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I oppose the plan to eliminate the Academic Libraries survey as a director of an academic library. This free, standardized, long-standing longitudinal data was vital for my program review of the library in several years ago, making data to compare against peer and aspiration institutions easily accessible. As a unique academic department, our library program review does not have the same data set as other academic departments with for-credit courses that can speak about grade distributions, per credit hour costs, etc. The AL survey is one of the main data sets we are able to use to demonstrate to our administrators how we compare to peer and aspiration institutions for library funding, staffing, faculty and staff salaries, print and digital collection size, and print and digital collection use. Without this data set, future program reviews will lack essential context and data and it will prove more difficult to demonstrate value.

IPEDS data has also been used by my library in the past to add to successful grant applications.

Although the Department of Education may track a comparatively low number of downloads from the IPEDS website, this number is not accurately indicative of low usage of the data set. IPEDS data are collected annually; each year's data comprise a static data set. Libraries typically download the data a single time, but then manipulate the data many times for many different needs.