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It is a free and open dataset to compare library holdings, personnel, and expenses across many different types and sizes of institutions. With IPEDS, we can compare Otis College to other AICAD schools as well as non-AICAD schools. Keeping the survey also demonstrates that libraries are a necessary component of higher education.

The IPEDS data is also the basis of the ACRL Library Survey, which is much more detailed. However, it costs money to access that dataset, and some colleges do not contribute their data. Fortunately AICAD pays for that access and shares comparison reports.