



Book Exhibition

Hi everyone, my name is Chunlin. I'm one of the members at the International Student Concierge (ISC). I'm also a book lover. We are holding book exhibitions of different themes regularly at the entrance of the Global Learning Room. Members from the ISC will select some of the books they recommend from the International Student Book Corner for the exhibition. I'm very glad to introduce to you several books that touched me a lot.



The theme of the book exhibition this time is 'farewell and reborn'. This may sound a bit heavy, but it is a life issue that each of us has to face. Each of the books recommended here contains stories of parting, either fictional or real, intense or peaceful. These books do not tell you exactly how to say goodbye and how to start a new life, but just spread out the stories about parting one after another for you. You can feel the struggle, depression, and hesitation of the characters in the book from the author's delicate description, but inconceivably, you can also get comfort from these

negative emotions and draw the strength to start again.

For example, Watanabe-san in "Love Letter". In the two or three years after her lover accidentally died while climbing a mountain, although she seemed to be living a normal life and even started a new relationship, she was still clinging to the past in her heart. Perhaps that is why she sent a letter to her lover's old address. Watanabe-san found her way to say goodbye to the past from the letters, and finally shouted in front of the mountain where her boyfriend died, saying goodbye to the past and starting a new life. Sato-kun in "The Tomb of Wild Chrysanthemum" bids farewell by planting his lover's favorite wild chrysanthemums on her grave; Hiiragi in "Kitchen: Moonlight Shadow" bids farewell by wearing the school uniform of his dead girlfriend.

I believe that only by facing parting well and saying goodbye carefully we can really start a new life. I hope you can get some inspiration from these stories to say goodbye to the past, and I hope you can muster up the courage to say goodbye to the past carefully. Tomorrow is a good day and we all have another life story to write.



Poster



Planner

Written by **Chunlin Liu**

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.

Mandalay University Library



"Mandalay University Library"
Photos taken by Aung Kyaw Zaw

Mandalay University, located in the second largest city and the old capital of the last Myanmar Kingdom, offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Upper Myanmar. The university has started running a new research comprehensive facility at the main library. In association with other universities across the country, Mandalay University Library and Research center conducted a series of seminars: How to maximize the impact and efficiency of research as part of eLibrary Myanmar projects. When I was a graduate student of Mandalay University, I had a great opportunity to attend such seminars, result-

ing in the gained insights on how open access system could help to disseminate research results in the most efficient way, and also to maximize the usage of universities' research publications.

Recalling the memory, my relationship with Mandalay University Library began since my childhood. While my Dad and I were waiting for my Mom, who was a university lecturer, we usually spent our time at the library. Despite my young age, I enjoyed the academic atmosphere and the vibes of the library. Special thanks to my Dad who developed a love for books and my interest in reading, my reading experiences were enjoyable at the quiet and comfortable space of Mandalay University Library.

Academic libraries in Myanmar universities are being updated to give students and faculty unprecedented access to e-resources. At the beginning of the transformation process, librarians faced immense challenges in modernizing the libraries and developing more interactive and objective-focused information for students. With strong motivation, the library staff participated in workshops on writing for the webs and conducting user experience research. By joining several database trainings, they could improve access properly and efficiently among the university communities.

Mandalay University Library provides resources and services to support learning, teaching, and research needs of students, faculty and staff. Library computers can be used by anyone to do research using the resources or the Internet. The library workstations are equipped with web

browsers (Chrome and Firefox), basic utilities such as Adobe Acrobat Reader, and standard office applications.

Regarding a set of service tools offered at the library, they have been gradually increasing. The self-service photocopying and printing are available for current students and staff. Both color and black & white printings are allowed. According to the library rules, the photocopy machines are for library materials only and we cannot use them for other items such as notebooks we personally own. In addition, the study rooms at the library can be used for research presentations, and other academic activities. The food court near the library serves a delicious variety of coffee, tea, snacks, etc. The home-made style local cuisine is also offered there. We can enjoy a calm and restful meal with a few friends throughout the busy schedules at the campus.

All in all, no matter where the university libraries are located, they are essential education facilities that fuel students with academic resources, working spaces and the opportunities for self-development. Having a real impact on academic success of students, libraries encourage thinking processes, creativity, and inquisitiveness.

*Written by **May Oo Khin***

My Hometown: Jakarta, City of Shopping Malls and Culinary Adventure

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



"Panorama Kota Jakarta" by Ya, saya in-BaliTimur is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

Jakarta is the capital city of Indonesia, located on Java island. The temperature there is around 30°C by day and 24°C by night. We only have dry season and rainy season due to our tropical climate, and the city is prone to flooding when there's a heavy downpour. So, flood is an annual event for us, and around flooding season we ironically call it as 'Venezia van Java'. Traffic jam is also common in Jakarta. While cars are comfortable, it is easy to get stuck on the road for hours just to commute between home and school or work. That is why motorbike became a more convenient option, and motorbike taxi is popular in Indonesia because they're smaller and slimmer to easily get through cars or around small alleys.

But even with all the daily hassle that we need to face, Jakarta is still an attractive place as it is the biggest city in Indonesia. And I am privileged to be born and raised in this city. We have a several tourist spots such as the old district of Kota Tua in Central Jakarta, the National Monument (Monas) – the symbol of our city, or islands with beautiful beaches if we travel by boat from the north coast of Jakarta. But one thing that is obviously striking in Jakarta is the abundance of big shopping malls all

around the city, which are providing easy access to convenience and entertainment in the city. Unlike other countries which establish big malls in the suburban area, many shopping malls in Jakarta are located around the city center, with wide range of options from luxurious malls to the more down-to-earth shopping districts. Especially in the bigger malls, the food choices are abundant with options from all around the world.



"Eco Skywalk @ Central Park Mall - Neo Soho" by NA.dir is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.



"Street Food Carts" by killertur nip is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

As for the local food, I think the real charm of Jakarta or overall Indonesian food style can be found not in the big malls, but among the street vendors instead. Street vendors are easy to spot all around Jakarta since they often move their food carts and gather around crowded areas like in front of schools, back of the shopping malls, or around markets. Sometimes they also operate in front of Minimart (shop that has a bit similar concept with konbini). They are usually selling cheap food, snacks, fries, or sweets.

One of my favorite local foods is Soto Betawi. It is a bowl of warm delicious soup with savory flavor from the mix of meat broth and coconut milk, with a hint of refreshing sourness from lime. Inside the soup usually there will be chunks of meat (either beef or chicken), diced potatoes, diced tomatoes, some scallion or leek, fried red onion, and sometimes glass noodles. It is enjoyed with a plate of rice and Indonesian melinjo crackers. Personally, I

love to add sweet soy sauce either in the soup or rice to make it sweeter.



"File:Soto Betawi Jakarta Street Side Food.JPG" by Gunawan Kartapranata is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.



"Goreng Pisang Goreng" by John Ong is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

If you don't have peanut allergy, I also recommend to try food with peanut sauce like Sate Ayam (Indonesian Yakitori), Gado-Gado (Indonesian style cooked salad), and many more. Peanut sauce is representative of Indonesian cuisines and a must-try to enjoy Indonesian flavor. The secret to good peanut sauce is not too thick and not too watery. And Indonesian peanut sauce is showcasing the delicate balance of sweet, spicy and sour flavors.

As for the sweets, my recommendation is fried banana and sweet martabak. Fried banana looks like a banana tempura, but using different banana variety that is sweeter and softer. While martabak is a very thick and fatty pancake with generous amount of chocolate, cheese, peanuts, sesame seeds, and condensed milk as toppings. We usually eat them together with families or friends because one regular portion will be too much just for one person.

If you come to Jakarta, I hope you enjoy the food. Most of them are spicy with humble appearance, so it might be surprising at first. But there's always an amazing taste in each bite. Enjoy the malls and the cityscape too.



"City and traffic lights at sunset in Jakarta" by World Bank Photo Collection is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Written by **Wijaya Andhika**

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!

I personally began to listen to Lady Gaga's songs in high school, and the first two songs I listened to are called **Poker Face** and **Bad Romance**. At that time, what impressed me the most was her fancy makeup and fashionable dressing style. I regarded her as another Madonna and as a high energy performer when I was a teenager. After entering University, I listened to her other songs such as **Judas**, **Starstruck**, **Shallow**, etc. The contents of her songs cover a wide range of the society: love, family, female power, self-expression, etc.

This book is not only a biography from Lady Gaga's birth (March 28, 1986) to the year 2011, but also an engrossing read for fans and those people who are interested

in pop culture and entertainment industry. The author, Paula Johanson, is an accredited teacher who has written and edited over two dozen nonfiction books on science, health, and literature. In this book, readers will learn about Lady Gaga's personal background – where she was born, who her parents were, what her early school ages as a "weird girl" were like, her pre-fame years where she gained an education in music, and her ongoing art and social activities as a performer. The book details her life from all angles, and even includes her political commentary.

The book also discusses about whether Lady Gaga is a real feminist. In this book, the author cites words from Nancy Bauer, the editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica. "The pop star is playing a tricky game: regardless of what she intends, her way of being in the world may come off as a glorification of simple self-objectification. It might send the message to other young women that it's a good idea for them to seek power, and self-empowerment, through deploying their sexuality strategically. To me, feminism is about trying to move from such a world to a better one, in which women have more options."

Book: Lady Gaga: A Biography

Author: Paula Johanson

Publisher: Greenwood

Call Number: GK437/9

Barcode Number: 00170160797

Location: Main Library, Global Learning Room

Written by **Helen Zihe Li**

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?

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