

I'm a WCU alum--now what?

During your career at WCU, you have gained skills that make you an effective researcher. Alumni still have access to our online [Research Guides](#) and other tutorials. You can also use [Hunter Library](#) whenever you are in Cullowhee, and [get borrowing privileges](#). Unfortunately, our database access is limited to current students, faculty, and staff. Fret not; here are some recommended research tools:

1. **Your local library.** Not only do public libraries have a great selection of books, films, and audio materials, they can often give you access to research databases that you can access from home. North Carolina citizens can get a NCLive Password from their local public library, which provides access to databases such as Academic Search Premier. Other states have [similar programs](#). Most public university libraries have community borrowing and internet searching privileges.
2. [Google Scholar](#) – Search for articles, some of which will be free online.
3. [WorldCat.org](#) and [Google Book Search](#) – Search for books, some may be full text online.
4. [MedlinePlus](#) – for quality, readable health information.
5. [Bartleby.com](#) – high-quality reference sources (*Columbia Encyclopedia*, *Bartlett's Quotations*) for free.
6. [Google Unclesam](#) – Get to high-quality information from agencies like the CDC. Find amazing statistics in sites by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census, and many other state and federal websites.
7. [National Atlas.gov](#) and [Google Maps](#) and [Google Earth](#).
8. **An RSS reader** – Sign up for a feed reader to catch your favorite news, blogs, etc. Try [Bloglines](#), [Google Reader](#), or [NewsGator](#).
9. [Ancestry.com](#) and [Your Local Genealogy Society](#).
10. [Your local newspaper](#)

*Created by Heidi Buchanan, 3/25/09
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