



Library Guidance at Welcome week

In April, we held a Library Guidance. To prevent the spread of Covid-19, that Library Guidance was an online session through Zoom, just like last October one. Chunlin from the International Student Concierge Desk gave a 30-minute presentation about the library in English.



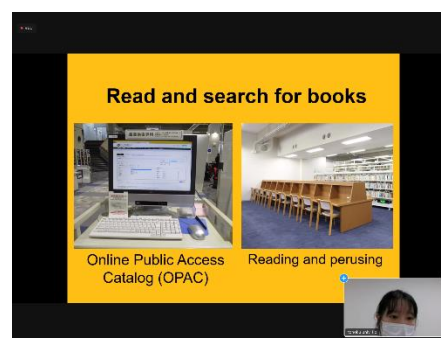
Usually, Library Guidance were used to be held offline before the pandemic. The staff working at the International Student Concierge Desk would give new students an introduction on how to use the library facilities, how to find books and journals, and share some experiences and tips about university life. For this online meeting, we prepared corresponding slides to introduce the library.

Firstly, we introduced the history of the library, the location of the main library and branch libraries, and the collection of books. Then we introduced some basic functions of the library, such as how to use the library to search for materials, borrow and return books, make copies, and so on. We also introduced the databases provided by the library to access academic papers: *CiNii Research* for accessing

Japanese literature and *Web of Science* for accessing foreign language literature. Finally, we introduced other convenient services provided by the library, such as the functions of *MyLibrary* and how to use it, and what services our International Student Concierge Desk offers.

Due to the pandemic and the earthquake that occurred in March this year, the library suspended and discontinued the use of some services and facilities. For example, Building 2, next to the main library, was under restore due to the earthquake and its access was suspended for a while. To prevent the spread of the Covid-19, some services that could be handled at the main counter before, such as reservations for Group Study Room and Private Research Room, have also been switched to online reservations using *MyLibrary*.

We still don't know when the pandemic will end and when we will get our normal lives back. Until then, please take care of yourself and feel free to ask us if you have any questions regarding the library.



Written by **Liu Chunlin**

A look into the International Concierge Services

Being a foreign student is an exciting adventure. New challenges come out almost every day, from queue to the post, to several University courses you will take in a semester. We, International Students at Concierge Desk, know well how electrifying is our experience at Tohoku University. We meet new people, new classmates and new professors from all over the world and at some point, without realizing that, we will call those people “friends”. On the other hand, studying abroad hides indeed a dark side. Somedays we feel overwhelmed by assignments, researches, deadlines and we lose the excitement of the beginning.

There is a special desk inside the Tohoku University’s Main Library building at Kawauchi campus called the International Student Concierge Desk. That represents a safe port to you. We are here to help you to find books and to guide you inside the mysteries of this beautiful library. We are able to speak several languages (English, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Italian, Burmese, etc.), so feel free to ask questions in your favorite language. You can also check online, in the Library website, languages and availability from Monday to Friday. We also organize tours into the library and we write articles for the Library Newsletter from book reviews to our home country culture. I suggest you to download it from the Library website (it is free!!)

Last but not least, we are here to support you during your studies at Tohoku University and if we cannot help you, we

will certainly find someone who will help with your doubts and problems.

We know, our student life is like a roller coaster of emotions, filled with ups and downs, but now you know where “friends” are. Come to visit us!

***Opening hours:**

from April to July and from October to January-12:00-16:00 weekdays only
April and October- 10:00-16:00.

***Desk location:**

Next to the Reference desk on the main floor of the Main Library Building 1, First Floor (in Kawauchi-minami Campus).

***Service Contents**

- * Searching for books and journals.
- * Using the online database for research.
- * How to use the library stack room.
- * Borrowing materials from other libraries or from other universities.
- * How to reserve a group study room and private research room
- * Connecting to the *on campus* Wi-Fi (eduroam) etc.



*Written by **Elena Fabbretti***

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a 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!

The first reason I decided to pick up *Womansword* to read was due to the book cover illustration of "the daughter in a box". Later, when I checked the details about that illustration and many others that you can find on top of every chapter, each depicting the content of that chapter, I already knew I'm going to enjoy this read.

The author, Kittredge Cherry was born in 1957 in Iowa, U.S. and studied journalism and art history at the University of Iowa. At some point, she studied in Japan on a Rotary International Journalism Scholarship too.

This book is an accumulation of Japanese words that concern women together with revealing insights about the status of women in modern Japan. The author considers the usage and context of several common words and phrases that are categorized into sections such as female identity, girlhood, marriage, mothering, working, sex, and aging.

I believe that language is not only a way of communication, but also a gate into understanding a culture. This book can teach you a great deal about the perspectives of Japanese people and society regarding women and make you familiar with different levels of sexism in Japan, hidden throughout the vocabulary. Even though this book is about Japanese words, it still offers a perspective on issues that are in

the actual daily lives of women all over the world and has made me wonder more about my own mother tongue as well.

Part of the explanations about 箱入り娘
"...Japanese see a parallel between caring for their treasured possessions for a daughter. They express it with the phrase *hako-iri-musume*, which translates literally as "daughter-in-a-box" and means sheltered maiden. Most people still consider the phrase a compliment that suggests the loving protection with which parents rear their girls. However, the boxed daughter is beginning to acquire a negative image as a painfully shy girl who doesn't know how to do anything besides sit prettily within the confines of a boxlike Japanese home and value system. A male version of the term does not exist..."

In the end, I would like to mention that this book was first published in the year 1987 and the readers should bear in mind that language is bound to changes in the course of time. Although *Womansword* still offers many valuable historical and linguistic points even though the resources used for writing it might not be all up to date.

Book: *Womansword: What Japanese Words*

Say about Women

Author: Kittredge Cherry

Publisher: Kodansha International and Stone Bridge Press

ISBN: 4770016557 and 9781611720297

Call No: EF72/37 and EF72/42

Location: LIB-Global-Forgn 本館グローバル留学生

Reviewed by **Sara EbrahimiAzar**

My hometown: Vranje, Serbia

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, today I would like to introduce you to my hometown called Vranje. Vranje is situated in the south of Serbia and consists of about only 60,000 people who speak a unique dialect of the Serbian language called “vranjanski”. For this reason, we often joke that every child born in Vranje is a natural bilingual – speaking the standard Serbian language at school and their dialect at home. As you can see from the pictures, Vranje has a very diverse culture, drawing influences from both Turkish and Serbian architecture. This city has been under the Ottoman rule for 5 centuries, and that has left a strong mark on our language, culture and cuisine. I often think that it is a privilege to be born in such a small, but culturally abundant place.



① Municipality Building



② Observation terrace
“Przar”

Vranje is a lively city filled with music, dance, delicious food, and friendly people. Given that this city has a very rich musical past, as well as a unique musical style, Vranje was declared the UNESCO city of Music in 2019. This city influenced my interest in music as well, and inspired me to explore music from all over the world.



③ Vranje Museum

This city boasts a notable author who was the proponent of literary realism in Serbia. He lived at the turn of the 20th century and wrote about the daily life of Vranje's people in short stories and novels, all published in a dialect. Even though he was heavily criticized for this at that time, his literature nowadays serves as a treasury of the unique dialect and history of this city. Inevitably, the city library, high school, and theater bear the name of this prolific writer. Tourists today can visit “The House of Bora Stankovic”, see the rooms where he lived and worked, walk over the creaky floorboards, enter various antique rooms, and experience how people lived in the past.



④ Monastery St. Prohor



⑤ House of Bora Stankovic

Aside from the museums, this city surrounded by mountains hides many buildings of national heritage, too. One of them is the Monastery of Saint Prohor, a religious place built in the 11th century in the basin of Mt. Starac. Every summer, people of all age participate in the celebration of Saint Prohor's Day with prayer, feast, music, and a good company of friends and family. People of Vranje cherish this special holiday atmosphere spent in the stunning nature and crisp fresh air brought by the river Pčinja. For this reason, I believe that summer is the best season to visit this region.

Thank you for joining me on this mental journey, and if you plan to go on an adventure in this unknown land, feel free to contact me for many recommendations!

- ① ③④⑤ Photo by the author
② Photo of the author

Written by **Petrovikj Hristina**

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!



*Please use the umbrella stand outside the library or the plastic bag provided at the library entrance.

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?

Facebook : @tohokuunivlib
Twitter : @TUL_Global @hagi_no_suke (in Japanese)
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