



Global Learning Room

Hello everybody. Have you ever imagined what would be like to have a place where you can go to improve your language skills? Well, you do not have to worry about it anymore, because we have a solution! In the main building of the Tohoku University Library we have an amazing space called The Global Learning Room. There you can find plenty of different reading materials in several languages to help you forget your own way towards the polyglot world.



But wait, there is more! Every time we watch the TV (it is like TikTok, but with a bigger screen and the videos are more than 15 seconds long) or listen to music we can hear the voice of many famous people. Celebrities are everywhere and I bet you have had the interest in knowing more about at least one of them. Well, in the Global Learning Room we have several biographies of important people in English. So, let's take a time to read about celebrities like Bill Gates, Elon Musk, or maybe Justin Timberlake.

If your interest lies in literature, there is plenty of options, too. We have classical books translated to Japanese, English,

Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and there is also one of the most important Japanese literary books, *Genji Monogatari* translated into Korean! If you want to read more recent stuff, there are also new books written by a variety of best-seller writers just waiting for you.

However, if you do not feel so confident in your reading skills and are looking for some support material, you can bet we have it! I know, we have it all, don't we? There are books to study English, Spanish, Chinese, Italian, Korean, and of course, Japanese. Do you need to prepare for that TOEFL test and get more than 100 points? Then, we recommend you to try our TOEFL study materials available there; just go for it!

In the Global Learning Room, there are lots of desks where you can study, read, and participate in online meetings or classes. It is an open space, which means you may speak there, just do not yell so you do not disturb the others around you.



The Global Learning Room is a very useful space not only for foreign students, but also to those who are looking for a

good space to study and challenge themselves to learn other languages using all the resources the Tohoku University Library offers. Furthermore, if you cannot come to the library, there is also the possibility of accessing online material from our website. Just look for a book and check if there is an e-book version of what you are looking for. There is plenty of e-books you can access and read for free! When you have time, come have a look. We are looking forward to seeing you.

*Written by **Julio Nascimento***

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.

Library of Beijing Foreign Studies University

Beijing Foreign Studies University is a university focusing on language and foreign studies in China. It is best known for offering the largest number of foreign language majors on different educational levels. This feature is reflected in the architecture design of the library, a landmark in the campus. A part of the front wall of the library is carved and decorated with the word “library” in 55 different languages.

The current library is a newly-built six-story building standing in the middle area of the east campus. It has a collection of over one million books and offers all the common facilities that students need in a library, such as wireless internet, printers and copy machines, seats and reservable rooms for self-study and seminars, and so on. One thing I particularly like about the library’s architecture is that it has a glass roof and plenty of glass windows on the side walls, which together create a well-lighted environment in the building during daytime. I do not feel gloomy or isolated even when studying in the independent reading rooms.



Library of Beijing Foreign Studies University, multilingual decorative wall, Nov 2016.jpg" by 颜邯

Source: <https://bit.ly/2ZVIMMJ>

Across the road in front of the building and not far towards the west direction, there is a café named “DangLyu”. It is invested by alumni and managed by current students. I remember drinking a coffee and having a lot of delightful talks with my friends there.

Just like many other libraries in the world, the Library of BFSU is not only a landmark of the campus with its unique architecture but also a witness of all students’ diligence and pursuits. If you ever visit the university, this is somewhere you cannot miss.



北京外国语大学图书馆大厅 library hall, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Jun 2016. jpg by 颜邯 Souce: <https://bit.ly/2ZWfYzP>

*As reported by **Gong Liwei***

My hometown: Xingtai City, Hebei, China

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

Hello everyone, I want to introduce you my hometown, a place called Xingtai City, Hebei Province, China.

Hebei Province, located in the north-east of China and surrounding Beijing, is a region with earlier cultural development in China. The well-known Great Wall covers 2000 kilometers in Hebei Province, which is the longest and most well-preserved section of the Great Wall.

My hometown is located in Xingtai City in the southern part of Hebei Province. I was born and raised here.



A street of Xingtai
(taken by writer)

There is a scenic spot in Xingtai City called Tianhe Mountain, which is the birthplace of the story "The Cowherd and the Weaving Maid" and is also the hometown of the culture of Chinese Valentine's Day. In the story "The Cowherd and the Weaving Maid", the Cowherd and the Weaving Maid fell in love here, but the Weaving Maid who belonged to the Heavenly Palace was taken back by the Emperor of Heaven because of privately descending to the world; from then on, they could only look at each other in the vast starry sky, and could only meet through the Magpie Bridge on the Chinese Valentine's Day every year. Tianhe Mountain is also called Love Mountain because of this story.

Finally, I want to introduce the fine food originated from Xingtai City. There is a delicious food called "Menbing", which is a standing dish. It is made by cutting the special pastry for Menbing into shreds, adding scrambled eggs and bean sprouts, and then adding seasonings to stir fry, and finally simmer it. My parents would often make Menbing when I was still at home, so Menbing in a way represents the taste of my hometown as well.

Although my hometown Xingtai doesn't have many famous attractions or fine food compared to many other cities, but the life there is very leisurely and the people are also very nice. I'm looking forward to the end of the Covid-19 soon so that I can go back to my hometown.

*Written by **Zhang Sen***

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!

What to read next? Let us learn about Malaysia this time.

"*Malaysia*" is a book written by Professor Tsukasa MIZUSHIMA (a PhD holder, and a lecturer from Tokyo University of Foreign Study), who is an expert of South Asia and South East Asia. Professor Mizushima has experience living in small villages in Malaysia and Singapore for a long period of time and is believed to understand the different "faces" of Malaysia more than most of the Malaysians.

So, what is so interesting about this book? First of all, this book is a very detailed ethnography describing the diversity of lives and cultures among the Malaysians from different perspectives, including their history, ethnic groups, religions, rite

of passages, arts such as traditional music, language and literature, and the relationship between Malaysia and Japan.

For your information, Malaysia is a country colonized by the Portuguese, Hollanders, English people, and Japanese before it became an independent country. The colonization of England on Malaysia causes Malaysian people to become diverse as the Chinese and Indian are brought in to Malaysia to mix with the Malay and the indigenous people for economic purpose.

Curious to know how do different ethnics coexist, how's the life of a Malaysian, and what do Malaysians eat? Read this book and find out everything about Malaysia.

Book: マレーシア Malaysia
Author: Gan Wen Shuoh
Publisher: Kawade Shobō Shinsha
Language: Japanese
ISBN: 4309724426
Location: Gakuetsu 2F
Call No: GE21/023

*Written by **Gan Wen Shuoh***

Manga Corner

This corner is about things that happen in the library, especially when you are a new student at Tohoku University.

Hello! I am Marina from Brazil! I like drawing for fun, so I hope you have fun reading too!



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 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?

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Twitter : @TUL_Global @hagi_no_suke (in Japanese)
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