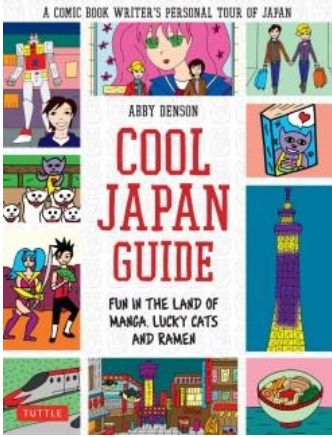
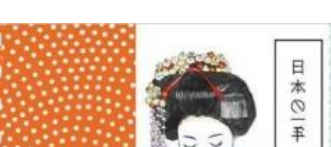


Highlighted Resources: February 2016

Planning a trip to Japan this year? The JIC library has a large selection of travel books that range from specific ([Hiking in Japan](#), call number 172008), to general ([Lonely Planet Discover Japan](#), call number 172036)



One particularly fun book that we added late last year is [Cool Japan Guide: Fun in the Land of Manga, Lucky Cats and Ramen](#) by cartoonist Abby Denson. Follow Abby, Matt, Yuuko and Kitty Sweet Tooth (Abby's cartoon cat alter ego) on an adventure all over Japan! Abby's drawings introduce readers to the culture, as well as language without being overwhelming. Because of this, you will be able to envision your own trip to Japan and what you might pay attention to. While Matt and Abby introduce places, Kitty Sweet Tooth explains the cultural aspects of those places (such as how to go to a hot spring or shrine). She also includes the links and addresses to all of the places mentioned at the back of the book. There is a lot to do in Japan and Abby gives a good introduction to those activities. Even though I lived there for two years and did quite a lot, reading this book made me want to go back and try some of the activities I didn't get a chance to while living there.



Another illustrated book we added last year is [A Year in Japan](#) by Kate T. Williamson. Kate spent one year living in Kyoto, exploring all the old capital has to offer. The book has anecdotes about the Kate's favorite spots, foods and items (such as hand towels and socks). Kate's beautiful drawings capture not just her time in Japan, but also the feelings attached to everyday and special events. Some drawings show movement and depth, while others are static and reflective of Japan's calming nature. Kate writes about all of the important events that happen over a year, paying special attention to the seasons. Her drawings of cherry blossoms, plum blossoms, hydrangeas and the maple leaves are sure to remind many readers of their significance in Japanese culture. Whether you've been to Japan, or are thinking about going, Kate's book is a great introduction to the culture and lifestyle in Japan and especially in Kyoto.