What’s in it for me? Success, Motivation, and Gaps
or Electric youth: student obsession with outlets (WFU IRB00021785)

Does student use of library resources, spaces, and services correlate with greater self-efficacy in student defined measures of success?

2015 Survey of Aspirational Success Factors (Left) v. 2013 Reflection Survey on Actual Success Motivators (Right)

Student rankings for salient factors in “Academic Achievement” and “Social and Residential Life.” “Academic Achievement” was their aspirational success factor, while “Social and Residential Life” was their actual motivation.

Outcome: Students utilize the library and its services to achieve self-defined measures of success and self-efficacy.

Method: Students surveyed to assess how they defined a “successful year” based on 4 factors, (see charts at right.) Focus groups to identify how the library impacted those student success factors. Outcomes compared to surveys completed by the Office of Institutional Research.

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Literature Review:

Academic Achievement
Life Satisfaction & Development
Social & Residential Life
Academic Engagement

Satisfaction by Motivational importance

Mean Satisfaction

Academic Achievement
Social and Residential Life

Mean advantage scores relative to other areas of success

They enable me to do more, myself.
Focus Group Comment

Lessons Learned

Outlets are important

Convenience and proximity when they are new on campus.

Once they are acclimated, and assignments get harder, they seek out assistance.

There is an understanding among students studying in ZSR

Good grades are important but time is devoted to social activities.

This project is part of the program “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” which is undertaken by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. This program, a cornerstone of ACRL’s Value of Academic Libraries initiative, is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.