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I am the Dean of the Library at Loyola Marymount University, a founding member of the SCELIC Consortium of private academic libraries in the U.S. We cannot plan for the future without current comparative data provided from other academic libraries. There is no alternative to IPEDS. I wholeheartedly endorse the following statement regarding the elimination of academic library data from IPEDS:

Whereas, the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELIC) is composed of 109 not-for-profit private academic and research member libraries and 239 academic affiliate libraries committed to enhancing access to scholarly resources and advancing academic excellence within higher education;

Whereas, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) library survey has served as a critical tool for collecting comprehensive data on academic libraries, contributing to informed decision-making and accountability in higher education;

Whereas, academic libraries play an indispensable role in supporting teaching, learning, and research endeavors within institutions of higher education, providing access to scholarly resources, expertise, and essential services;

Whereas, the IPEDS library survey enables benchmarking, comparison, and assessment of library resources and services, fostering collaboration and improvement efforts among institutions, while also providing the essential data necessary for institutions to demonstrate compliance with accreditation requirements;

Whereas, the data derived from the IPEDS library survey is essential for conducting research, informing policy decisions, and understanding trends and challenges in academic librarianship;

Whereas, transparency and public accountability in higher education are enhanced through the standardized, reliable data provided by IPEDS, including library statistics; now, therefore, it be

Resolved, that SCELIC firmly opposes any proposal to discontinue the IPEDS library survey and urges the U.S. Department of Education to maintain and preserve this critical component of the data collection process;

Resolved, that SCELIC affirms its commitment to advocating for the continuation of the IPEDS library survey, recognizing its significance in ensuring the strength, effectiveness, and accountability of academic libraries within higher education, including its pivotal role in accreditation reviews;

Resolved, that SCELIC will communicate this resolution to the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, as well as to relevant stakeholders, including educational institutions, library consortia, and associations.

This communication aims to underscore the critical importance of preserving the IPEDS library survey and recognizing its invaluable contributions to the advancement of higher education and academic librarianship.

Sincerely yours,  
Kristine R. Brancolini  
Dean of the Library  
Loyola Marymount University