UTokyo OPAC has been renewed!
"Literacy" Begins! GACoS has been replaced.
At home! On campus! How to use libraries in the COVID-19 era.
[Essay]Reading as Privacy?
UTokyo OPAC has been renewed!

UTokyo OPAC is a tool for searching books, journals, and other materials held by the University of Tokyo. From August 2021, you will also be able to search for e-journals and e-books available at the University of Tokyo. Please use UTokyo OPAC, which has become even more convenient.

Renewal Point 1 E-journals and e-books are now searchable.

If you are accessing the website within the campus network, you will see a "Full Text" link. Click on the link to access the e-resource of that title.

UTokyo Account authentication required. The "URL" button will not be displayed for titles that are not allowed to be accessed outside the campus network. Even for titles for which the "URL" button is displayed, an error message may be displayed and the title may not be available due to contractual reasons with the publisher.

If you are accessing the website outside the campus networks, the "URL" button will be displayed*. Click on the "URL" button to access the e-resource of that title after authentication to your UTokyo Account.

*UTokyo Account authentication required. The "URL" button will not be displayed for titles that are not allowed to be accessed outside the campus network. Even for titles for which the "URL" button is displayed, an error message may be displayed and the title may not be available due to contractual reasons with the publisher.
Renewal Point 2 Easy to use on smartphones.

The layout is now optimized for the size of the screen, making it easier to use on smartphones and tablets.

Renewal Point 3 V-Shelf (virtual bookshelf)

Have you ever thought that it would be nice if you could search for books on the OPAC screen as if you were looking at a bookshelf? UTokyo OPAC has a new function that displays the book title and cover photo of the book that is lined up before or after the searched book. The books will be displayed in order of the call number. Please use this function to find books on similar themes.

*It will take a few minutes to display.

History of UTokyo OPAC

Nowadays, OPAC is available online to anyone at any time. The history of OPAC reflects changes in information technology.

◆Birth of UTokyo OPAC

UTokyo OPAC was launched and started to be used in June 1986. At the time, it was so revolutionary that it had its own unveiling party. For a while after its launch, OPAC was a system that could only be used in the libraries. In 1992 it was connected to the university network and became available for use from computers in laboratories.

◆Release of WebOPAC

A version of OPAC that can be used via Web browser was officially released in October 1999. This version can be called the prototype of the current OPAC. It was now open to the public on the Internet, allowing anyone to search the University of Tokyo’s collection at any time. OPAC has since undergone continuous renewal, including the addition of "multilingual support" and "MyOPAC" functions.
"Literacy" Begins!

Academic Information Literacy website
GACoS has been replaced.

GACoS as a gateway to find academic information on the Internet has been renewed as a new website called "Literacy" within the library website. We have redesigned the website to provide information more useful for learning and research. Please make a good use of "Literacy".

"Literacy" top page (English)
https://www.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/library/literacy

I want to attend a training session!

There are training sessions on how to conduct literature searches and on how to use literature management tools at the University of Tokyo.

Online training sessions are now available.
Currently, the training sessions are mainly held online (Zoom). Feel free to join us from the comfort of your own home!

For information on training sessions and new databases

To subscribe
Litetopi

@UTokyo_Literacy
2 I want to use the database!

You can search for the available database at the University of Tokyo. The "Find Database" function of GACoS has been integrated to this page. This is the same as "Database" in the menu at the top of the screen.

★The database page has renewed!

E-journal & E-book Portal

Access to Database
Access to Database (EZproxy)

E-journals and E-books available at the University of Tokyo can be accessed from this E-journal & E-book Portal.

The new off-campus access service EZproxy, which launched in August, is now supported.

This is a service for UTokyo members to use the university’s contracted electronic resources from off-campus. Please sign in with your UTokyo Account to use it.

I want to know useful information for writing reports and papers!

The necessary information for writing reports and papers are provided. You may find the available on-campus services and search methods.

About GACoS in the future

With the renewal to "Literacy", GACoS will no longer be updated. The website will be closed by the end of Academic Year 2021. Since its opening in October 1999, it has been used by many people. Thank you for all your support!
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Make use of e-books!

“I cannot go to libraries due to COVID-19…”
“I want to study or research easily at home…”
If that’s the case, please take advantage of e-books and other electronic resources available at the University of Tokyo.

What kind of e-books can I use?
You can use e-books about 60,000 titles in EBSCO eBook Collection, Maruzen eBook Library, KinoDen, Springer eBooks, Wiley Online Library, etc. You can search via OPAC, E-journal & E-book Portal or TREE.

How can I access from off-campus, such as from home?
UTokyo students, faculty and staff members can use electronic resources off campus via EZproxy service. Some procedures might need to be completed in advance. Please check the following QR code for details.

I need a quick e-book recommendation!
There is an exhibition corner "UTokyo eBook Collection" on the 3F of the General Library. You can find recommended e-books there. Please take a look when you visit the library.

[Notes on using eBooks]
Some e-resources have a limit on the number of simultaneous logins, so be sure to log out when you are done using them.
Illegal uses, such as letting those who are not members of UTokyo to use the electronic resources, or mass downloading are strictly prohibited. The entire University of Tokyo might be forced to stop using the service, so please be sure to follow the instructions for use.

How to use e-resources from off-campus (English)
https://www.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/library/literacy/user-guide/campus/offcampus

E-resources : Instructions and Directions for Use (English)
https://www.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/library/literacy/user-guide/campus/caution
Recommended for taking online classes! Introduction to the speaking area of the General Library.

“I am required to speak in an online class, but I don’t have the environment to take the class...” In that situation, please come to the General Library! You can make video calls with your PC, tablet, etc., connected to the network in the Library Plaza (To prevent spreading COVID-19, conversations between multiple people are not allowed).
Of course, UTokyo WiFi is available.
In addition to this, Soundproof Booth (total 4 rooms) for speaking out will be open soon on the 2F of the General Library. It can be used for online classes, language practice, etc., and available by appointment on the website. Please note that there may be restrictions on the use due to the prevention measures against COVID-19. Please check the General Library website for the latest information.

Service on receiving the delivered and reserved materials have been expanded.

1️⃣ Service on receiving the delivered / reserved materials at the Komaba Library is started!

Previously, the users who would request to deliver the materials from other campuses, could receive them only at their faculty libraries, the General Library, or Kashiwa Library. From August 10th, 2021, the service is expanded to deliver the materials to Komaba Library too.

2️⃣ Service on receiving the delivered and reserved materials and return in Hongo area campus have been formalized.

• I want to receive materials at my affiliated library.
• It is troublesome to return materials to the holding library.
In such cases, please use the "Receiving delivered and reserved materials at Hongo area" and "Return in Hongo area" services. These services were a temporary measure until August 31st, 2021, but it has become official service. From now on, members belonging to the Hongo area will be able to request materials from any library on the Hongo area (excluding the General Library).
You can return materials to any library in the Hongo area.

For both 1️⃣ and 2️⃣, the counters you can receive the book are displayed on the reservation page through MyOPAC.

An example of members who belong to the Faculty of Letters.
* Excluding the General Library Materials not on loan.
Reading as Privacy?

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According to an article published October 5, 2015 in the Kobe Shimbun, the name of the internationally celebrated writer Haruki Murakami was discovered on a library check out card dating back to his high school days. The article emphasizes the precocity with which Murakami in his teens had already been reading works by the French writer Joseph Kessel; all the same, this report drew public condemnation from those concerned that this violated his privacy. One of these criticisms comes from the Japan Library Association, proclaiming that such an action is “definitely unacceptable”. I personally have complicated feelings about the way the association describes the disclosure of reading records of a writer as a problem of privacy. However, this response may be just a manifestation of an insensibility peculiar to those engaged in literary studies.

In stark contrast to that of the writer, often said to be the most promising Japanese candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature, is the case of Kenzaburo Oe, an actual Nobel Prize winner, for whom it is reported that all his manuscripts were deposited in the Faculty of Letters at the University of Tokyo. The archive is due to be established in the coming years as the Oe Kenzaburo-Bunko. It is quite natural that not only researchers of Oe and his works, but ordinary readers as well would feel like taking a look at the reading records from his school days if they existed, regardless of whether he was precocious or not. Furthermore, out of such records you would come to know where his novels stem from or what literary works his texts are grafted onto. Needless to say, there are currently no check out cards or paper circulation records whatsoever at the libraries of the University of Tokyo, again due to issues of privacy. In addition, I have no evidence on hand that tells us whether there ever used to be such a system.

It goes without saying that the privacy of writers still alive, such as Murakami and Oe, should be strictly protected, but what about the writers who have been dead for a long time? Take for example the writer and physician Ogai Mori, who was also a researcher of German literature. You can see his collection of books in the Ogai-Bunko archive located in the General Library, and relive his reading experiences through such exposed personal information there. Meanwhile, you can encounter some more intimate memoirs by opening a book Bimbô Savarin (“a poor Savarin”) by Mari Mori, his daughter, in which curious scenes from his private life that go far beyond the scope of conventional literary studies are brought to light. In fact, the eminent writer, she says, had a vulgar habit of eating sôshiki-manjû (a kind of sweet served to the funeral guests) on a bowl of rice with hot green tea poured over it.

Incidentally, however, rather than the privacy of writers, shouldn’t you be more concerned when you hear the news that some public libraries have offered the personal information of their users to third parties without gaining explicit permission? That, I think, is quite another story, though.

1. About the incident of Murakami’s check out card, the fact that it was made public, including the reading records of unrelated people, has also become a problem. For the whole story on the incident and the statement made by the Japan Library Association in response, refer to the following URL. (Viewed on July 10, 2021) (https://www.jla.or.jp/portals/0/html/ijyu/tyoshocard2015.html)

2. For the sôshiki manjû of Ogai by Mari Mori, see Mari Mori, Bimbô Savarin (“a poor Savarin”), (Chikuma-Bunko, 1998) edited by Nobuko Hayakawa

3. For the provision of personal information by the public library to investigative authorities, the problem is that personal information was provided without “confirmation of warrant” based on Article 35 of the Japanese Constitution.