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The longitudinal data collected about academic libraries is crucial for several reasons.

- These data allow libraries, faculty, students, and university administrators to evaluate their library in the context of peer institutions, a regular practice used when allocating library budgets and make other decisions about library collections, staffing, etc.
- They provide invaluable transparency about the state of library collections and services across higher education, which (among other things) assists prospective students in making informed choices.
- They allow librarians and others to discern trends in the growth (or shrinkage) of academic libraries, which is an important tool for advocacy.