



Welcome to the Main Library of Tohoku University

The fall semester of 2022 is an exciting semester to all of us, as almost all the classes take place with face-to-face interaction and we can meet many international students for the first time after the pandemic. We are thrilled to have our normal school life back. Thus, we would like to welcome our students to the main library by introducing it to all new students. Our goal is to do our best to help students use the library effectively.

Tohoku University Main Library, located at Kawauchi Campus, is the largest library among Tohoku University libraries, with a long history since its establishment in 1911, holding approximately 4.2 million books and publications. Here are a few notices regarding the opening hours. The Main Library has two buildings. Building 1 opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 10:00 p.m. Building 2 opens at 8:45 a.m. and closes at 5:00 p.m. Building 1 is open on weekends and holidays from 10 am to 10 pm. Building 2 is closed on weekends. Students can access to a variety of online and facility services supported by the library.



Main Library



Main Floor

During the first month of every semester, the library offers library guidance and tours with multi-lingual services. At the Reference Desk on the first floor, staff members are available to help you with any library usage questions. Next to the main counter is the International Student Concierge Desk, where foreign graduate students are available to provide guidance and assistance to international students.

Online services include information about library facilities and services, remote access to electronic resources, and video orientations on library use, which are regularly uploaded to the Tohoku University Library website. In addition, "MyLibrary" account allows users to perform various functions such as checking borrowing and reservation status, purchase requests, applying interlibrary loans and using online reference services.

As for facility services inside the main library, PCs are available for in-library use in the PC area on the first floor. For conversations of online classes and seminars, the Global Learning Room on the second floor is available. The Global Learning Room is a library corner stocked with books about Japanese language study and Japanese culture, as well as other books of language study and fictional stories. Next to it is the Global Reference Room. It's a silent area where students can study in a quiet environment. There are also four private research rooms that can be reserved online for individual use by graduate students and faculties. Student reading rooms in both buildings are

equipped with individual study desks and tables.



Global Learning room



Stack room

In addition, the main library has a basement stack room with over 1.3 million volumes. Graduate students, faculties, and undergraduate students who have attended "Stack Room Guidance" can enter the stack room. Students who wish to attend the Stack Room Guidance, please apply to the main counter. What we have introduced so far is the general information about the library services we provide to students. If you have any questions or concerns while using the library, please feel free to contact the International Student Desk. We will be glad to assist you. Welcome to the main library and we wish you a wonderful school year ahead.



International Student Concierge Desk

*Written by **Thiri Soe***

New Members!!

Ana Maria Simplicio



Hello everyone! My name is Ana Maria, but usually people call me only Ana. I was born and raised in Brazil, where I graduated in History before coming to study in Japan. Currently I am a first-year master student at the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, on the Innovative Japanese Studies Laboratory. I am happy today to introduce you a little bit about me and my country.

Brazil is a country in South America and it's mostly known for a tropical climate, Carnival Parades and Soccer. Maybe it's less known that it is also where the most of the Amazon, the world's biggest rainforest is located, and that with the other ecosystems within the country, it has the world's greatest biodiversity of fauna and flora. Another curiosity is that Brazil is also the world's largest producer and exporter of coffee. Maybe it's not a coincidence, then, that coffee is one of my favorites. I am always happy to find Brazilian coffee in Japan.

Because Brazil is on the opposite side of Japan on the globe, I often get comments on how far I have travelled to study and how much I miss my home country for being so far away. Though it is true that I wish both countries were closer to one another, I am happy to be able to say that Japan has also become a home for me, and that I can also fully enjoy daily life and my studies here.

My lab focuses on Japanese studies, and every day I feel grateful that my time in this country is part of my research interests. Particularly I love the Library's collection and services, that are always so helpful in finding Literature and Sources.

I like Japan, as I do Japanese Studies, because I believe that learning from difference is an exploration of what humankind can be. Japanese History and Culture are distant from I have grown up with, but not less beautiful and relevant. Being in Japan means I can learn a new perspective on something every day, which is really exciting.

I also appreciate the fact that, despite our differences, we are so similar to each other as human beings. In the world we live in today, I believe more than ever that dialogue that respects people's individuality and cultural differences is essential in order to live better and more harmoniously as individuals and as a global community.

I am looking forward to seeing you guys around at the Library.
Best wishes in your studies!

Andhika Wijaya



Hi everyone! My name is Andhika Wijaya, people call me Andhika or Ika. I was born and grew up in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, and it is summer all-year. The highest temperature is rarely surpassing 33°C while at night 22-24°C is already considerably cool for us. What is famous from Jakarta is perhaps the abundant amount of shopping malls or the horrendous traffic jam. But Indonesia is not about Jakarta only. From region to region, island to island, Sabang to Merauke, we have a very diverse culture with many ethnicities, traditions, languages, and dialects. And compared to Jakarta, I think Bali is more well-known internationally. But regardless I'm always happy when people tell me they ever visited or know about Indonesia. And it's always a pleasure to introduce my country.

What I can recommend if you go to Indonesia is to visit the pristine beach and enjoy Indonesian food. Most of the foods are spicy, and to be honest it's a trouble for me since I can't handle spicy food. But how Indonesian people deal with spices is the top of the world, and each region has their own unique delicious cuisine. Some tourists love to visit Indonesian beaches to surf the

challenging wave. But personally, I prefer the calm and warm pristine beach where I can just relax and float in the water while enjoying the sun and drinking fresh coconut water, or snorkeling around the beautiful coral reef.

But I guess that's enough about my country, some of you might ask what I am doing in Japan or why I came to Japan. Currently, I'm studying at Tohoku University's Graduate School of Arts and Literature. My major is Innovative Japanese Studies. As a food enthusiast, Japanese cuisine is one of my favorites. Previously as a graphic design student, Japanese art, aesthetic, and culture is always a captivating subject for me to explore, so studying in Japan was always in the back of my mind.

The biggest trigger was when I happened to see a video of Tanbo Art in Aomori Prefecture, some questions popped in my head. "How was this created?" and "Are those colorful rice plants edible?" Long story short, I became quite obsessed with it and now here I am in Tohoku University to pursue my research in Tanbo Art. I'm very grateful with this opportunity to study here while enjoying my life in Sendai. Every day is always a learning experience both academically and in life.

Tohoku University Library is also my great benefactor. I don't know how I could progress my research and learn about the regional history of Japan without their extensive collections and archives. The library also helped me a lot in accessing academic journals and even has a journal printing service. All of this can be accessed and done easily within the university OPAC website. So, I really recommend all of you to explore and utilize the library service to make your academic life much easier.

That's all from me. I'm wishing all the best in your studies and great life in Sendai. Looking forward to seeing you all in the library.

May Oo Khin



I would like to greet you with the traditional Myanmar word "Mingalarbar" which means an auspicious blessing to all of you. Born and raised in Mandalay where the cultural heritage of Myanmar lies, I love to introduce a thorough glimpse of our country. With a significant history behind it, there is much to be enjoyed, including

many temples, panoramic views from hills, breathtaking sunsets, and long stretches of palm-fringed white sand beaches blessed with crystal clear turquoise waters in Myanmar. A visit to our country is incomplete without gorging on some mouth-watering local delicacies and great street food served by warm and friendly locals.

My interest in Japanese culture grew from the JAPAN-ASEAN youth exchange program in 2014. Special thanks to the MEXT scholarship program; I had a great opportunity to study in Japan. An unprecedented twist of fate brought me to Sendai and Tohoku University. I am always grateful to the destiny that brings us together. In Sendai, I feel surrounded by nature and lush greenery, including roadside trees, which can lead to the city being called “The Capital of Greens”. Various events throughout the year can also give me vigor and an active atmosphere in the city.

Pursuing my academic dream at the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University gives me an unparalleled opportunity to live, work and explore a different world. Studying overseas helped me develop as a more mature person. It helps me see things from new perspectives, appreciate the differences between cultures, and value the shared similarities between people.

My academic journey would be perfect only with the supportive role of Tohoku University’s main library. The vanilla-like smell of the books in the library makes me feel enjoyable whenever I am checking references from the shelves. Being a bibliophile, I love nothing more than collecting books and spending my free time among the pile of books. As a doctoral student, utilizing the library efficiently can provide me with sources of information. Moreover,

I find the idea of writing a dissertation at the library easy to concentrate on, which leads to thought-provoking concepts. This also helps me boost the quality of the research papers that I am working on. Since the library is designed in a way that we can focus on academics, I would like to encourage my fellow researchers to explore the resources at the library in order to spur creativity. The knowledge hub, our main library, is waiting to help you achieve your academic goals.

I always believe that the journey to our academic destination will be endorsed with joyful moments if we do not wait to celebrate the small achievements and add real value and happiness along the way.

Wishing all of your academic dreams and personal goals fulfill soon!

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!

Born at the very beginning of the Meiji Era, Nagai Kafū was a Japanese writer who experienced living abroad in America and France. His name is often aligned with those of Mori Ōgai and Natsume Sōseki. In fact, they shared experience abroad and the interest in foreign languages and cultures. However, Ōgai and Sōseki are considered famous Japanese writers, Kafū is not widely known among students. In fact, we can state that researches about Kafū and translations of his literary works in English language are scarce.

That is why, I am now here to recommend you *A Strange Tale from the East of the River*, translated in English by prof. Edward Seidensticker. This book, originally published in 1937 as *Bokutō kitan* (墨東奇譚), is one of Kafū's masterpieces. The story is narrated in first person and the protagonist, a 57 years man, is walking to the licensed quarter of Tamanoi. He is reflecting about his life and his work as a writer, but most important, he is reimagining places in Tokyo as they were when he was young.

I wish to recommend this book to those who want to imagine how Tokyo was at the beginning of the last century, with its typical quarters, alleys and canals. It is not only a literary work but also a recount of Japanese architecture. In fact, you can learn how Tokyo's landscape has changed and is continuing to change during the

time. I will recommend it to those who are interested in nostalgia for the past and its literary representation.

Book: A strange tale from east of the river, and other stories

Author: Nagai Kafū; translated by Edward Seidensticker

Publisher: Tuttle

Language: English

ISBN: 4805302666

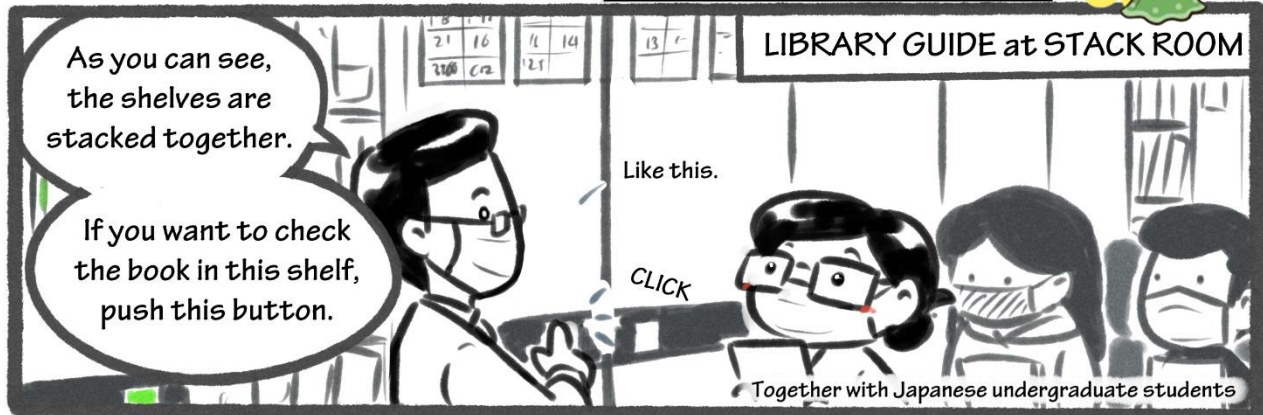
Location: Lib-Global-Forgn KH385/3

*Reviewed by **Elena Fabbretti***

Manga Corner

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

Hi! I am Andhika from Indonesia! I like reading and drawing manga, and I hope you enjoy my short manga.



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!



Andhika Wijaya



A graduate student from Innovative Japanese Studies Major, who was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. She never had seen snow before she came to Japan, so she's always going 'wakuwaku' when the snow is falling down even though she has to struggle a lot with the cold temperature. She loves drawing, reading comics, travelling to scenic places, enjoying nice music, singing at karaoke, and playing with cute animals. Please don't mind her if she makes strange noises when she saw a photo of cute animals. Aside of those, one of her major passion is enjoying food and making review notes about it.

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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