

Title	My favorite books
Sub Title	
Author	
Publisher	Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University
Publication year	2019
Jtitle	New Kyurizukai No.30 (2019. 3) ,p.7- 7
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	
Genre	Article
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=KO50001003-00000030-0007

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私の 本棚

My favorite books



A keystone text of terramechanics

● Theory of Ground Vehicles

This is a textbook focusing on terramechanics, in particular vehicle-terrain interaction mechanics which is concerned with the dynamics of vehicles during off-road locomotion. Its wide-ranging content encompasses basic mathematical derivations to examples supposing actual sites as well as applied case studies and numerical analyses. This is an indispensable work first issued in 1978, with subsequent editions incorporating and building upon the trends and outcomes of research in recent years (the picture is of the 4th edition).

The monograph which led me to becoming a researcher

● Mobile Robots in Rough Terrain

The author of this book, Karl Iagnemma, was my boss during my time at MIT. He published this book based on his doctoral dissertation in 2004. I read this in the second year of my master's studies. The clarity of the writing, the structure of the arguments, and broad scope of the research left a formidable impression on me. This got me thinking, "He is the one I want to work with." I would also characterize it as the monograph which led the way to my becoming a researcher. It is also a treasure trove as a reference book for specific examples of academic writing in English.

Jukuryo Danko

(Deliberate in council, decisive in action)

● Saka no Ue no Kumo

(Clouds above the Slope)

This is a volume which has invited repeated re-readings, perhaps because I first encountered it in the latter half of my twenties when I was the same age as the protagonists; or perhaps because there is an intermingling of the Japan of then, which exerted all its efforts to challenge the world powers of the time, and the Japan of today, which is fighting hard just to keep pace with space development. I was moved by the unmediated strength of the image of the novel conveyed by the protagonist's own calligraphy *Jukuryo Danko* (Deliberate in council, decisive in action) which decorates his birthplace.

A field guide for spacecraft

● Space Flight

This is a volume which I bought on a whim after finding it in a bookstore in downtown Boston. While many field guides directly equate space with astronomy, this particular volume methodically retraces the history of space flight from the dawn of the Space Age through to today, with an emphasis on spacecraft such as rockets and probes. This is an extremely rewarding read, and the meticulous precision of the illustrations means that I sometimes put it to use in the classroom.

The bible of lab management

● Dokusō wa Hiramekanai

(Originality doesn't come from nowhere)

This is a wonderful book that will familiarize readers with the wisdom and approaches to problem solving of Professor Kanade, whose work enjoys renown across multiple fields, in particular image processing. It leaves you with the uncanny feeling that Professor Kanade is directly addressing you from beyond the book. This is a volume studded throughout with information and insights which will make any educator involved in laboratory management feel "yes, it is typical story" This makes it a relatable, enjoyable and occasionally exasperating read.

Unmistakably from a father to his son

● Letters of a businessman to his son

This is a volume which my father presented to me with the words, "Here's something I was planning to pass on to you when you turned 30." It compiles letters which the author wrote to his son, and manages to maintain the feel of a work of philosophy even if it does contain somewhat embarrassing passages. Nevertheless, this is a volume that will make you reconsider your perceptions and coping strategies. The passage in which the author cites from Shakespeare in particular has become one of my mantras.