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As a former Academic Librarian who coordinated the collection of data for IPEDS for a number of years, I want to show my support for keeping the Academic Library section part of the IPEDS data collection. It is important for libraries in potentially more obvious way such as benchmarking against peers but I think one of the biggest reasons for keeping this section is the legitimacy it provides for University Administration. IPEDS is respected and followed by University Administration - if Academic Library data is removed from IPEDs, it may make administrators feel that libraries themselves are unimportant and their data points are not worth considering in the larger scope of University data. In an age where library services are more integral to the students than ever, I would implore the National Center for Education Statistics to reconsider the removal of this section. Libraries are the heart of University campuses and the data this survey collects is valuable in to strengthen and grow the library so it remains a mainstay for university students, staff, and alumni.

Thank you for your time.