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Dear Mr. Revesz and Colleagues:

I am the University Librarian (i.e., Dean of Libraries) Emeritus at UC San Diego. I write today in opposition to the plan to eliminate the Academic Libraries survey.

In the 18 years I served at UCSD, and in the decade before that when I was a library administrator at UCLA, I made routine and regular use of IPEDS data in making decisions regarding the collections, services, and staffing of these two major academic libraries (and long-term members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)). The longitudinal dataset that is IPEDS is 1) crucial because it documents in more detail than other surveys the changes and trends in college and university libraries and the communities they serve and 2) singular precisely because it is longitudinal. As valuable as annual data are, year-over-year data are exponentially more valuable still.

I urge you to reconsider the plan to eliminate this invaluable resource to the nation's colleges and universities.

Many thanks for your consideration, and for your service. With best regards,

Brian E. C. Schottlaender
University Librarian Emeritus, UC San Diego