Top 10 Research Tips for IU Students

1. OneSearch@IU
OneSearch@IU searches almost everything the IU Libraries have access to. It will give you a list of books, articles, news stories, videos, and whatever else we have that matches your search. This is a great way to get an idea of the information out there on a subject. Go to libraries.iub.edu/onesearch.

2. IUCAT is the IU Libraries’ online catalog. Locate items from our collections, such as books or videos.
One cool feature of IUCAT: if you find a helpful book, have the call number texted to your phone. Go to iucat.iu.edu.

3. Ask a Librarian!
Having a hard time finding sources for your paper? Email, chat online, and speak in person with a librarian about any stage of your research.
For online help go to libraries.iub.edu/ask. For in-person assistance visit the West or East Tower Reference Desks, or schedule a consultation at libraries.iub.edu/consult.

4. Interlibrary Loan
Need materials the IU Libraries don’t have? Use interlibrary loan to request materials from other libraries. Go to libraries.iub.edu/interlibrary-loan, or the Libraries website choose “Interlibrary Loan” from the Services menu.

5. Films & Videos
Search for videos in the libraries’ collection with IUCAT: search by title, author, or keyword, and choosing a format like videodisc. Once you have the call number for your item, take it to Media Services (located on the ground floor of Wells Library). We don’t just have academic movies, we have lots of stuff that is just for fun.

6. Textbooks
The IU Libraries don’t typically have textbooks unless your professor has put one on reserve for your class. If so, you can borrow it from Media and Reserve Services (Wells Library ground floor). Reserve materials must be kept on site and can only be borrowed for a limited number of hours.

7. Where to study quietly
In Wells Library the West Tower floors 2 and 3, the East Tower floors 4-11, and the East Tower Reference Reading Room are for quiet study.

8. Group Study Rooms
Wells Library has several group study rooms on the 4th floor of the West Tower (available on a first-come, first-served basis). There are also 16 group study rooms in the Business/SPEA Information Commons.

9. Citing Sources
IUCAT and many databases have a “cite” button that shows citations for a source in the common citation styles like APA, MLA, and Chicago. Quick Style Guides are also available at libraries.iub.edu/help-citing-sources. If you’re still having trouble, ask a librarian! HINT: It’s a good idea to double check citations generated by databases, just in case there’s an error.

10. Libraries on Campus
There are many libraries across campus. Except for Wells Library, most specialize in a specific subject like business, art, or chemistry. Find a full list of the IUB libraries, their locations, and their hours on the IUB Libraries homepage by selecting from the “Today’s Library Hours” drop-down menu.

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