



Library Guidance Tour for International Students: Welcome to Tohoku University in Sendai!

At the beginning of April, the cherry blossom season, the Main Library of Tohoku University held its guidance and tour for newly arrived international students. We hold this event each semester to help them get familiar with the Library's spaces and services, as well as to welcome them to Tohoku University. Among them there are many exchange students who come to Japan with academic goals.

The library guidance tour consists of two parts: first, there is a detailed presentation about the library history, its buildings and archives, available services and facilities, and how to search for materials using the online public access catalog (OPAC). Then, the participants are divided into small groups, and the members of the International Student Concierge give a tour around the library, explaining about each space and its particularities, such as what kind of materials are kept in them, where the available reading desks are, and what you are allowed or not to do in the library. The tour is also an opportunity for the new students to ask questions and get more specific information about the library and its different areas.

This time we held two consecutive Guidance Tours in a row, and it was really exciting to see how students were looking forward to studying at Tohoku University and being able to use the library. Some of them were also happy to learn about Japanese learning materials that are available in the Global Learning Room, and were surprised that we offer services in different languages at the concierge desk.



Library Guidance

The goal of the library guidance and tour is to introduce the library facilities and services, so to help the students to get more familiar with it. We understand that the library can be crucial to have a successful academic life and research, and are honored to offer the necessary support. We are looking forward to seeing many new faces at the library in this new semester.



Library Tour

Written by Ana Maria Simplicio

New Members!!

This section introduces new members of the International Student Concierge.

Yisianjiang Yumiti



Hello everyone,

My name is Yisianjiang Yumiti, feel free to call me Ehsan. I come from China and am currently majoring in Linguistics. This is my second year in Japan. Alongside my studies, I've been engaging in part-time jobs, which have greatly contributed to my fluency in Japanese.

Basketball is part of my life; I love both playing on the court and cheering from the sidelines during games. It's a passion that keeps me energetic and connected with others who share the same interest.

I like talking with people and sharing experiences and ideas. So, feel free to talk with me about anything. Whether it's about studies, life in Japan, or even your favorite basketball team, I'm all ears.

You can find me at the International Student Concierge Desk in the Library. It's a place for meeting and helping fellow students from all over the world. It's a wonderful place to support your academic life, and I'm there to assist and help.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Maria Laura Martelli Giachino



Hello everyone !

My name is Maria Laura but you can call me Maria. I'm from Argentina, South America. I grew up in the Patagonia Region, in the southern part of the country, but I moved to Buenos Aires city to study at university, where I majored in Journalism.

After graduating, I worked in an online magazine and a radio station with the Nikkei community in Buenos Aires. After studying Japanese language for some years, it became my dream to come to Japan to pursue a Master degree. This is my third year in Japan and I will graduate in a few

months from the Graduate School of Information Sciences.

During my spare time, I like drawing, listening to music, and watching films and series, including Japanese dramas and comedies. One of my favorite Japanese comedies is “Hana yori dango” and I also love the dramas “Breaking Bad” and “Game of Thrones”. I also like reading manga and fantasy books, such as Harry Potter. It was because of “Slam Dunk” manga that I also became interested in basketball. After coming to Japan, I discovered two more hobbies: karaoke and onsen! I found these especially relaxing during stressful times.

It's very nice meeting you! And please, feel free to come to the International Student Concierge at the Library for any questions. Ganbarimashou!

Zhang Wenxin



My name is Zhang Wenxin and you can call me Neveah. I'm from Jilin Province in the northeast of China. Now I am an M2

student of the International Cultural Studies. My research is on Agatha Christie's detective novels and their movie adaptations.

I majored in Japanese in college, and after graduation, I joined IBM China Dalian Branch, and engaged in economic business in Japanese and English. I gained a lot from my work, but I realized that I was not suited to a static job and wanted to continue with a better education, so I chose to quit my job and came to Tohoku University.

The first Japanese mystery novel that I read in junior high school was “The Devotion of Suspect X”. Since then, I have been deeply attracted to Japanese detective fiction, and I have been addicted to the stories and riddles, and enjoyed thinking logically while reading them. I also did a brief research on Japanese detective fiction for my thesis.

I like to go to the library to spend my reading time. I'm satisfied with the large number of books, and I also like the atmosphere of the library that allow me to immerse myself in reading. I gradually began to read 20th century detective fiction from Europe and the United States, and I got interested in the source of the detective fiction. It is the reason why I chose my current research subject.

I am an Aries, born in April, full of enthusiasm and vigor, and love to have unknown adventures and make new friends. Feel free to come to the International Student Concierge Desk at the Library for any questions!

My Hometown: Beijing

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

Though Beijing is not my hometown, the years I spent there have woven the city's vibrant tapestry into the fabric of my life, allowing me to embrace it with the warmth reserved for a second home. Beijing, the capital of China, stands as a majestic testament to both ancient and modern epochs, seamlessly intertwining centuries of history with the pulsating beat of contemporary life.

At its heart, Beijing's history is a storied journey through time, serving as the political, cultural, and educational center of China for over 800 years. The city is encircled by an invisible aura of its imperial past, most notably embodied by the Forbidden City, a sprawling palace complex that captivated the world with its architectural magnificence and deep historical significance. Beijing's historical narrative is further enriched by the Great Wall of China, a symbol of resilience and architectural marvel that stretches beyond the city's confines, inviting adventurers and scholars alike to ponder the stories of yesteryears.

Beijing's cultural vibrancy is palpable in its bustling hutongs, traditional alleyways that offer a glimpse into the city's soul, and in the serene beauty of the Summer Palace, where art and nature merge in harmonious tranquility. The city's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage, while fostering innovation and modernity, is evident in its dynamic arts scene, ranging from traditional Peking opera to contemporary art exhibitions that challenge and inspire.



The culinary landscape of Beijing is as diverse as its history, offering an array of flavors that tell tales of emperors, commoners, and everyone in between. Peking duck, with its crispy skin and succulent meat, is more than just a dish; it's a culinary journey through Beijing's imperial dining halls. Meanwhile, the humble jianbing offers a taste of Beijing's bustling streets, a testament to the city's ability to find extraordinary in the everyday.

In essence, Beijing is more than just a city; it's a living museum, a guardian of history, and a beacon of the future. Though it is not the place of my birth, Beijing has become a part of who I am, a cherished second home whose streets, stories, and spirit will forever hold a special place in my heart.



* All photos are taken by author.

Written by **Yisianjiang Yumiti**

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!

Happy spring, fellow book lovers!

April is here and it has not only awoken the most beautiful colors in nature, but also some deep emotions of change and inspiration within each of us. While admiring the fleeting beauty of each sakura petal, I always think about all the past generations who have lived through many changing seasons in Japan, and I wonder: "What was their life like? What made them happy and what troubled their hearts?"

If similar questions occasionally come to your mind as well, I encourage you to open the first page of this book and make your first step into the past with the guidance of an expert on the inner life of the Japanese people of the past – Lafcadio Hearn.

Lafcadio Hearn (also known by his Japanese name, Koizumi Yakumo 小泉 八雲) is considered to be one of the first Japanologists who spent his life serving as a skillful interpreter of things Japanese to the Western world. Born in 1850 on the island of Lefkada in Greece, he found his life's purpose at the age of 40, recognizing Japan as his home and his greatest inspiration for writing.

His contributions to the representation of Japan of the late 19th century go both ways, since Japanese people treasure his books as equally as his Western readers, because they serve as a reminder of the mysterious and traditional Japan that

slowly ceased to exist due to the rapid Westernization of this society.

Kokoro was published in 1896 and it provides a glimpse into the complex inner life of the everyday people who once lived in the "old Japan" – such as righteous ordinary people, pure hearted children, and troubled monks. The title is often translated into English as "the heart of things" and it perfectly describes these diverse existential stories. Interestingly, this book was published some 20 years before Natsume Sōseki's *Kokoro*, yet it remains fairly unknown among wider audience.

Lafcadio Hearn is especially famous for compiling riveting ghost stories and peculiar legends from Japan, so you may like his other works too!

Book: *Kokoro – Hints and Echoes of Japanese Inner Life*

Author: Lafcadio Hearn

Publisher: Charles E. Tuttle Company

Call No.: KS158-6/8

Location: Main Library, Global Learning Room

Written by Petrovikj Hristina

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!

Helen Li

A 3rd year PhD student from Economics and Management Department, majoring in monetary economics and financial time series analysis. She previously lived in the USA and came to Japan in 2019. She has been playing the piano for over 10 years, and is also a semi-professional athlete of speed skating since before she was 14. She is an excellent female gamer of MOBA games such as DOTA and Honor of Kings. Her dream is to become a university professor or a diplomat, but a superior professional athlete of Esports if she was 10 years younger.



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?

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