



How do you like the library?

Interviews with International Students



Elena Claver Hernández

First year PhD Student of the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Department of Innovative Japanese Studies

Where do you come from?

I come from Seville in the south of Spain, a city located in the Andalusia region. It's an old city which has a really rich history of different cultures living together in the same place, and that left different marks in the city's layout and overall architecture. It's a very beautiful and touristic place, and compared to Sendai, the climate is warmer. My favorite place there is probably the Alcázar, which is basically a Muslim palace and fortress from the 11th century.

What do you study?

What school do you belong to?

I study Japanese films, specifically *jidaigeki*, which are historical films that portray the past of Japan, and I

analyze the portrayal of the Sengoku Period in these productions. The movies I focus on are mostly from the pre-war and wartime periods, but sometimes I also look into productions from the 50s.

I belong to the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, at the Innovative Japanese Studies Department.

What is your favorite thing about this library?

My favorite thing about the library is that they have a wide variety of books, old and new, from many different subjects. I also enjoy the atmosphere of the building in itself, because it has plenty of natural light, and is both silent and serious, which creates a good working environment. At the same time, it is not as rigid as other libraries, where sometimes there are so many rules that it becomes difficult to work there.

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

My favorite place to study in the library is the flexible working area. I started using it for group projects, and it has always been a really useful space, because it offers plugs for everyone to work with their computers, and the working atmosphere is serious while still allowing you to talk to your colleagues. Because of its big windows, a lot of natural light comes in and we can also see the trees outside, but it is also a somewhat secluded space, so I feel comfortable even working there alone.

Another place I like in the library is the reading tables located on the second floor, because of the books that are placed there. Some of them are connected to my area of study, so it is really convenient to go there, take a look at the book you may need, and not have to borrow it.



Please share your favorite/recommended book from this Library.

I would maybe say that my favorite books are the ones by the Society of Historical Consulting, because, from a different perspective, they deal with how the Sengoku period history is portrayed in modern films, games, mangas and other historically thematic products in general. For example, there's a book called "*Sengoku jidaigeki no mikata, tsukurikata*". They are not specifically dense, or hard to read, so I think they might be interesting even for people who are not from this research field.

How often do you use the library per week?

I use the library around once or twice a week, the same days that I have some lectures at the University, and mostly as a place of work, though of course I also borrow books. I enjoy the facilities and feel

like I can concentrate well here. On the other days I work mostly at home.

Which part of the library would you recommend? Why?

I would like to recommend the student reading area on the second floor, because as I said before, it can be really convenient, but normally I don't see many people using that space. Of course, the internet is really useful for finding references, but there are a lot of books that can serve the same purpose, and sometimes people don't find information because they may not have heard about it, but just by perusing the shelves, there are many new books and references that you might discover.



Interview by Ana Maria Simplicio

Book Exhibition

To Protect the Environment that We all Depend on

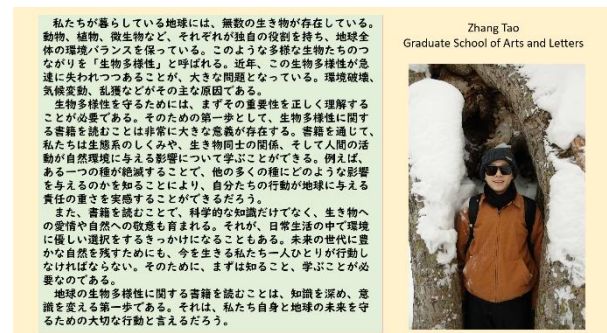
There are countless living organisms on the Earth where we live. Animals, plants, microorganisms, and each has its own unique role, working together to maintain the overall environmental balance of the planet. This intricate web of diverse life forms is known as “biodiversity.” In recent years, the rapid loss of biodiversity has become a serious issue. The main causes include environmental destruction, climate change, and overexploitation.

In order to protect biodiversity, it is essential to first understand its importance correctly. As a first step, reading books about biodiversity holds great significance. Through these books, we can learn about the workings of ecosystems, the relationships between living organisms, and the impact human activities have on the natural environment. For example, by understanding how the extinction of a single species can affect many others, we can truly feel the weight of the responsibility our actions carry for the planet.

Moreover, reading not only provides scientific knowledge, but also nurtures a sense of affection for living creatures and respect for nature. This can inspire us to make environmentally-friendly choices in our daily lives. In order to leave behind a rich natural environment for future generations, each of us living today must take action. And for that, the first step is to know and learn.

Reading books about the Earth's biodiversity is the first step in deepening our knowledge and changing our awareness.

This can be considered a vital action in protecting both ourselves and the future of our planet.



Written by **Zhang Tao**

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!

Stephen Hawking's “A Brief History of Time” is a groundbreaking book that introduces complex concepts of physics and cosmology in a way that is accessible to general readers, including university students from all disciplines. First published in 1988, it explores profound questions about the universe: How did it begin?

What is time? Is the universe infinite? And can we truly understand the laws of nature?

Hawking begins by discussing the historical development of our understanding of the universe, from Aristotle's geocentric model to Copernicus's heliocentric theory and Newton's laws of motion. He then introduces Einstein's theory of relativity, which revolutionized our understanding of space and time.

Also in this thought-provoking work, Hawking discusses black holes, the Big Bang, quantum mechanics, and the nature of time, weaving them into a compelling narrative that challenges our understanding of reality. What sets this book apart is Hawking's ability to explain difficult scientific theories with clarity and even humor, without relying heavily on mathematics.

For students, "A Brief History of Time" is not just a science book—it is a journey into the mind of one of the greatest thinkers of our time. It encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper appreciation of the universe we live in. Whether you're studying physics, philosophy, or any other subject, this book will expand your intellectual horizons and inspire you to ask bigger questions.

Book: ホーキング、宇宙を語る : ビッグバンからブラックホールまで

Author: S・W・ホーキング著 ; 林一訳

Publisher: 東京 : 早川書房

Call No.: MB31/039

Location: LIB-2F-Gakuetsu

Written by **Wang Haomiao**

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!

"In the uncertain ebb and flow of time and emotions, much of one's life history is etched in the senses. And things of no particular importance, or irreplaceable things, can suddenly resurface in a café one winter night"



Book: Kitchen

Author: Banana Yoshimoto

Publisher: New York: Grove Press

Call No.: KH747/2

Location: LIB-2F-Global-forInternationalStudent

Written by *Maria Laura Martelli Giachino*

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.

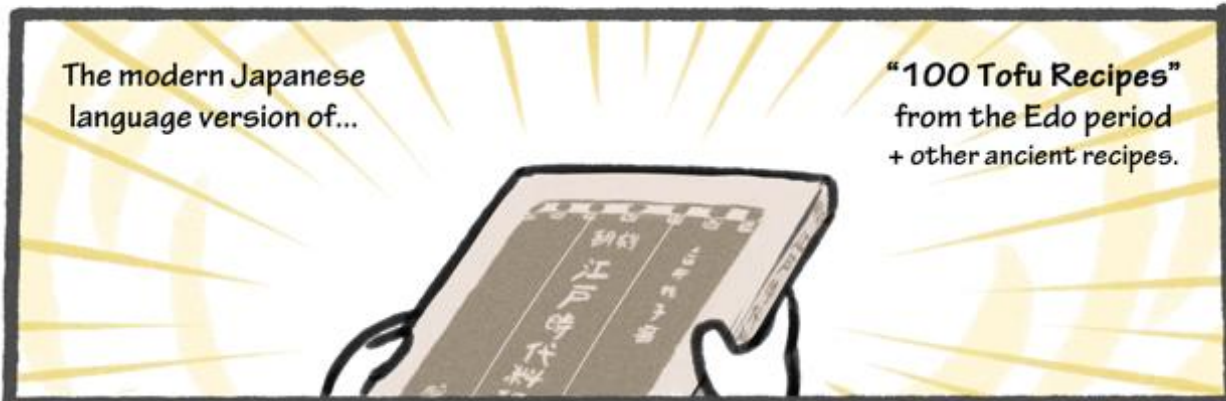


This...
This is...



The modern Japanese
language version of...

"100 Tofu Recipes"
from the Edo period
+ other ancient recipes.



Recipe No. 15

- ① Wrap tofu in cloth and place it on a slanted board.
- ② Press without crushing it and squeeze out the moisture.

- ③ Simmer it with raw soy sauce, sake, and salt
- ④ Slice into small mouth-size pieces.



I should have considered the
difference in tofu and
kitchen utensils of 2-3
centuries ago...

But I guess tofu
with soy sauce is
not a bad idea.



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?

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