



How do you like the library?

Interviews with International Students



Dhita Larci De Fila
Research Student of Graduate
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Where do you come from?

I'm from Padang City, West Sumatra Province, Indonesia. It is famous for being globally recognized as having the most delicious spicy food, called "Rendang." But I also lived for many years in Surabaya City, East Java Province, so now I can speak Javanese along with Indonesian, Minangese, and Japanese.

What do you study?

What school do you belong to?

I'm a research student at the Innovative Japanese Studies Department which belongs to Graduate School of Arts and Letters. I'm currently studying the portrayal of Yōkai (monster or ghost) in Japanese pop-culture. I'm interested in Japanese Yōkai, particularly their modern portrayal because there are many different types,

and because due to the kawaii culture phenomenon, they become cute and approachable instead of scary.

What is your favorite thing about this library?

I like how the library makes me relaxed and comfortable, which makes it easier to focus for studying. Since I'm still a research student, I have no space in my own lab, so I depend on the Main Library as my workspace. Also, there are so many books that I can read and learn from. Even though I'm still not confident about my Japanese, I can improve my language skills by reading books here. I also passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test at N1 level thanks to the books in this Library. There are also some dedicated spaces within the library where I can interact and study together with friends without disturbing others too much, and also spots to have phone calls, which is very helpful for me. Sometimes it is also comfortable to sleep in the library desk.

Do you have any favorite place to study in the library?

My favorite place is the 2nd floor balcony reading space because I can still see people while maintaining my privacy. My second favorite spot is the reading space in the back of the bookshelves, particularly near the shelf that contains books related to Yōkai, because it gives me the easy access to the literature sources related to my research. It also gives me privacy, since there are not too many desks over there.



Please share your favorite/recommended book from this Library.

I recommend Natsume Soseki's "Botchan." The Main Library has this novel in 5 different languages (Japanese, English, Indonesian, Chinese, and Korean). I always admire Natsume Soseki's works, but "Botchan" feels special as it is the first book of him that I read. It is a story about a boy who is honest but has up-front attitude that irritates other people. As he grew up and became a teacher, he learned to face many kids that have a similar attitude like him, and take it as a challenge.

How often do you use the library per week?

When I feel motivated, I'm using the space inside the Main Library around 3 times a week. But particularly, I go to the library after my classes. Because I cannot focus on reading in my own room, I mainly use the library space to look for books and read them. If I have a schedule for a upcoming test or exam, I stay in the library almost every day and force myself to study.

Which part of the library would you recommend? Why?

Since I mainly visit the library for the books, I recommend the bookshelves area in the 2nd floor all around the student reading room and the Global Learning Room. Particularly, the Global Learning Room has a lot of interesting books that can help you improve your Japanese Language

skill and learn more about Japanese cultures.



Interview by **Andhika Wijaya**

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!

I believe that many people have already read this book when they were young: The Little Prince. Today, I would like to recommend its Japanese version to foreign students, because of its familiar contents, it may offer great help of improving your Japanese reading skills.

The Little Prince is a story about a pilot whose plane breaks down in the Sahara Desert. While he is trying to fix his plane, he meets the Little Prince who had come to Earth looking for a friend. The first thing the Little Prince asks is that the pilot draw him a sheep that he can take back home with him. The pilot eventually learns that the Little Prince is from an asteroid not much bigger than a house, that he loves watching the sunset and has quite demanding rose. To escape the rose he left his asteroid and began a journey, where he met a king who wanted to rule over everything, a conceited man who wanted the prince to admire him, a drinker that drank

to forget that he drank too much, a businessman who counted the stars that he thought he owned, a lamplighter who lived on a planet so small that he had to continuously light and put out the street light, and a geographer that depended on explorers for his information. When the Little Prince makes it to Earth, he meets a snake, a fox, a railway switchman, a merchant, and a pilot. He also finds a garden of roses where he learns that his rose is not as unique as he had originally thought. With each encounter that the Little Prince has, until meeting the pilot, he concludes that adults and children see the world in very different ways.

I consider this book should be read more than twice to be completely understood. It is not a long book, but the depth of the meaning is buried in every simple story, with beautiful narrative style and lovely illustrations. For instance, it teaches you the essence of love and friendship. It gives you instructions of not insisting on grabbing money and social status. That you must try before you conclude, but you should take the responsibilities and the risks. To many readers, the ending of the book is quite sad. However, I consider it a satisfying ending because the little prince finally went back to his planet and got his inner peace back.

Book: Le Petit Prince (星の王子さま)

Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Translator: 内藤 濯

Publisher: 岩波文庫

Call No.: KR171-070

Location: Main library 1F Student Reading Room

*Written by **Helen Li***

My Hometown: Xi'an (China)

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

My hometown, Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province, is a city steeped in history and culture, making it one of China's most fascinating destinations. Known as the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, Xi'an has been a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and cuisines for over three thousand years.

One of the city's most iconic landmarks is the Terracotta Army, discovered in 1974. This UNESCO World Heritage site features thousands of life-sized clay soldiers, horses, and chariots, all meticulously crafted to accompany Emperor Qin Shi Huang into the afterlife. Visiting the site is a breathtaking experience; as you walk through the vast excavation pits, you can't help but marvel at the artistry and scale of this monumental discovery. The site also includes a museum that provides insights into the history of the Qin Dynasty and the significance of the army. In addition to its historical sites, Xi'an is home to numerous temples and pagodas, including the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a UNESCO World Heritage site that dates back to the Tang Dynasty. This pagoda is an important Buddhist site, housing many ancient texts and artifacts

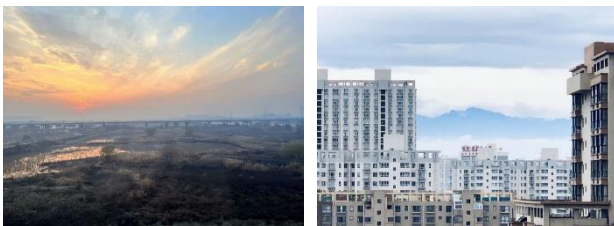


<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:51714-Terracota-Army.jpg>

The city is surrounded by ancient walls, which are among the best-preserved city walls in China. Visitors can walk or bike along the top of these walls, enjoying panoramic views of the city and its blend of modernity and tradition. The wall is beautifully illuminated at night, creating a magical ambience perfect for evening strolls.

Xi'an is also renowned for its incredible food, reflecting its rich cultural heritage. One of the most famous is Biangbiang noodles, which are wide and chewy, often topped with a spicy chili sauce and garlic. And Yang Rou Chuan is also something you can't miss, which is tender lamb skewers that are grilled to perfection and often enjoyed with a sprinkle of cumin and chili powder.

Overall, Xi'an is a fascinating destination that offers a glimpse into China's glorious past while embracing contemporary life. Its historical significance, vibrant culture, and warm hospitality make it a must-visit city for anyone interested in exploring the heart of China.



*Photos were taken by author.

Written by **Zhang Tao**

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!

"Really, these wizards! You'd think no one had ever had a cold before! Well, what is it?" she asked, hobbling through the bedroom door onto the filthy carpet.

"I'm dying of boredom," Howl said pathetically. "Or maybe just dying."



Book: Howl's moving castle

Author: Diana Wynne Jones

Publisher: New York : Eos

Call No.: KS141/460

Location: LIB-2F-Global-forInternationalStudent

Written by **Fernandez Caro Antonio**

Manga Corner

At Manga Corner, you will see scenes that frequently happen to newly enrolled students.

Hi! I am Andhika from Indonesia! I like reading and drawing manga, and I hope you enjoy my short manga.



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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