



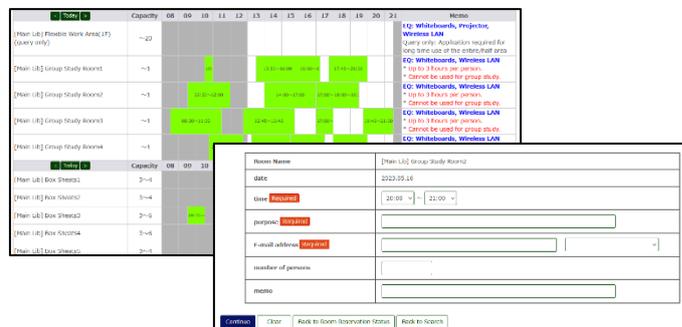
## What is “MyLibrary”?

MyLibrary is an online system operated by Tohoku University Library, and it is accessible to all students and faculties for using library services. In this system, you are able to search for books and materials you need, extend your lending period of books, reserve books, private study spaces and group study spaces, apply for inter-library loan or photocopies from other universities, etc. You can log in with your Tohokudai-ID and its password via different pages such as library web site and Tohoku SPR system.



Login

With numbers of COVID-19 cases declining, currently we have reopened public discussion spaces on the main floor. You are able to reserve one for your group via the MyLibrary system. Students can also send purchase requests to the main library through MyLibrary system, if they find books that they need are not available in any libraries at Tohoku University. Furthermore, you can also log into the system from home without the campus Wi-Fi.



Facilities Reservation

I personally consider that MyLibrary system is really convenient. As a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Ph.D. student, I usually need to read lots of books of my research area, and I use this system almost every month. Before I come to the library, I will search for books with keywords at home in advance and write down the locations. If the book is on lending status, I can directly reserve it from MyLibrary, and when the book is returned, MyLibrary will send me an email to my university email address. All I need to do is to come to the main counter and show my student ID to the staff and I can pick my book up easily. Besides, if I'm not able to return the book on time, I can extend its lending period with MyLibrary and return it later. As a Ph.D. student with heavy study load each day, MyLibrary system does save my life and it allows me to gain efficiency.

I enjoy reading and borrowing books and materials, and I'm a big fan of MyLibrary system. I hope you all can make good use of it.

Reported by **Helen Li**

## International Student Concierge Service

The Main Library of Tohoku University at Kawauchi Campus provides a unique service for all international students studying at Tohoku University: The International Student Concierge Desk. It is a place where international students who have been living in Sendai for some time now are waiting to answer all your questions regarding the use of the Tohoku University Library.

We all know the hardships of starting a new chapter of your student life at a new university in Japan, with a heavy workload, and no knowledge of the Japanese language. That is why we are here to help you learn how to successfully utilize all the facilities that this Library offers, and make your research period more fruitful.

The International Student Concierge Desk can provide guidance to students in the following areas: searching for books and journals, using the online databases, using the underground stack room, borrowing materials from this and other libraries or universities, reserving a group study space or private study room, connecting to the campus WiFi (eduroam), etc. For any related questions that you might have, please visit us on weekdays from Monday to Friday 12:00-16:00 (Only April and October 10:00-16:00) on the first floor of the Main Library.

Given that the members of the ISC come from all over the world, it might even happen that we speak your native language, so don't hesitate to ask us! We of-

fer services in English, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Serbian, Macedonian, Burmese, Indonesian, and Spanish.

At the beginning of each semester, we provide a special library guidance and tour which is open to all students who wish to learn how to make good use of the Library. This service is mostly offered in Japanese, English, and Chinese. During the tour, we will introduce all areas of the Main building and Building 2, as well as the underground stack room (for graduate students). Feel free to check our website at the beginning of the semester, or simply look for posters in the Library, to get informed about the tour schedule.

The International Student Concierge also publishes monthly newsletters called *The Concierge*, where you can get to know more about the concierge members, their hometowns, the libraries around the world, as well as the newest events held at the library. Members also organize regular book exhibitions where they introduce their favorite books, and they hold a yearly SDGs exhibition. Feel free to check them at the Global Learning Room, or at the exhibition area on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

Welcome to the Tohoku University Library. We are looking forward to your visit!



**We will Support International Student in multiple languages!**

**Concierge Service for International Student**  
国際学生支援のコンシェルジュサービス  
Reference Desk at the Main Library  
Weekdays, 12:00-16:00 (10:00-16:00 in April)  
Schedule



**The Concierge**  
Volume 07, Issue 01 May 2023

**Library Guidance Tour for International Students: Welcome to Tohoku University in Sendai!**

Greetings, international students!

We're pleased to give you a recap of the recent library guidance and tour organized by the International Student Concierge at Tohoku University Main Library. On April 09 and 17<sup>th</sup>, we held the first library guidance and tour in Chinese and English languages, respectively this semester. Since wearing masks became optional, we could see and engage with everyone there comfortably.

The International Student Concierge members started with a presentation that covered essential library information, such as navigating the library, using the online catalog, and accessing the many resources and services provided. They also highlighted support services, including consultation service in various languages, which is available at the international student concierge desk.

After the presentation, participants were divided into smaller groups for a more in-depth tour of the library led by several concierge members. The tour showcased various sections of the library, including the flexible working area, reference desk, computer terminals, group study rooms, and quiet study area. Some members also kindly introduced their favorite "secret places" in the library.

This library guidance and tour are aiming at helping you familiarize yourself with the library's resources and services, helping you set for academic success as well as diverse experiences at Tohoku University.

We hope that you'll make the most of these offerings and enjoy your time in Sendai as you embark on your academic journey.

Reported by Giyoung Lee

Written by **Petrovikj Hristina**

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## World Library

*This section introduces new members of the International Student Concierge.*

### University of Granada

The University of Granada is located in Granada, Andalucia, a region in the south of Spain well-known for its rich cultural heritage, beautiful streets and landscapes. In 2022, it was considered as the 4th best university in Spain by the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), and it is one of the most popular destinations for exchange students all around Europe, having received approximately 2,500 exchange students during the academic year 2021-2022. The University of Granada is also involved in partnerships with Tohoku University, including the Hasekura League, which held its summit in the Hagi Hall last year, along with Tohoku University's 115th anniversary. There are 7 campuses, two of which are situated in the African continent, in the cities of Ceuta and Melilla. The campuses in Granada are 'Campus Centro', 'Campus Cartuja', 'Campus Fuentenueva', 'Campus Aynadamar', and 'Campus PTS'.

Like many other universities around Europe, the University of Granada has libraries spread all around the faculties, and depending on the nature of the sources you want to consult, you might need to visit different faculties around the city. However, the good point is that Granada is very easy to navigate on foot or by public transport. It is worth saying that some of the faculties are housed in beautiful buildings with a rich historical background. For instance, the 'Faculty of Translation and Interpreting', which was once a palace of the

Counts of Luque, with a garden in its center, is an excellent example with beautiful architecture influenced by Arabic culture.

The library I used the most is located at the Faculty of Arts and Letters, in the Cartuja Campus. The elevated location of the campus on the outskirts of Granada provides a panoramic view of the city and its beautiful sunsets. The library in my faculty has big windows, allowing you to enjoy these views while studying and providing a well-lit space. The cafeteria of the faculty is on the floor below the library, allowing you to enjoy a coffee or some delicious food while taking a break from studying. The spacious desks, quiet, and cozy atmosphere make it the perfect place for studying and working on projects. It is without any doubt one of the places where I spent a lot of time while I was an undergraduate student.



Photographies by Dario Barros Claver.

*Written by Fernandez Caro Antonio*

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## 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 author of this book, Kazuo Ishiguro, is the winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. Published in 1989, the book tells the story of a British butler who has always done his duty for Darlington Hall and reminisces about his time there during a road trip to visit a former colleague. This book received the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1989. The entire story is also informed by the Swedish Academy of Literature's assessment of Kazuo Ishiguro's work: *Time, Memory, and Self-Deception*. These aspects of the book fascinate me:

1. The novelty of the British butler's point of view. In the East Asian culture where I was born and raised, the concept of a butler did not seem to exist, so the story told from the first point of view of a butler was fascinating to me. I was captivated by the portrayal of his duties, personal life, and the qualities required to be a butler. Additionally, the book opens with the statement "Only in England can you find a true butler, in other countries, whatever title is actually used, there are only footmen".
2. A high sense of identity for his own work. No one around me really likes and identifies with their own job. The meaning of doing a job for most of us is to earn money. Stevens, on the other hand, loves his job. He finds fulfillment and pursues greatness and dignity in his work. This attitude towards work is

certainly shocking to me. There is an episode in the book where Stevens misses the time when he and the other butlers were discussing difficult problems at work in the servant hall. This struck me. It turns out that there really are people who have so much respect and esteem for the job they are doing that they spend their spare time thinking about how to solve work problems, and even when they are on a trip they repeatedly miss their work.

3. The astringent, restrained, and lengthy style of writing. This may be a shortcoming, but I would argue it is one of the subtleties of the book. The style of the original English wording is very lengthy, using a lot of double negatives and ambiguous language to narrate what is clearly the first point of view. This may make the book less readable, but it is the lengthy phrasing that reflects Stevens' self-deception. Stevens is a man with a noble pursuit of his work, and as a result, missed the death of his own father and his love. I think in this journey, Stevens, who has always believed in work, has doubts and regrets about his beliefs, but cannot face his doubts and regrets, so he uses such long and awkward phrases to narrate (escape), creating an atmosphere of neutrality to deceive himself.

The self-deception in Kazuo Ishiguro's work is worth a closer look. I would like to end by quoting Song Qian's words about self-deception: *the root of self-deception is not the falsehood, but the fragility of the human heart\**; it is a simple buffer built by the human heart for itself, so that we do not have to bravely bear the full force of reality, but can gradually accept reality over time.

Book: The remains of the day  
Author: Kazuo Ishiguro  
Publisher: New York : Vintage Books  
Language: English  
ISBN: 9780679731726  
Location: Lib-Gakuetsu KS159-7/6

\* 石黒一雄[著], 宋金译, 克拉拉与太阳, \_上海译文出版社, 2021,p391.

*Written by Liu Chunlin*

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## My Hometown:Shenyang,

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

Hello, my name is AiPing Zhao from China. I would like to introduce my hometown Shenyang, the provincial capital of Liaoning Province, located in the northeast of China. Shenyang is the province's most populous city, with a total population of 9,070,093 inhabitants, spread across a vast area of 12,869 km<sup>2</sup>.



Photo taken by Techyan. File:Beiling Park Zhao Mausoleum (Qing dynasty) drone view 7.jpg - Wikimedia Commons  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beiling\\_Park\\_Zhao\\_Mausoleum\\_\(Qing\\_dynasty\)\\_drone\\_view\\_7.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beiling_Park_Zhao_Mausoleum_(Qing_dynasty)_drone_view_7.jpg)

Shenyang is the birthplace of Manchu and Kwantung culture, known as "the birthplace of a dynasty, two generations of emperors". Many folk arts known as the history of Manchu culture in Shenyang are reflected. One of them is temple fairs. New Year's Day, Shenyang has the tradition of holding lantern fairs and temple fairs. Shenyang temple fair is a set of trade, entertainment, faith, and other folk customs in one of the traditional folk activities. In the temple fair, people watch lanterns, enjoy ice sculptures, and cuisine.

In my opinion, Shenyang cuisine is one of the most attractive elements for tourists. Shenyang has classic northeastern Chinese cuisine culture. Traditional meals in the region such as *suancai*, stewed chicken and mushroom, are very delicious. My favorite food is pork dumplings (Jiaozi) stuffed with suancai. Shenyang is also home to the Korean and Hui ethnic groups. Korean cuisine such as cold noodles and roast pork, and Hui cuisine such as mutton soup and mutton pie are also very famous.



Photo taken by ZhanTongZhang. File: A Jiaozi with suan cai.JPG-Wikimedia Commons.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A\\_Jiaozi\\_with\\_suan\\_cai.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Jiaozi_with_suan_cai.JPG)

*Written by AiPing Zhao*

## 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.

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## How to reach us?

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