



International Concierge Week 2019 Autumn Library Guidance and Tour

On October 18th, Library Guidance and Tour event were held at the Global Learning Room in Tohoku University Main Library. Staff from the International Student Concierge Desk carried out 30 minutes long presentations and then gave a detailed guided tour for another 30 minutes. The concierge Lyu Shengnan from the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies has been working as a concierge for nearly one and half a year, and this was her second time taking charge of this job.



Library guidance in Chinese.

The aim of this event was to teach new students to learn how to search, order and borrow the books, how to make a group study room reservation, how to access the databases, copy, print and any facilities provided by the library. Since Tohoku University welcomes lots of international students every year, in order to help them find their way around the library, the Study Support Section holds this event every year at the beginning of each semester in both English and Chinese languages. It is very convenient and helpful to foreign students to choose the guidance according to language they are familiar with. This semester, the concierge members Lyu Shengnan, You Jie, Liu Chuxin and Lu Hailan took charge of Chinese introduction, and Thiri Soe from Myanmar, Kiya Okhlopkova from

Russia and Marina Nascimento from Brazil provided the English one.



Library guidance in English

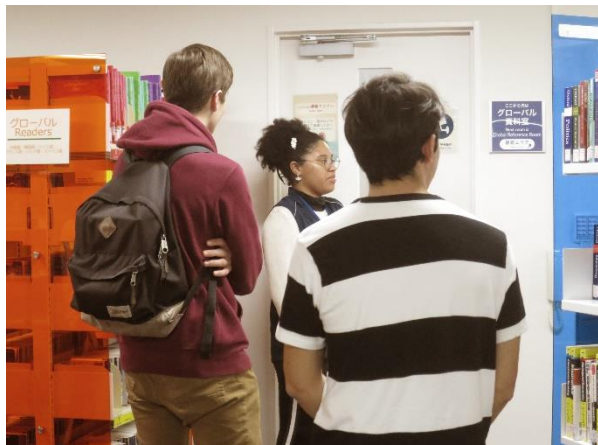
We began the guidance from the history of the Tohoku University Main Library. In addition to the procedures to find, order and borrow the books, we also showed them students how to use the facilities in the library such as personal computer lending machines, book lending machines, computers, printers, copy machines and so on. Our participants showed a great interest in the information on how to find desired publications through the databases: OPAC and CiNii. And in the end, of course, we advertised the services, provided by the International Student Concierge Desk.



Library tour in Chinese

During the thirty-minutes guidance tour, we could arrange a visit to both the Building 1 and Building 2. We made sure to introduce the Global Learning Room on the second floor, where you can find not only Japanese language and culture learning books but also foreign language books which would suit your

needs. And it is also a good place to study in groups. Also the guests are introduced to the other reading rooms, group learning spaces, and the computer area.



Library tour in English.

Tohoku University Main Library is devoted to providing a good service to international students so that they can make their use of library facilities more conveniently and efficiently. We sincerely hope that more and more students will join our future events and that they enjoy spending time at Tohoku University and in the Main Library.

*As reported by **Lyu Shengnan***

The University Libraries in the world

This section introduces university libraries around the world, mainly from the alma mater of our International Student Concierge members.

University of São Paulo (Universidade de São Paulo)

The University of São Paulo (USP) is the biggest public university in Brazil and it is located in the city of Sao Paulo. Considered the most prestigious university in Brazil, it is financially supported by the Sao Paulo state government.

The university was founded on January 25th of 1934, but its oldest department was the Law School, founded in 1827. Thirteen out of thirty-eight presidents of Brazil and around fifty-three ministers of the Supreme Federal Court graduated from here.

With more than 96000 students, the university has different libraries spreading throughout its 15 campuses. This time we will talk about three of those libraries.

Florestan Fernandes Library (Biblioteca Florestan Fernandes)

One of the most important libraries of USP, the library of the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters was set in 1937, and in 1947 it was moved to the building now known as Maria Antonia, where the faculty was located. However, in 1967 the collection was moved again to a new campus.

In 1987, the Service of Library and Documentation (Serviço de Biblioteca e Documentação, SBD) was created and the collection of four different faculties, History, Geography, Human Sciences, and Letters is gathered, creating in 1991 the Central Library (Biblioteca Central). Finally, in 2005 a new building is inaugurated and it is named after professor Florestan Fernandes (1920-1995), an important Brazilian politician and sociologist. The library is part of the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences and it owns the biggest collection in the university, comprising more than 619.220 items in the most varied languages. It also counts on a digital system for book searching and services and management of loans.

Photo at Wikimedia commons

Brasiliana Guita and José Mindlin Library

Inaugurated in March of 2013, the Brasiliana Guita and José Mindlin Library is constituted by a collection of more than 32 thousand titles, some of which are rare books. This collection was donated to the University of São Paulo by José Ephim Mindlin (1914-2010), reporter, lawyer, businessman, writer, and bibliophile. When he turned 95 years old, he already had a collection with more than 40 thousand different books, newspapers, pictures, etc., some dating from 1740. It was considered Brazil's biggest and most important personal collection.

Photo by Nelson Kon

As he was also a writer, in 2006 he was elected to be a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, a Brazilian literary society founded in 1897 that reunited 40 authors who have published works or books recognized as having important literary value. The members of the academy are known as the "immortals". In the occasion of his election, he decided to donate his books to the university.

With a very comfortable space, the library is frequently used by students who enjoy its silence and its beautiful architecture. Expositions and cultural events are also held in its rooms and auditorium, and there is also a cafeteria where guests and visitors can enjoy a moment of idleness.

Photo by Nelson Kon

House of Japanese Culture and Teiiti Suzuki Library

In 1971, a project to build cultural spaces for different countries was put into practice and the House of Japanese Culture was settled. This project was financed by the Japanese government, by the Nippon Keidanren, Banpaku Kikin and several other organizations. In this building, the Teiiti Suzuki Library is located.

Photo by Marcos Santos/USP Imagens

The library's collection has several books about Japan's culture, language, history and it is mainly written in Japanese, being used by students who major in the Japanese language and by the professors. In its collection, there are also some rare books and even an autographed book from Kawabata Yasunari, Japan's Nobel Prize winner.

The House of Japanese Culture also is equipped with a Tea Ceremony room and the Professor Kensuke Tamai Auditorium, where important events are held. Also in this building, we can find the offices of the Japanese language course's professors and a kitchen,

where sometimes we can enjoy a relaxing moment drinking some coffee and talking with professors and visitors.

Photo by Marcos Santos/USP Imagens

*As reported by **Julio Nascimento***

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a new 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!

This is the first book I read in the original Japanese version in my second year. Why I chose this book as my first try of Japanese reading? There is a little story. At that time, I was watching Japanese anime every day, and the book was already adapted to an anime in the same name. At first, I was attracted by the name of the anime, which was called *The Tatami Galaxy*. What was the relationship between tatami and galaxy? I thought it would be a kind of fairytale. But after watching three episodes, it turned out as a story a freshman who spent the campus life in his house, which has only about 4 jo han (8.2 m²).

The story was told by “Watashi”, a third-year student in Kyoto University without a name. He was wishing for a romantic college story, hoping that he could have a beautiful girlfriend and have success in the tennis circle in his freshman year. But back into reality, we discovered that he failed in love and left the tennis circle. The only friend he had was a man called “Otsu”, who looked like a monster and always

did the tricks to “Watashi”. He thinks a lot “IF” in his 4 jo han room. Such as, if he had joined another circle, he could have had a “successful” college life. And he believed that “Otsu” was a bad friend who turned his life awful.

The story was told by the parallel spaces and started with different circle activities on the enrollment day. Every space was in his imagination only. Finally, by every experience, he realized that there was the same result waiting for him. Actually I sympathized with his thinking when I was reading the book. I believe that in all of our lives, there are some regrets we still remember and wish we had a chance to fix it. But it didn't mean that if we get that chance, we could get an ideal result. I still remembered the day I knew the result of my college entrance examination, which I believed I could do better. The failed result came to my dream again and again since then and it finally became a nightmare. After reading the book, I realized that I dwelled too much on the bad, and I realized I should forget it to enjoy the good moments that I possess in the present situation. At the final part of the book, the hero was being naked and run so fast to cross the countless 4 jo han room. He found “Otsu” on the bridge, hugged him tightly and made peace with his past. I think I did the same thing too at that moment.

As the saying goes, previous experiences always prepare us for new experiences and life is all about growth. I think that's why I like the book so much.

Book: 四畳半神話大系 中文版 (ヨジョウハン シンワ タイケイ 中国語版)
Author: 森见登美彦(日)著; 张智渊译
ISBN: 9787208094123
Publisher: 上海人民出版社
Call No: KH372/051
Barcode No: 00180199499
Location : Main library
Global Learning Room



*Reviewed by **You Jie***

My hometown: Yakutsk

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

It's always an exciting opportunity for me to get to introduce my hometown. The reason is that I come from officially the biggest region of Russia which no one really knows about. It's called the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), and it's located in the Siberian Far East. With an area of more than 3 million square km. and with a population of less than 1 million people, it has a lot of rivers, mountains, taiga forests, and tundra.

During winter it gets below -55°C , while in summer it rises up to $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$. So, my republic is known for its contrasting climate (at some places the temperature differences can be more than 100 degrees) and also by permafrost, mammoth findings, and diamonds. And I come from its capital – Yakutsk city.

Yakutsk was founded back in XVII century – on September 25th, 1632, when Russian Cossacks built a fortress at the bank of the greatest Siberian River called Lena. It became a hub point for the fur trade and expanded into a city. Yakutsk holds the record of the coldest city on Earth and also of the one with the most extreme variation in temperature. It is truly a hidden treasure of the Russian Far East and people living there are like diamonds in a rough themselves. They might look restrained and tough at first, but once you get to know them, they open up as kind-hearted, sincere people, who truly care about their families and friends. And also Yakutian people are extremely hospitable!

With Yakutsk becoming a new “hot travel destination”, it's getting easier to commute there and experience a unique culture of Sakha nation and other northern nationalities. Make sure you visit the Kingdom of Permafrost touristic center (located in a natural cave in a hill, where the annual temperature is about -4°C even in summer) and the only one on

planet Mammoth Museum, enjoy local cuisine (sashimi-like frozen raw fish, all kinds of meat and wildfowl, the freshest dairy products and forest berries, and etc.), and meet people who can become your friends for a life-time. If you manage to come on the last weekend of June, you will be able to participate in the biggest Sakha festival Ysekh, which is a whole different story. This year we finally got a railroad near the city, so after enjoying Yakutsk, you can keep traveling through the country and discover different places in Russia.

<https://visityakutia.com/yakutsk-city-tour/>

<https://russiatrek.org/blog/cities/yakutsk-the-largest-city-on-permafrost/>

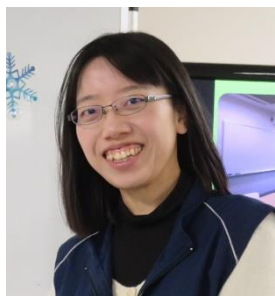
<https://yakutia.info/article/164918>



At a famous place near Yakutsk – Lena Pillars

As reported by **Kiya Okhlopkova**

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 is full of illustrations. "Peace begins with a smile" is her favorite quote.

Cristy Garciamendez

She is a graduate student of law and philosophy from Mexico. She loves to travel, dance, and read. Her personal motto is: "The more you explore, the more you learn and grow."



Thiri Soe

A language science student from the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She is from Myanmar, a land of Golden Pagodas, in South East Asia. Thiri is studying applied linguistics, seeking knowledge to benefit in her teaching profession. Her hobby is cooking and writing. She believes that things happen for a reason and the reason is to be good.



Andi Holik Ramdani [Editor-in-Chief]

Salam Kenal! A student of religious study and come from Indonesia, a country with thousands island and rich with diversity, Andi love to watch a movie, traveling, and art design. Active in Tohoku tsunami disaster reconstruction social and mutual activities between Indonesia and Japan, also supporting the mutual coexistence program (Tabunka Kyosei) in Sendai through inter-religious dialogue.



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