



Precautions During the Earthquake Inside the Library

As we all know, Japan, as much beautifully and breathtakingly as it stands, is an earthquake-prone nation, lying along the Pacific Ring of Fire where reportedly 90% of the world's earthquakes occur, with 80% of them recorded as the largest earthquakes. Sendai has suffered two major earthquakes in a row in these two years of 2021 and 2022. Both of the recent two earthquakes have caused extensive damages and chaos in many places, including the main library of Tohoku university.

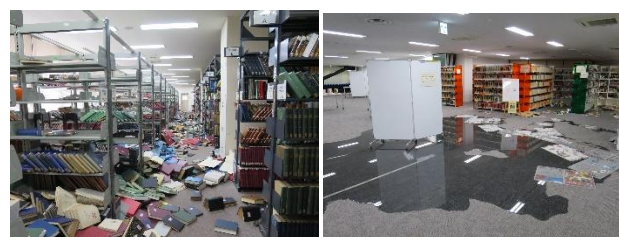


2F Student Reading Room Global Reference Room

The first quake took place with magnitude 7.1 on the 13th of February in 2021. That earthquake was called "aftershock" of the 9.0-magnitude of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The second one recently occurred on 16th of March in 2022 at 11:36 p.m. local time, again with a magnitude of 7.3 (89km southeast of Sendai).

After every quake, librarians and staff members have to put so much effort to restock and repair the damages in the library. Since earthquakes can occur suddenly any time while we are in the library,

we all need to be prepared and cautious to calmly respond to such natural hazards in the future. Being in a library during an earthquake is less dangerous than being in structurally weak buildings, however, we can still be in danger from falling objects, broken glass, book stacks collapse, electrical wires damage, etc.



Building 2

Global Learning Room

Here is some safety advice to keep in mind during an earthquake in the library. If you are inside the library while the earthquake occurs, (i) stay away from the bookshelves, glass and other falling objects, and (ii) move steadily, without fretting, to take shelter under a sturdy desk or table, covering your head and neck with your arms. Shortly after the earthquake, there will be an email from the university titled as "Confirmation of Your Wellbeing". Please reply to that email, informing about your status of safety. It is advisable not to panic. Try to be calm during the earthquake. And please learn to have comprehensive knowledge of precaution and awareness of earthquakes for the future.

*Written by **Thiri Soe***

References

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<https://earthsky.org/earth/feb-13-2021-7-magnitude-quake-japan-aftershock-2011/>
- ② Earthquake Preparedness in the Library.
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<https://library.law.hawaii.edu/2017/04/17/earthquake-preparedness-in-the-library/>
- ③ Major magnitude 7.3 earthquake - North Pacific Ocean, 89 km southeast of Sendai, Honshu-miyagi-ken, Japan, on Wednesday, Mar 16, 2022 at 11:36 pm (GMT +9) - 8 weeks ago.
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New Members!!

Helen Zihe Li



Hello everyone! Zihe is my Chinese official name and Helen is the name I use in the USA. I was born in China, but previously lived in Washington DC, USA. I got

my second Master's degree in Economics here at Tohoku University and now I am a first-year doctoral student majoring in Economics.

I am a melomaniac. I started to play the piano when I was 7 and then learned guitar during high school. I am a singer also and I sang soprano in my previous university chorus. Also, I worked part time for SAE Institute in America as a music producer when I was living in America. I also do sports such as playing badminton and speed skating.

I came to Japan mainly because I love Japanese culture, especially anime culture. My favorite anime is NARUTO. I consider Naruto a brave and strong-willed Ninja who deserves love. Everyone should learn from him and pursue their own dreams bravely. Besides, I am a big fan of Japanese food. If you are also interested in them, I am looking forward to chatting with you soon!

Petrovikj Hristina



Hi everyone ! My name is Hristina, but all my friends call me Tina. I come from North Macedonia, but I was born in Serbia. Most

people do not know about these two countries and there are not many people from my part of the world living in Japan. Therefore, I am very happy to have a chance to share my culture with you today.

Serbia and Macedonia are two small countries in the southeast of Europe, and they are a part of a region called “the Balkans”. Many of the Balkan countries share a similar language (Slavic), so it is very easy for us to understand each other when we travel around this region. The culture and the customs of the Balkan people are very diverse, filled with appreciation of nature, music, dance, food and a close connection to friends and family. If you visit Serbia or Macedonia, you will be greeted by friendly people who are curious about different cultures, and some would generously invite you to be their guest for a shared meal or a cup of Turkish coffee, which is very popular in this region.

As for me, currently I am a student of the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies at Tohoku University. I am interested in Culture and Linguistics. Ever since I was a child I have been fascinated by languages. Aside from Serbian and Macedonian, I “picked up” English very early on, from watching cartoons on Cartoon Network and listening to Western music. Currently I am studying Japanese and immersing myself in Japanese art, cinema and music. Music is a big part of my life. As a child, I was always singing and dancing, and my lifelong dream was to be a part of a band and perform in front of a live audience. This dream has not come true yet, but I am ready for a new challenge, so if there is anyone like me at Tohoku University who loves music and wants to try playing music for fun, please let me know!

I also love travelling, photography, watching movies, journaling, trying new foods and meeting new friends from all over the world! During my undergraduate study, I had the chance to be an exchange student at a university in a city called Graz in Austria. I loved the experience of living in an unknown country, and I have not stopped travelling since then. Thanks to this experience, I challenged myself to go to the other side of the world and try living and studying in Sendai, Japan. I love living here and learning new things about Japan on a daily basis. In Sendai you can find me sightseeing, exploring interesting cafés, taking pictures, writing my diary, or singing in karaoke.

Looking forward to seeing you in our Library!

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.

Gelman Library at George Washington University, United States



"Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library" by tgrauros is marked with CC BY-SA 2.0.

The full name of the libraries at George Washington University is “George Washington University Libraries and Academic

Innovation” (LAI). The Gelman Library is the main library and is located in the Foggy Bottom Campus in Washington, District of Columbia. Gelman is a member of the Association of Research and part of the Washington Research Libraries Consortium.

Gelman Library not only provides students with a large number of books and literature, but also provides various support for research. The librarians working there can help with students’ research, including data analysis and coding. The Gelman Library is open 24 hours and snacks and coffee are provided after 2 AM. The research rooms on the first floor of Gelman are used as writing labs. Students from English linguistics major are volunteers helping foreign students to correct grammar and expression errors. Students can make online appointments to get help in the writing lab.

The Gelman Library welcomes researchers and students who are not working or studying in GW to enter with an issued government ID. Alumni can pay \$30 to renew the membership of GW library for 30 years, and directly swipe the alumni card to enter. In total, there are 8 Floors in the Gelman building, and each floor has large numbers of books. There are both quiet and discussion study areas existing in the building. Food and drinks are allowed in both areas. Besides, tiny museums, archive rooms and some of the research centers are also in Gelman. When I was studying there, I usually stayed in the library for a whole day, buying boxed meals from the Whole Foods Market (an organic food supermarket) during lunch and dinner time. I hope someday everyone could have the chance to pay a visit and experience stylish American university library life.



I went back to my university and took a picture with George Washington before I left the United States

As reported by Helen Li

My hometown: Sao Paulo, Brazil

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

São Paulo is one of the biggest cities in the world, in fact the biggest in the entire Southern Hemisphere, and boasts a striking population of 12.3 million citizens. As a metropolis, it has inhabitants from various countries, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds all sharing the skyscraper-filled town. Because of its size, Sao Paulo is divided into 5 zones, center, west, east, north, and south, all interconnected by a vast subway and train system combined with hundreds of bus lines.

I was born in the eastern zone of Sao Paulo, one of the most populated but also one of the poorest parts of the city, with an

unfortunate history of high crime rates and bad social infrastructure. For me to attend my first year in University, back in 2010, I had to take a bus around 5 a.m., arrive at the city center bus terminal at 6 a.m., transfer to another bus to the west zone, and arrive at 7:30 a.m. at university for the first 8 a.m. class. In total, it would take 2 hours and a half every day on a one-way trip to the University of Sao Paulo. Nowadays, the city has launched new subway stations that have shortened the commuting time to 1 hour, which may still be considered long for many foreign visitors.

The best dishes to try in Sao Paulo were actually brought by immigrants. For instance, pizza in the city was introduced by the Italian immigrants, who specialized in creating a combination of flavors that would then spread to the rest of the country. If you are interested in deep-fried dishes, the pastel de feira is a great option. It was actually brought by the Japanese, who modified the gyoza recipe to include the native ingredients, such as palm tree heart or guava jam. It might sound weird but it is actually really good!



Pastel de Feira – Photo by Marina Nascimento

As for tourist attractions, I would suggest a stroll in Paulista Avenue. The avenue is considered the center of the city and it is

said that you can find anything you want there, from food, to clothes, books, and many other things. The avenue is huge enough to hold three subway stations, one park, three shopping malls, and countless museums and movie theaters. One can easily spend a day there and not see everything offered there!

If you ever feel like visiting Sao Paulo feel free to ask me for tips at the concierge desk every Tuesday afternoon!



City Center – Photo by Julio Nascimento



Obelisk – Photo by Marina Nascimento

Written by Marina Nascimento

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.

Petrovikj Hristina

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!



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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