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Please reconsider the proposed removal of the Academic Libraries component from the annual National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS survey. Academic libraries require the data collected via IPEDS for benchmarking. It is the only free, public information available for use in benchmarking and comparisons. Removing the Academic Libraries component also denigrates the position of the library in higher education, making it not worthy of recognizing or being reported upon. Libraries themselves take up a bulk of the reporting burden so removing this vital component does not significantly lighten the load of collecting data.