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The federal government has collected statistics about academic libraries since 1966. The Academic Libraries survey makes it possible to understand budget, staffing, and service trends in college and university libraries. These data also allow individual academic libraries to benchmark compared to their institutional peers.

* I oppose the plan to eliminate the Academic Libraries survey.

The survey is the best longitudinal data source for evaluating how well (or poorly) federal, state, and institutional funding support for educational resources and services over time, and provides crucial information about changes and trends in college and university libraries.

* Elimination of the Academic Libraries component without an alternative solution would do a disservice to libraries and to higher education as a whole.

The proposed elimination of the Academic Libraries survey may seem "penny wise" but it is absolutely "pound foolish".