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Our academic library (Binghamton University at SUNY) is committed to using data-driven evidence to support our services, collections, spaces, and staffing. The notice that IPEDs will be discontinued after the 2023/24 cycle is of deep concern, and will affect our ability to advocate for increased support and funding within our R1 institution and system-wide within the State University of New York.

IPEDs is a respected source of higher education data, and the scope of this data allows for benchmarking with peer institutions. These include completing gap analyses of staffing and funding that provide an important advocacy tool with administrators and faculty within higher education. The loss of this collected data will result in lower awareness of the scope of our services, the size and complexity of our collections, and the staffing needed to maintain access to these spaces and services. Comparative studies on the impact of library services and collections are currently possible due to the scope and accuracy of IPEDs data.

We are also concerned that loss of this academic library data will be of greater impact to smaller academic institutions who are not members of the Association of College and Research Libraries. These institutions rely solely on IPEDs data to help justify support for their library budget. The loss of IPEDs academic libraries data will eliminate the sole reliable freely available source of this library services and collections data.