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## **Comments Received:**

The agency's decision to ignore the supportive submissions to keep the AL / IPEDs survey because of agency budget constraints is short-sighted. It was pointed out that the way that academic libraries use the data is secondary to the purpose of the data being provided. Why? How the data is being used is a legitimate and purposeful use of the data. What strikes me as a "wave-off" is the opening statement in your response of how it is understood about the importance of academic libraries. In the next sentence you state that your burden of supplying data of much more important areas of concern is what is driving this decision. What you failed to point out is that the purpose of academic libraries goes beyond the service to their particular institution. Academic libraries are part of educating the citizens of this country and in the development of critical thinking and of life-long learners who apply information literacy knowledge to what they read, watch, and hear. Because academic libraries stand at the forefront of battling misinformation and teaching important metaliteracies such as artificial intelligence information literacy, data that supports academic libraries should be maintained. Seeing that President Biden and our law making bodies are prioritizing the safety and securing of our citizens in light of this rapidly changing industry and that academic libraries have a role to play in this by educating users on how to keep themselves and others safe and within the bonds of ethical and legal use, it would seem that the data provided by the AL survey is an essential component in assisting our nation ensure that our citizens are ready for this growing problem of misinformation and fake data/false science. Citizens have the right to know how institutions prioritize the "heart" of the institution. This survey helps translate that importance and should be maintained. One last thing, you mention the number of downloads over a given period. I often share the data that I have pulled with colleagues. They had no need to download the data because I provided them with what they needed.