



How do you like the library?

Interviews with International Students



Xu Yunyun

First year PhD Student of the Graduate
School of Economics and Management

Where do you come from?

I am from Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China. Personally, what I like most about Nanjing, apart from visiting various historical relics and cultural artifacts left over from its time as the capital of six dynasties, are the local snacks here. For example, Peking duck, duck blood vermicelli soup, and steamed buns (xiaolongbao). Also, I think Nanjing has wide roads and many trees, which is also why I love this city.

What do you study?

What school do you belong to?

I am in the Economic and Business Administration at the Graduate School of Economics. And I am in the Japanese-taught program. My research focuses on

CSR, gamification, and innovation. CSR stands for Corporate Social Responsibility. I am exploring how enterprises can integrate gamification concepts, such as points and rankings, to better promote innovative activities both within and outside the organization.

What is your favorite thing about this library?

Well, Tohoku University has several libraries. Personally, I think the feature of the Main Library is that there are quite a lot of people here, but it's not crowded. So, if I need a strong learning atmosphere, I will choose to come to this library.

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

Personally, my favorite is the lounge area in Main Library, the area where you can eat while reading. Because sometimes when you're in a hurry, maybe during the lunch break, you need to do some online tasks. Generally, libraries don't allow you to bring food or eat inside. So that area is very convenient for me to finish lunch and task simultaneously.



Please share your favorite/recommended book from this Library.

This library has a comprehensive collection of books about Lu Xun and Chinese history. I remember there is a whole section on the second floor dedicated to them. If you're interested in Lu Xun or Chinese culture, this library has a great selection. If I have to name a specific book, I will recommend Lu Xun's short story collection *Pang Huang* (Wandering).

How often do you use the library per week?

Basically 3 to 5 times a week. As a PhD student, if I stay at home alone, I don't feel like reading academic papers or books. So, I always go to the library. For example, if I have something to do at noon, I can spend a few hours in the library in the afternoon.

Which part of the library would you recommend? Why?

I would recommend the hall of this library because you can feel the atmosphere of many people studying together, while still having a good amount of personal space. For example, the tables in the Main Library are shared by three people, but there are partitions between them. So, it gives you a feeling that you are discussing something closely with your groupmates or studying together, while still having your own personal space. Moreover, if you want to print a certain page of a book you're reading, it's very convenient because there's a printer nearby.



Interview by Zhu Mengqi

Book Exhibition

Imagining the Future The World of Science Fiction

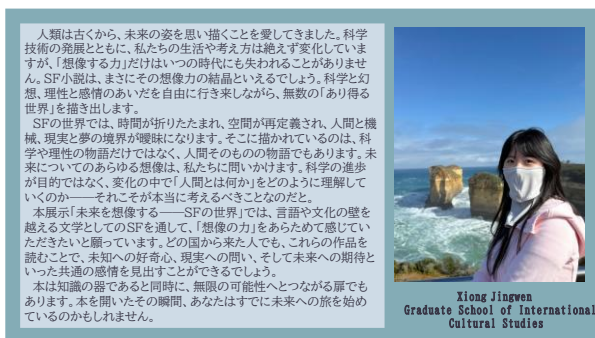
The International Student Concierge staff regularly holds book exhibitions at the entrance of the Global Learning Room. Please stop by and take a look.

Humanity has long loved imagining and envisioning the shape of the future. As science and technology advance, our ways of living and thinking continue to change, yet the power of imagination has never been lost. Science fiction is, in many ways, the crystallization of this imaginative power. Moving freely between science and fantasy, reason and emotion, it depicts countless “possible worlds.”

In the realm of science fiction, time can be folded, space can be redefined, and the boundaries between humans and machines, reality and dreams, become blurred. What is portrayed is not only the story of science and logic, but also the story of humanity itself. Every vision of the future asks us a fundamental question: scientific progress is not the goal—what truly matters is how we come to understand the meaning of being human amid constant change.

Through this exhibition, *Imagining the Future — The World of Science Fiction*, we hope visitors will rediscover the power of imagination through SF as a form of literature that transcends language and cultural boundaries. No matter where one comes from, those who read these works will find shared emotions—curiosity toward the unknown, questions about reality, and expectations for the future.

A book is not only a vessel of knowledge but also a doorway leading to infinite possibilities. The moment you open its pages, you may already be embarking on a journey into the future.



Written by **Xiong Jingwen**

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!

『Embracing defeat: Japan in the wake of World War II』 is a landmark study of Japan's transformation during the Allied occupation from 1945 to 1952. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, the book is widely praised for its depth, clarity, and balanced analysis of one of the most significant periods in modern Japanese history. Rather than offering a simple account of political events, Dower provides a multidimensional portrait of how Japan rebuilt itself after catastrophic defeat.

Drawing on an impressive range of primary sources—government records, personal diaries, newspapers, and popular culture—Dower shows how ordinary Japanese people confronted the emotional and social upheaval of the postwar moment. He explores the shock of defeat, the collapse of wartime ideology, and the uncertainty that permeated daily life. At the same time, he highlights the resilience and creativity that emerged as people searched for new identities and new ways of understanding their world. His attention to cultural expression, including literature, art, and satire, offers valuable insight into how postwar attitudes took shape.

The book also provides a clear examination of the major reforms introduced by the Allied occupation, including the drafting of a new constitution, land reform, demilitarization, and changes in labor and

education. Dower explains both the goals of these reforms and the negotiations and compromises required to implement them. His analysis makes it evident that Japan's postwar democracy resulted not only from external directives but also from internal debate and adaptation.

For readers interested in modern history or the dynamics of societal reconstruction, *Embracing Defeat* is an essential reading. Its combination of rigorous research and vivid storytelling makes it both informative and compelling, offering a nuanced understanding of how a defeated nation found its way toward renewal.

Book: *Embracing defeat: Japan in the wake of World War II*

Author: John W. Dower

Publisher: New York; London: W.W. Norton: New Press

Call No.: GB561/35

Location: LIB-B1-Stacks-NDLC-Foreign

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!

“In a final clash of destiny, a son's unwavering light rekindles a fallen hero's soul, bringing the Empire to its knees and proving that hope can outlive even the deepest shadows.”



Book: *The return of the Jedi: Star Wars: Episode VI*

Author: James Kahn

Publisher: [New York]: Random House Pub. Group

Location: E-Book

Written by Wang Haomiao

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.



Have you noticed two personal booths in the Flexible Work Area?



They are new individual workspaces, equipped with electric plugs, adjustable lighting, heating and air-conditioning system.



The booth can only be used by one person for activities that requires speaking out loud in a silent environment such as online classes, interviews, or presentation practices.



However, it's not completely soundproof, so please refrain from speaking too loudly. You are not allowed to eat or do karaoke session inside.



Reservation via MyLibrary is required, and you can use it for up to three hours at a time

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
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

