



## **"Take full advantage of what Tohoku University provides": The Dawn of President Ohno**

*In January this year, Arunava Acharyya, Manuel Campos and Trishit Banerjee of 'The Concierge' sat down with Prof. Hideo Ohno, the newly appointed President of Tohoku University for an informal conversation about his thoughts on the university library and his favourite Udon from Akita. He has succeeded Prof. Susumu Satomi as the 22<sup>nd</sup> President of the university.*



Hideo Ohno  
President of Tohoku University

### **1. What are your expectations from the Tohoku University Main Library?**

The library is the information hub of our university as all fields are becoming information and data-centric. We are moving towards the era of open data and I believe the Main Library will play a central role within the university in readying us for the new era.

### **2. You have visited several universities worldwide. Which is your favorite academic library?**

I haven't experienced much. When I was a graduate exchange student at Cornell, I used to visit its library because they had a Japanese

newspaper. Hence, I do not have much opinion here.

### **3. The International Concierge service at the Main Library consists of foreign students who support the international students in using all the services provided by the library. Is there anything you would want/expect from the concierge service given the fact that it is rare to find such a service in any other university?**

I was not aware of this system. I am very grateful to people who are involved in the activity because it makes campus-life richer and that's wonderful.

#### *Personal questions:*

#### **1. What are your hobbies?**

I often mix my work with hobbies but I still enjoy skiing once or twice a year. I am not sure how good it is for my health though. I also like to go on a day-or-two driving trip with my wife to Onsen (温泉) or nearby places like Ura-bandai in Fukushima.

#### **2. Which is your favorite food?**

I really like Inaniwa Udon of Akita. I also like steak. I remember visiting a restaurant in Switzerland where I had Argentinian beef and I am still trying to find it again. I also visit Sindur once in a while to have Indian curry. I prefer the mild ones though.

#### **3. Do you like J-Pop? Which is your favorite J-Pop Band?**

I guess the J-Pop of the 1970s. My tastes haven't evolved since then. Since my wife is a piano teacher, she has influenced me a lot and I take keen interest in classical music like the piano sonatas of Mozart and others.

#### 4 . Which is your favorite book?

I really enjoy the work of Shiono Nanami. She lives in Italy and she writes about the ancient Roman empire. I enjoy it because it is not scholarly dry and she is an amazing storyteller. You can get a grasp the life very well as if you are re-living the history. It's imaginative too. I find it highly entertaining because it tells a story, not just information.

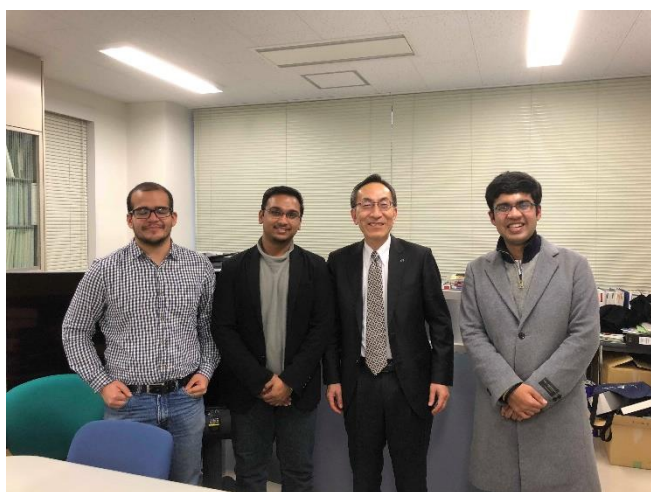
#### 5 . Which club/circle/activity did you pursue when you were a university student?

I was involved in the automobile club rally as a navigator as I was not brave enough to be a driver. This was while I was at University of Tokyo.

#### 6. Lastly, where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Tokyo but brought up in Sapporo.

*As reported by **Trishit Banerjee***



Manuel Campos , Arunava Acharyya, President Ohno and Trishit Banerjee

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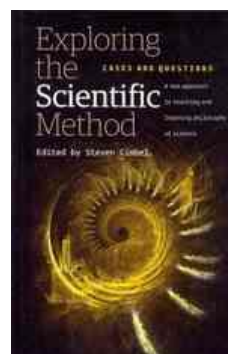
### Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

*This section introduces a-book-a-month to feed your grey matter with intellect and emotion from the selection available at Tohoku University Main Library. Sit back and let's read!*

What is the purpose of science? How scientific research is supposed to be undertaken? These are fundamental and yet intriguing questions. Steven Gimbel sheds some light on this issue with *Exploring the scientific method: cases and questions*.

This book is innovative in asking students to select scientific studies of one from nine possible fields – astronomy, physics, chemistry, genetics, evolutionary biology, psychology, sociology, economics, or geology – and then evaluate if this study is coherent with philosophers' methodological claims.

The studies featured in the book are masterpieces from several ages, such as Aristotle's *On the Heavens*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Mendel's *Experiments in Plant Hybridization*, and Durkheim's *Suicide*. Gimbel's work will be especially useful for undergraduate and graduate university students, who have to solve scientific problems and are often unfamiliar with the philosophy of science.



**Book:** *Exploring the scientific method: cases and questions*

**Author:** Gimbel, Steven

**Publisher:** Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**Barcode No. :** 00110302504

**Call No. :** M22/489

**Location :** Main Library (LIB-Gakuetsu)

*Reviewed by **Ernei Ribeiro***

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## Farewell, Yoshiue-san!

"I have a dream for you," Yoshiue-san wrote to me this morning. I had returned home in the wee hours after a late night cookie party at my seniors' place. He announced that he shall be leaving the university library by the end of March and join another as an associate professor. The sudden announcement and especially during the weekend somewhat saddened me.

It was only in the first few weeks after I entered the university back in October 2015 that I started spending a lot of time in the library. On one such day, I saw a man, somewhere around the age of 40 walking towards me. Wearing a plain white shirt and hands folded in *Namaste*, he asked me if I was Indian. He was quick enough to bring out a picture of an old man with greyish-white hair wearing glasses from the 50s or the 60s. The man looked Indian. "Do you know him?" Yoshiue-san asked me. "Oh yes! Dr. Ranganathan! The father of library science in India," I identified. At that moment, he was taken aback. He was not expecting me to identify the man. "You are the first one," he said and handed me a little white booklet which he wrote about him.

What are the odds that I travel 5,000 miles to meet a man holding a different passport show so much love for Dr. Ranganathan? All his life he spent researching on this one man's vision of library which has enlightened so many and yet so few. He spent some of his time as a student in Baroda and had also found his way to the then-famous Maharaja Club in Tokyo's up-scale Roppongi area. If you talk to him, he has so many stories to share while he sits at the reference desk in the university's main library, binding us all through his strings of reminiscence.

It was just last year that he became excited over a mail that he received from IIT Madras. "They have invited me to give a talk," his face blushed as he spoke. After all, apart from Chennai, he would get a chance to visit Sirka-zhi where his hero Dr. Ranganathan was born.

When he finally visited Chennai, he sent me his paper which he presented there. The title read '*Transformation of academic libraries*

*through higher education reform in Japan: becoming realized what Dr. S. R. Ranganathan would want to see*'. He always talks about active learning spaces and complained since the IIT Madras Central Library had no place for active learning or group work. 58.2% of university libraries in Japan have already incorporated active learning, he stated in his paper. When he returned, he looked happy.

Last year, he finally decided that the library should also have its own English newsletter, a first time at the university, he reached out to me and my team to lead the project. "How does the name 'The Concierge' sound?", he asked me. I smiled and gave it a nod.

I look back at the message again. I will miss Yoshiue-san in the fragrance of the books stocked in the basement. I will miss him in the threads of his *kurta*. I will miss him in the skies that keep both my homes across the seas connected. I will miss him whenever I talk about falling in love with India all over again. Farewell, Yoshiue-san!

Trishit Banerjee,  
March 24, 2018



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## My Hometown: Yunlin (雲林)

*In this column, we introduce our hometowns to make you familiar with the culture and the best things to do!*

### Tea Garden

Hello everyone! My name is Lin (林). I'd like to share you my hometown Yunlin County, which is located in western Taiwan. Its widest distance from east to west is 50km and from north to south is 38km.

Although it is a small county, as a part of Chi-anan Plain, Yunlin is known for its agriculture. We have pomelo, tea leaves, papaya, Saccharum and coffee beans. By the way, because of the best season for pomelo is Mid-Autumn, we always hold BBQ at garden, eating pomelos when seeing beautiful moon(中秋の名月).

### Chinese Temple (北港朝天宮)

According to the experiment with lots of administration, you can see many kinds of buildings set up with different culture in old days. Catholic Church, Chinese Temple, Japanese wooden house are living together in harmony. We also like to put those old buildings to a

good use, such as be in used to a faculty of art or bookstore.

### Japanese Wooden House (Story Pavilion of Yunlin County)

Yunlin is also known for its glove puppetry show. Unlike traditional puppet shows which are held in outdoor, *Pili* (a well-known TV series in Taiwan) uses computer generated imagery (CGI) during action sequences. This entertainment is still continues today, the lyrics are full of poetic element in literature, and its beautiful dresses attracts many young people to make the same in real.

### The Character of Pili Puppetry Show

If you are interested in my County, please feel free to visit the URL below and have a look.  
<https://www.yunlin.gov.tw/english/>

Taiwan

← Yunlin

As expressed by **Lin**



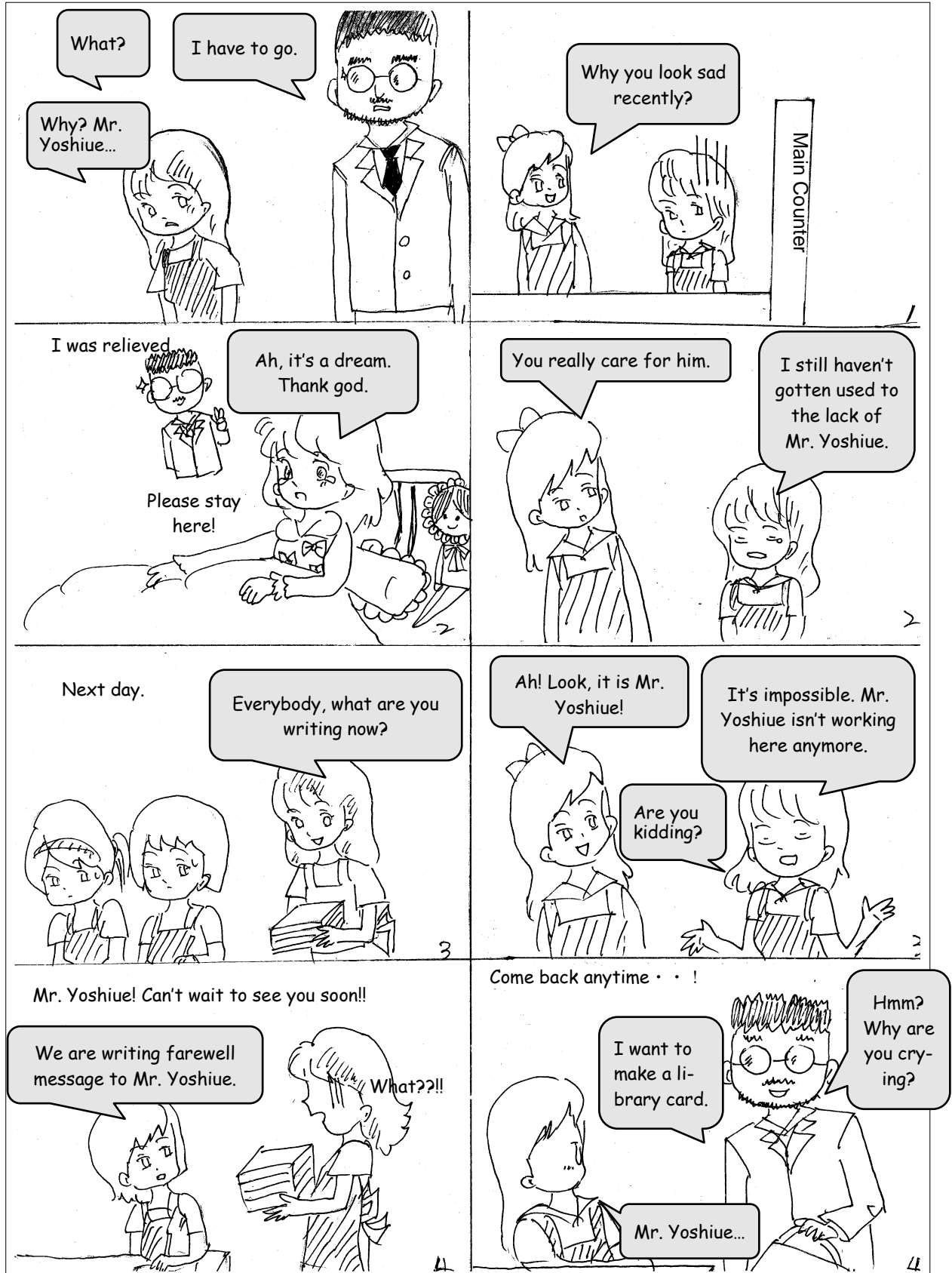
# Yang's corner

## "An evening in the library"

傍晚图书馆的故事

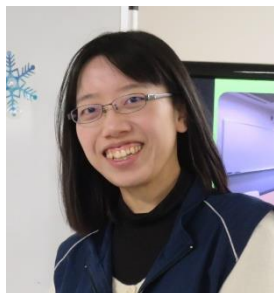
This is the story of what happens on a regular day in the life of the international students that work in the Main Counter of the Tohoku University Main Library.

As one may expect, there are sad and happy moments. Can you relate to this story?  
**About the author:** Yang Yan is a third year PhD student at The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has been drawing since a young age and wished to become a cartoonist in the future. As her first work, this marks the beginning of her career. Let's support her publication!



\*Mr.Yoshiue is former staff of the library.

## Editors



**Lin, I-Chia ( 林宜佳 )**

A graduate student of International Cultural Studies from Taiwan, she loves listening to music and reading children's literature which full of illustrations. "Peace begins with a smile" is her favorite quote.

**Manuel Campos**



A graduate student of medicine from Venezuela, he loves to travel, write and cook. "Hard times forge steel smiles," is what he believes. Did we tell you that he speaks English, Japanese and Spanish?



**Yang Yan ( 楊妍 )**

Yang, from China, loves to write comic strips! A graduate student of international cultural studies, she believes that none of us should ever forget our first resolution. Interested in her work? Check out the next issue for her manga!

**Trishit Banerjee**  
**[Editor-in-Chief]**



From the land of Buddha - India, Trishit loves to read, write and travel. A student of chemistry, he can speak 5 languages! "Pick up a good book and open up your world," is what he believes in.

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