



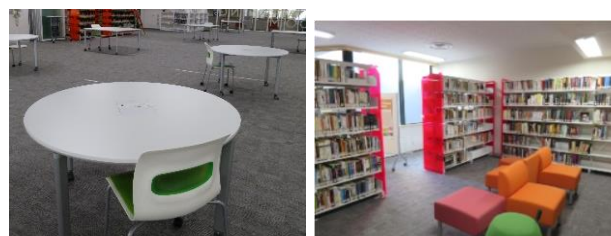
A New Year at the University

To all the new students, welcome to Tohoku University. To the old students, welcome back. A new year has started and we are all excited to meet our old friends, to make new ones, and to study under our beloved professors' supervision. However, as we all know, we are living in a time that we need to take some measures in order to keep ourselves and others safe.

For everyone who is looking for a quiet place to study, our library is a great option. There are plenty of desks for those who like the quietude to do their research or to study. For students who need a place to take classes or attend meetings online, we introduce you our Global Learning Room.

In this room, you can use your computer and it is alright to talk online, but moving chairs and desks are not allowed! There are also books and magazines on diverse topics written in various languages and plenty of information on study abroad, inspiring students to study abroad in the future. You can find language learning textbooks and literary books from different nations and languages as well.

Before the pandemic, we used to have many kinds of events in the Global Learning Room. We hope to be able to hold events again soon, so we can create opportunities to connect students and the library staff, keeping us closer as members of one community.



Global Learning Room Study Desks

There is also another area where you can take online classes and attend meetings. It is located at the corner of the reading room on the 2nd floor. You can have a wonderful view of the library.



*Second Floor Reading
Corner*



Study Box

Moreover, we have the Study Boxes, where you can study while sitting in a very comfortable chair. However, group study is not allowed in that corner.

The Group Study Room is currently available for individual students to do their work. Despite its name, due to the present circumstances, this room is available only for one person per use and you need to make reservation from "MyLibrary" service.

Finally, we have the Flexible Working Area, where you can stay as long as you wish, but please, do not move the chairs and desks.



Group Study Room



Flexible Working Area

When entering the library, please remember to clean your hands and measure your temperature!

We hope you have a great year!

*Written by **Julio Nascimento***

New Members!!

Saida Salima Nawrin



Hello everyone! This is Saida. I am from a small town in Bangladesh. My city is surrounded by a river. Near the riverside, farmers do agriculture. So, you can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables every day.

I go jogging every morning and do yoga before sleeping. I also love Karaoke. I came to Japan in year 2015 to study medical engineering. Since then, I am living in Sendai and hopefully I will stay here for one more year to finish my PhD course.

I love Sendai especially for its warm-hearted people and beautiful nature. The culture and the history of Sendai always intrigue me. I participated in the Aoba festival and I love dancing Suzume Odori. Hopefully I can dance again in Aoba festival soon.

I enjoy the seasons here especially autumn and spring, which are my favorite. In spring, I usually go to Ogawara to see the cherry blossoms. I hike very often. In Autumn, I go to the mountains to see the autumn leaves. If you are also a mountain person and love seeing autumn leaves in the mountain, let's go hiking together.

Chunlin Liu



Hi, everyone. This is Chunlin Liu from Sichuan, China. I didn't know that there were so many Sichuan restaurants in Japan before I came here.

Most Japanese people would think of spicy food, such as *mapo tofu*, when talking about Sichuan. In fact, Sichuan is also a major habitat for giant pandas, with more than 30% of the world's wild pandas inhabiting the area. If you want to see pandas or

taste authentic Sichuan cuisine, you are welcome to Sichuan.

I am currently studying Neurolinguistics in the Language Science Program of the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. I am planning to do my PhD here as well. I've grown some plants on my balcony to kill the time. I also like such activities as playing the piano, watching movies, and visiting museums. If you know about interesting exhibitions, please let me know!

Gong Liwei



Hi! My name is Liwei, and I am from Shenzhen, China. I am currently a second-year doctoral student majoring in Linguistic Typology. I am very attracted to how different human languages vary greatly from each other but at the same time exhibit plenty of common features. That is why I am doing cross-linguistic typological research, hoping to find universal patterns out of various languages.

Apart from my major, I enjoy travelling, watching animation, playing indie games and bass guitar. My favorite place in Miyagi is Shiogama (塩釜). You can get there in around 30 minutes by train from Sendai. It is a tranquil coastal town with historic shrines, beautiful coastline, and most importantly, tons of excellent cafés

and restaurants offering wonderful food and experience. I hope you can all visit there after the coronavirus is contained.

The University Libraries Around the world

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

Libraries of Shaanxi Normal University, China

Shaanxi Normal University (SNU), is located in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China. Shaanxi Normal University has two main campuses, one called Yanta (雁塔) Campus and another called Chang'an (长安) Campus. There is one main library on each campus, which covers an area of 57,800 square meters.

Until 2019, the university libraries have a total paper collection of 4.38 million books. At the same time, the library possesses rich electronic resources, with domestic and foreign readings in 81 platforms and there are 128 kinds of databases according to the information from the Shaanxi Normal University Library website: <http://www.lib.snnu.edu.cn/action.do?webid=w-s-bgjs>.

Library at Yanta (雁塔) Campus

Source: <https://bit.ly/3hCR8Qz>

The library in Yanta Campus was built in 1956. It is said to have been designed by Chinese famous architectural historian Liang Sicheng. The traditional classical architectural appearance design matches with the atmosphere of the city Xi'an.

Library at Chang'an (长安) Campus

Source: <https://bit.ly/3eKTYkr>

While the library at Yanta Campus is an old-fashioned one with Chinese traditional style, the library at Chang'an Campus leans toward a modern design with elements of traditional Chinese architecture. This library was built in 2004. The interior of this library is much more modernized. It has a lot of reading and study seats. There are also comfortable couch/sofa seats. I spent a lot of time there, learning Japanese language and reading other books.

That's all for now for the introduction of the libraries of my university in China. I think a library is one of the most attractive locations in a university. I hope you will also enjoy spending your time in the libraries of our Tohoku University.

*Written by **Chuxin Liu***

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 pick your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!

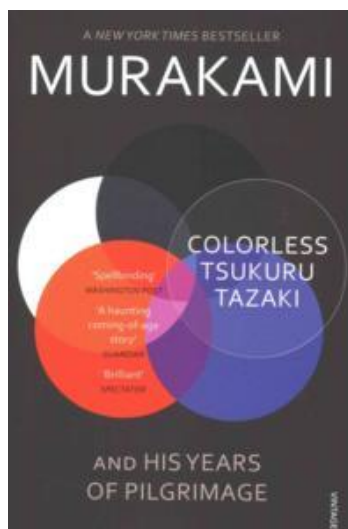
Hello everyone! I am Elena from Italy. I am a PhD student at the Graduate School of Arts and Letters. I want to recommend you an interesting book written by one of the most popular Japanese writers: Murakami Haruki.

The book is titled *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage*. It was published in Japan in 2013. It is a story about friendship, isolation and self-discovery.

In the story, Tsukuru Tazaki had four friends, but from the very beginning when he met them, he had the feeling that he would be left out by these friends. Each of them had a color in their name: Akamatsu "red pine", Oumi "blue sea", Shirane "white root" and "Kurono" black field. The only one without color in his name was indeed Tsukuru Tazaki. One day, these friends declared without any explanation that they don't want to see him anymore. Being apart from the group, the colorless Tsukuru thought suicide as the most natural solution for him. Some years later, 36 years old Tsukuru Tazaki had become an engineer living in Tokyo, but in order to move to the future he must look back at his past and, as a journey, face and overcome problems in his adolescence.

I recommend this book because even in a super-connected society like ours it is not unusual to feel isolated and depressed. I think that even in dark moments, it is important to reevaluate true

friendship and make life colorful once more again.



Book: Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage

Author: Murakami Haruki

Publisher: Vintage Books

ISBN:9780099590378

Call No:KH384/34

Location: LIB-Global-Forgn

本館グローバル留学生用

Reviewed by Elena Fabbretti

My Home Town: Shenzhen

In this column, we introduce our home towns to get you familiar with the culture and the best things to do!

I come from a southern coastal city in China called Shenzhen. The young city was established around 1979 together with China's Open and Reform Policy, and it has grown into one of the largest and most developed cities in China right now.

Shenzhen is famous for its technological industry. With headquarters of Huawei, Tencent and many other electronic giants located here, it is sometimes called the Silicon Valley of China.

What I appreciate the most about the city is its open and welcoming ambience. Since a vast majority of the population in Shenzhen are from various places in China or in the world, the distinction between locals and outsiders is weak here. There is a famous saying in the city – “You are a member of Shenzhen as long as you are here” (来了就是深圳人).

One of my favorite places in the city is the Lianhuashan Park-Citizen Center area. It is located at the city center. If you spend around 15 minutes climbing to the top of Lianhuashan (the Lotus Hill), you will get a beautiful full view of the city center of Shenzhen. Then, you can walk to the Bookmall and the Citizen Center, two other landmarks of Shenzhen, where you can enjoy reading some books, drinking coffee, or simply having a relaxing stroll.

Finally, you cannot miss Dim Sum (点心) while visiting Shenzhen. It is a traditional Cantonese food featuring various small dishes that will never disappoint you.



View from the top of Lianhuashan (the Lotus Hill). Photo by the author

Written by Gong Liwei

Editors



Thiri Soe [Editor-in-Chief]

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.

Gan Wen Shuoh

A graduate student of Cultural Anthropology from Malaysia, a country with multiple ethnics and cultures. He likes Japanese culture and especially loves Japanese chess (*Shogi*) and watching Japanese dramas. By setting "Choose what you like and like what you choose" as his life motto, he believes life can be difficult but when you try to accept it, it gives you rewards.



Marina Nascimento

A Brazilian graduate student from the Innovative Japanese Studies department. She enjoys drawing and reading comics as well as traveling around the world. Mari has been to 13 different countries and loves to talk about new places she would like to discover. If you want to become her friend just show her cat pictures, she will automatically love you!

If you feel unwell, even just a little, please do not come to the campus or to the library. Rest at home and get well soon.

How to reach us?

Facebook : @tohokuunivlib

Twitter : @TUL_Global @hagi_no_suke(in Japanese)

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