Why do I like National Geographic Virtual Library?
The National Geographic Virtual Library contains all of the publications that National Geographic has released from 1888 to 1994. This makes it a great way to go back over a century in time and read about events as they were happening.

One of the things that is unique to the National Geographic Virtual Library is the Image search feature. This feature is prominent on the toolbar for the database and allows the user to search for particular images that are associated to feature articles, brief articles, map supplements, advertisements, and of course National Geographic’s iconic covers. This feature provides a cool alternative to the advanced search allowing the user to search for an image from an article or issue they could not remember the title of in addition to being a nice visual way to search for casual reading.

How have I used National Geographic Virtual Library?
I have used the National Geographic Virtual Library for casual reading about scientific or historical topics. In addition to being able to read the articles many of the articles are voiced over allowing me to listen to the articles while doing other things.
How can I use National Geographic Virtual Library?
The National Geographic Virtual Library provides a wide variety of articles from a large span of time. Although because the upper limit of that time span is 1994 academically this database is mostly useful for providing a “slice of life” type of source for documents that require digging into the past. For example in a project about the humanitarian cost of conflicts in the Middle East during the Twentieth Century National Geographic’s June 1985 issue featuring the Afghan refugee girl on the cover would be a powerful source.

Non-academically, the database provides a wealth of interesting material, much of it from a different time period than the one many of us have grown up in allowing us to experience history from a different perspective.