



## International Student Concierge Service

Have you just arrived in Sendai? Are you new to Tohoku University? Would you like to know more about the library but don't necessarily speak Japanese yet? If you identify with any of these situations, we are glad to tell you that The Main Library of Tohoku University offers a service that might be just what you are looking for: The International Student Concierge Desk. We are fellow Tohoku University students available to help you with anything regarding the use of the Tohoku University Library, so don't hesitate to come to us with all of your questions!

We understand that when you just arrive to a new university in a different country, the whole experience, while fun, can also be a bit overwhelming. After all, we've all been there as well. There's a lot of information in a language you might not yet know, and the overall dynamics of student life can be different from what you were used to back in your country. It is with that in mind that this service is provided, to at least when it comes to the library, a key space in student life, you can access all the facilities with ease, and make the best use of them while doing your studies and research.

These are the areas in which we can help you: searching for books and journals, accessing online databases, using the underground stack room, borrowing

materials from all libraries within Tohoku University, reserving group or individual study rooms, connecting to the campus Wi-Fi, using the print/copy machines, etc. You can find us next to Interlibrary Service desk on the Main Library's first floor, from Monday to Friday 12:00-16:00 (during April and October we are open from 10:00-16:00).



The members of the International Student Concierge are a diverse group of people from many different countries. We can all speak English and our native languages, which might happen to be the same as yours! At the present moment we have Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Serbian, Macedonian, Burmese and Indonesian speakers available, so in case you would like specific guidance in any of these languages, please check their availability on the Tohoku University Main Library website.

Besides the aforementioned services, we also offer at the beginning of each semester a library guidance and tour which is

open to all students who would like to know more about the library, which takes place in Japanese and English. During it, after a complete explanation on the Tohoku University Library complex with its many libraries across all three campuses, we have a guided tour of all the areas of the Main Building and Building 2 of the Main Library, in which you can understand a bit more about the use of all of the different study spaces and on how to use the moving shelves of Building 2 and the Underground Stack Room. In case you are interested, please check our website at the beginning of each semester, where updated information on the next guidance and how to apply will be available.

Last but not least, we would also like to share with you that we publish a monthly newsletter: *The Concierge*, where you can learn more about the members, their hometowns, book recommendations, the newest events held at the library and much more. Similarly, we also organize periodical book exhibitions that cover different interests and a yearly SDGs exhibition, where you can find specific book recommendations connected to the 17 goals. These can be found in front of the Global Learning Room, at the exhibition area on the first floor close to the entrance, or at the main floor, right after the stairs.

**We will Support International Student in multiple languages!**

**The Concierge**  
Volume 10 Issue 01  
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**Welcome Week for New International Students at the Main Library**

On Friday, April 3rd, during the first week of the Spring 2020 semester, the Main Library held a guidance tour for newly arrived international students. Hosted 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.

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. They covered key areas from the lounge spaces in 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.

Prepared by Yin May Zin Han

**Concierge Service for International Student**  
面向国际学生的咨询服务  
@ Reference Desk at the Main Library  
Weekdays, 12:00-16:00 (10:00-16:00 in April)  
Schedule

We hope you have a great time at Tohoku University and can make the best out of this experience. We are looking forward to your visit to the International Student Concierge Desk!

Written by **Ana Maria Simplicio**

## 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 introduce an economics book ---*Small Is Beautiful*.

Published in 1973, *Small Is Beautiful* remains relevant more than 50 years later. At a time when industrialization, and large-scale production were widely celebrated, E.F.Schumacher raised a simple but profound question: What is the economy for? He thought that economics activity should serve human happiness and dignity, rather than turning people into tools for pursuing growth and efficiency.

In this book, Schumacher reflects on a wide range of issues, including natural resources, education, technology, and so on. Long before environmental sustainability became a mainstream concern, he warned that resources such as oil, forests, and land should be regarded as valuable forms of natural capital rather than endlessly exploitable assets. He argued that consuming these resources is not the same as creating real wealth and that unchecked industrial expansion could threaten society and the environment.

The title of the book comes from one of Schumacher's most famous ideas: Small is beautiful. He believed that organizations should remain at an appropriate scale. When organizations become excessively large, individuals risk becoming little more than components in a vast system, losing opportunities for meaningful and dignified work.

Although classified as an economics book, *Small Is Beautiful* reads more like a philosophical reflection on modern industrialization. Its questions remain as important today: Does economic growth have limits? Does technological progress always lead to happiness? And, what should the economy serve? I hope you will have your own answers clearer after reading this book.

**Book:** Small is beautiful : a study of economics as if people mattered

**Authors:** E.F. Schumacher

**Publisher:** London : Blond and Briggs

**Call No.:** DA1/209

**Location:** LIB-B1-Stacks-NDLC-Foreign

**Language:** English

*Written by Zhu Mengqi*

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## Book Exhibition

### Japanese Narratives from Oral Tales to Written Classics

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

Each semester, the Main Library at Kawauchi Campus hosts a book exhibition on the second floor, just outside the entrance to the Global Learning Room. The books are carefully selected by members of the International Concierge, and both the themes and languages vary from exhibition to exhibition. Our goal is to encourage students to explore a wide range of genres, authors, and cultures, offering something to suit every reader's interest and taste.

This semester, I would like to invite you to explore our exhibition, *Japanese Narratives: From Oral Tales to Written Classics*. As the title suggests, storytelling begins with oral tradition. In Japan, this tradition took the form of folktales, myths, and legends passed down through generations before eventually being recorded in written form. This exhibition traces that fascinating journey, offering a glimpse into the rich literary tradition that has shaped Japanese culture for centuries, and that continues to inspire modern literature and stories even outside Japan.

These early narratives later found their place in written works reflecting the values and concerns of their time. From religious and philosophical texts to classical literature such as "The Tale of Genji", Japanese storytelling developed into a rich tradition that mixes imagination with reflections of everyday life. And this is what continues to

appeal to many lovers of Japanese culture.

We can all enjoy tales ranging from fantasy, myth, and the supernatural to folklore and classical literature depicting tragic heroes and unforgettable characters. These stories reflect not only imagination but also traces of reality. Across different periods, they invite us to explore Japanese culture through a wide range of voices: humans, warriors, animals, ghosts, and spiritual beings.

As you browse the exhibition, imagine yourself wandering through ancient landscapes, listening to stories told around a fire, encountering mysterious yokai, or following the journeys of heroes and spirits whose tales have endured for centuries. Which characters would you meet, and what stories would stay with you? I invite you to discover these books and immerse yourself in the rich world of Japanese storytelling!



All storytelling begins with oral tradition, and in Japan this took the form of folktales and legends passed down through generations.

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I invite you to read more about these subjects and immerse yourself into Japanese storytelling!



Martelli Giachino Maria Laura  
Graduate School of Information Sciences

Written by **Maria Laura Martelli Giachino**

## 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!*

**"As long as you continue to say the words 'one day', the dream is not over. Maybe it will simply remain a beautiful dream. It may never come true. But that is one way to live, in my opinion. The days go by more happily when you have something to dream about. It's not always a bad thing to have a dream, with no plan for ever carrying it out."**



**Book:** What you are looking for is in the library

**Author:** Michiko Aoyama, translated by Alison Watts

**Publisher:** London : Penguin Books

**Call No.:** KH53/2

**Location:** LIB-2F-Global  
-forInternationalStudent

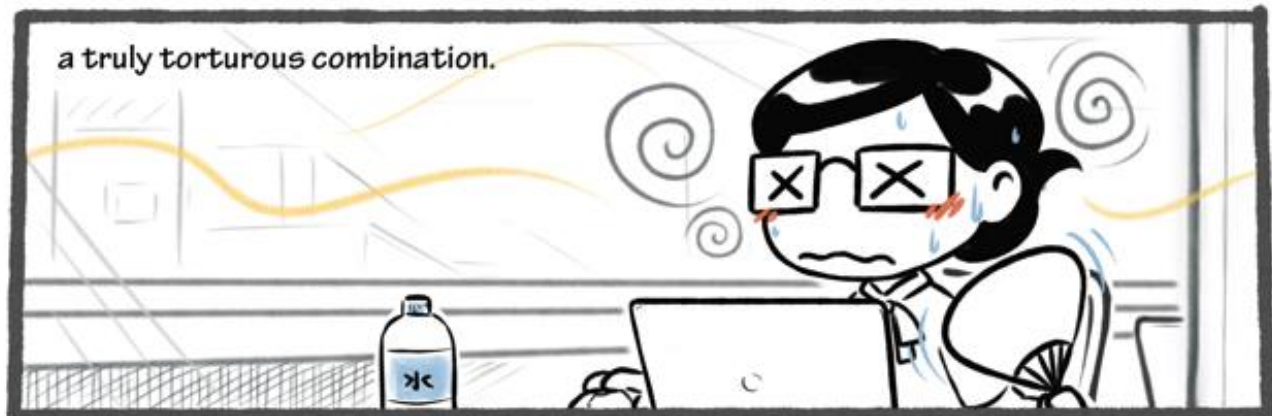
**Language :** English

Written by **Hristina Petrovikj**

## 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!

### **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.

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## How to reach us?

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|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| X (Twitter)  | : @TUL_Global @hagi_no_suke (in Japanese)                                        |
| Instagram    | : @tohoku_univ_lib                                                               |
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| E-Mail       | : <a href="mailto:gakushi@grp.tohoku.ac.jp">gakushi@grp.tohoku.ac.jp</a>         |
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