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UCLA Research Library Implements Affective Mapping System to Improve Emotional Wellbeing on Campus

The Charles E. Young Research Library at UCLA unveils a new system to address and alleviate student stress.

Los Angeles, California – June 4, 2022 – This week at UCLA’s Charles E. Young Research Library, students will have a brand new way to communicate their state of mind.

As part of its continuing dedication to fostering a culture of excellence and innovation, the Young Research Library has installed a state-of-the-art Affective Mapping System. The system maps the physical and emotional space of the library by displaying both seating availability and the mood of the room.

On entrance into the library, a display communicates to visitors where the most space is available and what the overall emotional tenor of the building is. This allows students to optimize their library experience, and also provides a sense of solidarity and community during particularly challenging times, such as finals week.

Universities typically present their libraries as purely positive settings, characterized by buzzwords such as “discovery” and “collaboration.” It remains unclear, however, how accurately these terms describe the students’ actual experience of academic life.

As awareness of mental illness on college and university campuses increases, many schools rely on reactive measures such as counseling and psychological services. In addition to offering such services, UCLA hopes to prevent the need for them by openly addressing and relieving stress throughout the student experience. UCLA recognizes that stress is an unavoidable part of student life, and the Affective Mapping System helps students manage their exposure in order to avoid further problems.

“We are all very excited to see students make the most of this cutting-edge system,” said University Librarian Greta Carlton. “UCLA’s students are known internationally for their leadership and inventiveness, and it is a privilege to work to enhance their academic experience.”

About UCLA

UCLA is California’s largest university, with an enrollment of nearly 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The UCLA College of Letters and Science and the university’s 13 professional schools feature renowned faculty and offer 342 degree programs and majors. UCLA is a national and international leader in the breadth and quality of its academic, research, health care, cultural, continuing education and athletic programs. For more news, visit the UCLA Newsroom at <http://newsroom.ucla.edu>.

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