

**Author Full Name :** Anonymous**Received Date :** 06/12/2024 09:49 PM**Comments Received :**

I strongly oppose the idea of eliminating the Academic Libraries survey. This data is incredibly important for academic libraries, leading to responsible decision making for resource allocation, staffing, collections, and facilities. For me, however, it is ultimately the cost of goodwill, student retention, and positive campus perception that I find deeply troubling about this plan.

For many students, the library is THEIR place on campus. They engage with staff, spaces, collections, for free, and they see immediate responses to their needs: new tech, printing jams fixed, new resources, more places to sit, in a way that feels immediate, personal, and necessary in the discourse around the "machine of higher education." It is often the only space on campus that remains open late into the night and on weekends, catering to the diverse schedules and needs of the student body.

Without accurate data as a guide, libraries may struggle in both meeting student needs as well as telling the importance of the library role in the campus ecosystem. We know that a poorly told story can end a resource: diminishing the library, with its deep, emotionally charged, supportive role for university students, in turn reduces university outcomes like retention, degree completion, and more. It also affects goodwill of student communities on campus as a time when we should be building relationships to our communities and hopefully engaging with alumni in their future success.

Libraries can already fight against invisibility in their campus environments; it can be a struggle to communicate the value of these spaces to administrators who are looking at course volume and donor dollars for a new stadium. But time and time again, it is the library that alumni return to, time and time again, it is the library that helps with the printing before a class, or getting a doc back that a student thought was deleted forever, or finding the text that completes the last capstone, or even just has a seat for them, a place to focus and be curious and study. Taking away any tool to do that well, taking away the data libraries need to tell the story to their institutions, to reflect back to communities and donors, is the exact opposite of creating meaningful higher education spaces for our learning communities.