The libraries of Wake Forest University support instruction and research at the undergraduate level and in the disciplines awarding graduate degrees. The libraries of the University hold membership in the Association of College and Research Libraries, and in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. They rank among the top libraries in the Southeast in expenditures per student.

The Wake Forest University libraries include the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, the Professional Center Library (serving the Law School and the Babcock Graduate School of Management), and the Coy C. Carpenter Library of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. The library collections total over 1.6 million volumes. The Z. Smith Reynolds Library holds over 1.3 million volumes in the general collection, over 1 million reels of microfilm and pieces of microtext, and growing media collections. As a congressionally designated selective federal depository and depository of North Carolina government information, the ZSR Library holds nearly 170,000 government documents. The Professional Center Library holds over 190,000 volumes and the Coy C. Carpenter Library holds over 140,000 volumes. Subscriptions to more than 16,000 periodicals and serials, largely of scholarly content, are maintained at the three libraries. The three libraries share an online catalog that also provides entry to a variety of electronic research resources, all accessible through the campus network and via modem.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library provides a complete range of reference services including online searching, assistance with directed and independent research, tours, first-year student orientation, presentations to individual classes, and training in computer and multimedia technologies. Reference tools are available in electronic and print formats. An ever-increasing collection of electronic journals may be consulted. Wake Forest students, faculty, and staff may borrow books, photocopies, and other materials from other libraries at no charge through interlibrary loan service. Special collections in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library include the Rare Books Collection, which emphasizes American and British authors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Ethel Taylor Crittenden Baptist Historical Collection and the Wake Forest College/University Archive are maintained in this area as well.

Facilities in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library include the Information Technology Center with over 5,000 videos and DVD’s, multimedia viewing, editing, and scanning, and a computer lab for student use. Two 24-hour study areas are accessible by key-card. Several small group study rooms may be reserved.

Within the Coy C. Carpenter Library of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, specific collections deal with the written and oral history of the School of Medicine, the history of neurology, and the Suzanne Meads Art in Medicine collection. The Dorothy Carpenter Medical Archives also contain the papers of the American Neurological Association, the American Society of Neuroimaging, the Association of Medical Illustrators, the Society of Neurological Surgeons, Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, the North Carolina Surgical Association, and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital Nursing School.