduces famous quotes from a recommended book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. The quotes have been meticulously chosen by our Concierge members with the intention of promoting interest in books and providing motivation to our readers. We hope that you will enjoy our selection!

“I should never be able to fulfil, what is, I understand, the first duty of a lecturer to hand you after an hour’s discourse, a nugget of pure truth to wrap up between the pages of your notebooks and keep on the mantelpiece forever. All I could do was to offer you an opinion upon one minor point: A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.”



Book: A room of one's own

Author: Virginia Woolf

Publisher: London : Grafton Books

Call No.: KS175-20/15

Location: Main Library LIB-B1-Stacks-NDLC-Foreign

Written by Zhu Mengqi

Editors

Petrovikj Hristina [Editor-in-Chief]



A graduate student from North Macedonia enrolled in the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has many hobbies, some of which include: singing, journaling, travelling, reading, watching movies, and photography. She has lived in 3 different countries so far, travelled across Europe, and is hoping to embark on an Asian tour in the near future. Her secret dream is to be a member of a rock band, but since that has not come true yet, you can often find her in a karaoke booth instead!

Martelli Giachino Maria Laura

Originally from Argentina, she earned her undergraduate degree in Journalism before packing her bags and heading to Japan to pursue her Master's and Doctoral studies in Information Sciences. It's her first time living abroad, so every day brings a mix of exciting discoveries, cultural adventures, and—yes—occasional deadlines-induced little panic attacks. When she's not buried in her research, you'll probably find her soaking in an onsen, singing her heart out at karaoke, or obsessing over cats. She's also a huge fan of drawing, binge-worthy TV shows and movies, NBA games—and she hasn't lost hope of receiving her Hogwarts letter.



Andhika Wijaya



A graduate student from Innovative Japanese Studies Major, who was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. She never had seen snow before she came to Japan, so she's always going 'wakuwaku' when the snow is falling down even though she has to struggle a lot with the cold temperature. She loves drawing, reading comics, travelling to scenic places, enjoying nice music, singing at karaoke, and playing with cute animals. Please don't mind her if she makes strange noises when she saw a photo of cute animals. Aside of those, one of her major passion is enjoying food and making review notes about it.

How to reach us?

X (Twitter) : @TUL_Global @hagi_no_suke (in Japanese)
Instagram : @tohoku_univ_lib
Website : www.library.tohoku.ac.jp/en/
E-Mail : gakushi@grp.tohoku.ac.jp
Telephone : 022-795-5933
Office Hours : 8:30 - 17:00 (Weekdays)
Address : 27-1 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, 980-8576 JAPAN

