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I oppose the plan to eliminate the Academic Libraries survey. I am a former academic and librarian. The unique longitudinal data of the Academic Libraries survey provides crucial information about changes and trends in college and university libraries.

As the Ala has shown: The AL component of IPEDS supports the agency mission and statutory obligation, as well as a higher education ecosystem that relies on this data; data from the AL component of IPEDS is critical to understanding the value libraries provide to the institutional mission; removal of the AL component from IPEDS—a mandatory and therefore comprehensive reporting system—will deprive institutions of the ability to effectively benchmark with peers for purposes of investment and resource allocation, particularly with respect to student enrollment and success; with the inclusion of academic library data, IPEDS is a unique longitudinal dataset that enables the higher education sector to understand the cost of information over time, as well as the correlation between research expenditures and the cost of information; and the AL burden is both lower than other components of IPEDS and willingly met by libraries themselves.

Please preserve the the Academic Library component of the annual data collection of IPEDS.