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My name is Amanda and I have worked in academic libraries for 17 years. I oppose the plan to eliminate the Academic Libraries survey. The unique longitudinal data of the Academic Libraries survey provides crucial information about changes and trends in college and university libraries. Currently, I am a manager in a community college library, and the data from Academic Libraries survey is important to our benchmarking, assessment, and funding.

Additionally, elimination of the Academic Libraries survey creates an equity issue for academic libraries, researchers, and students. This survey is the only accurate, comprehensive, and public source of information about academic libraries. It is cost prohibitive for libraries to subscribe to data services, and this data is freely available to everyone — academic library and other senior administrators and decision-makers, faculty, and students. It allows libraries to communicate their value to a wide variety of stakeholders, as well as use the data to impact decision making. It would be a huge disservice to academic institutions to take away the libraries component, rendering the library an unimportant part of the institution. We know that institutions, programs, and departments would not be able to be accredited without library support. This data contributes to that process.

I am asking that you reconsider this plan and keep the Academic Libraries survey intact.