



Helpful Guidelines for the Underground Stack Room in the Main Library

The underground stack room of the Main Library is a treasure box for research. Being able to use these rooms effectively can help us achieve our academic goals. Therefore, as a member of the International Student Concierge, I would like to share with you some useful tips.



Tohoku University faculties and graduate students are directly allowed to enter the stack room. If you are an undergraduate student, you need to attend stack room guidance. The schedule is available on our website, so please apply at the main counter after checking it. No need to concern about the language barrier as the guidance is usually conducted in both English and Japanese. For others, please reach bibliographic data by OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) and request to the library staff at the Main Counter.

Before entering the stack room, you have to leave your belongings in the locker. You will need to insert 100 yen as a deposit. In case you don't have the coin, please feel free to borrow it from the Main Counter. The inserted coin will be returned

when you finish using the locker, so please don't forget to bring it back.

You will need to pass through the sensor gate near the main counter with your student ID in order to go to the stack. You need to leave your card in the box and exchange it with the provided ID card. You will see the floor guide for books written in a variety of languages such as English, Japanese, Korean and Chinese after going downstairs. You are able to find your targeted books and materials according to the floor guide. The vanilla-like smell of the books will attract you to approach the moving shelves. Make sure to turn off the lights after using and checking that there is nobody between the moving shelves before use. The books are arranged according to call numbers.—You can process the borrowing procedure at the Main Counter. At the underground stack room, you will find several computers for searching data from OPAC. When leaving the stack room, please don't forget to take your own card.



Regarding the opening hours of the stack room, we open at 8:00 a.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. on weekends. The closing time of the stack room is 30 minutes before the Main Library closes.

As a graduate student, I really enjoy using the underground stack room of the main library. To access the updated and relevant research references for my academic journey, I usually visit the stack room and explore. The room is a place to calm my mind and refocus in the midst of a busy day. Given our technology-rich lives, it is the time when it's healthy to leave the screen behind and sometimes I feel like walking through a field of flowers. Though we cannot get the breath of fresh florals, we can sense the aura of knowledge in the stack room.

Please do not hesitate to visit the underground stack room of Tohoku University Main Library.



*Written by **May Oo Khin***

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.

Tiny yet Precious Library at the University of Medicine(2) Yangon, Myanmar

I graduated from the University of Medicine (2) in Yangon, Myanmar in 2019. Actually, in our country, there are only five Medical Universities: University of Medicine (1) Yangon, University of Medicine (2) Yangon, University of Medicine, Mandalay, University of Medicine, Magway, and University of Medicine, Taungyi. My university is located in the North Okkalapa Township in the eastern part of Yangon, surrounded by the fields of water spinach.

As a short introduction to our university history, it was originally founded as the faculty of Rangoon University and it became independent and upgraded to the University of Medicine (2), Yangon in 2005. Currently, the university offers six diploma courses, 19 Master's degree courses, and 26 doctoral courses of Medical Science.

My university library is on the 6th floor of the six-story building. From the 1st to the 5th floor are research rooms and examination halls. Also, I remember that there are not many chairs and desks which may be around 40 desks in total. That's why during final weeks, we have to get up early and compete for the desk and the chair.

During my 7-year-study there, I mainly borrowed medical textbooks which are

very difficult and expensive to get. The library is divided into two parts; the book storage room where the dissertation books of the seniors are stored, and the study space with nearly 40 desks and chairs. The interesting part is that we cannot have a look of the textbooks on the shelves, since the textbooks are stored by the library staff in the main counter and only when asking with book names, they find for us and we can borrow them.

The study space is an open-door room where you can enjoy the breeze coming through the room and it may also be a nice sleeping spot. Since it is on the top floor, we can have delightful views of the whole North Okkalapa City as there are no higher buildings around the university. As a main feature of the study space, it is sometimes filled with the voices of students reading out loud their study materials. In our education system, most grew up with rote memorization study techniques teaching that reading your learning materials out loud can solidify your memories of what you have learned. I felt a little frustrated every time when other students read out loud, because I did not really adapt to that studying habit.

One main problem in our country is that most students don't use much of the library as the education system doesn't require them to do that. Most students use notes taken by others and prepared textbooks. As a student who studied abroad, I spent most of my childhood in the library of both my elementary school and the public library in Japan. But when I went back to my country, I felt there was a lack of rich facilities and resources in the libraries of our countries. In my middle and high schools, the libraries were locked down and the

computers in the library were only for demonstration and decoration purposes.

Influenced by above experiences, I really hope I can contribute to constructing a library that has the same standard with those in Japan in my country. I strongly believe that the Library serves a main role in societal changes as a hub for personal and professional development, as well as social interaction.

As a Tohoku University student, I want you to appreciate how big and astonishing the library is, the amount of facilities and resources provided, and many spaces you can focus on your studies. I also wish and will make efforts for a better advancement of the library system in my country.

Written by Yin May Zin Han

My Hometown: Beijing

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

Hi, my name is Haomiao Wang. I come from Beijing, China. Today I would like to introduce my hometown, which is the capital of China. Beijing is the ancient capital of China, a famous historical and cultural city with a history of more than 3,000 years since founding.

Beijing is famous for its royal gardens. The Forbidden City is the most recognizable complex of ancient royal architecture and is now a well-known tourist attraction and national museum in Beijing. In my opinion, the view is the best in the evening. As tourists gradually depart, the palace empties, the setting sun reflects off the yellow tiles in gold, the crows (which are considered as the guardians of the palace) circle overhead, and the bustling capital city momentarily becomes quiet.



By Yonoemon - photo taken by Yonoemon, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=128031029>

During the modern Chinese New Year, The Ditan Park holds a New Year temple fair annually. Ditan was a place of worship for the ancient emperors and is now a

large park. The Ditan Temple Fair runs from New Year's Eve to the seventh day of the first month. The event mainly consists of rituals that mimic the court rituals of the Qing Dynasty, flower performances, acrobatics, Beijing snacks, etc. At this time, red lanterns hang all over the treetops, and the festive atmosphere is so strong that many parents will take their children there to experience the flavor of the New Year.



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Written by Wang Haomiao

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!

Yukio Mishima is a Japanese writer who is famous both domestically and worldwide. His book named *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion* has been translated into many languages and is well known around the world. It was published in 1956 and translated into English by Ivan Morris in 1959.

The story revolves around a young man named Gouguchi, born with a stuttering problem, who journeyed from the impoverished countryside to Kinkaku-ji Temple with the aspiration of becoming a monk. He spends his days obsessed with the beauty of Kinkaku-ji and fantasizes about the magnificent scene of dying with Kinkaku-ji in the middle of a war. However, the end of the war made this wish come to naught forever, and in despair, he resolutely put the Golden Pavilion to the torch.

The Temple of the Golden Pavilion is based on the true story of the burning of the Temple of the Golden Pavilion in 1950 by a monk of the Kinkaku-ji named Hayashi Yōken, a student of Otani University. Hayashi Yōken claimed his motivation for the crime was rooted in jealousy over the beauty of Kinkaku-ji.

When I first read this book, I marveled at the beauty and mood of Mishima's writing, and the book's description of Kinkaku-ji made me imagine the golden pavilion. Later, I also personally went to Kyoto once to see the Kinkaku-ji. It is not as grand as

I imagined, but it is still beautiful, the whole body of the golden temple standing on the water waves. There is an old Chinese poem that says, "The people of today do not see the moon of the ancient times, but the moon used to shine on the people of the ancient times"(Li Bai), and I think the same is true for Kinkaku-ji.

Book: The Temple of the Golden Pavilion

Author: Yukio Mishima

Publisher: Tuttle books

Translated to English: Ivan Morris

ISBN:4805301961

Location: Lib-Global-Foreign

KH348/12

Written by Wang Haomiao

Editors



Petrovikj Hristina [Editor-in-Chief]

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!

Helen Li

A 3rd year PhD student from Economics and Management Department, majoring in monetary economics and financial time series analysis. She previously lived in the USA and came to Japan in 2019. She has been playing the piano for over 10 years, and is also a semi-professional athlete of speed skating since before she was 14. She is an excellent female gamer of MOBA games such as DOTA and Honor of Kings. Her dream is to become a university professor or a diplomat, but a superior professional athlete of Esports if she was 10 years younger.



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.

How to reach us?

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