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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed revisions to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), particularly the decision to discontinue the collection of data on Academic Libraries (AL).

As a research librarian and a member of the academic library community, I previously commented on this matter during the first public comment period, emphasizing the critical importance of this data. The response from our community was strong, with over 700 comments submitted, yet it appears that our concerns have not been adequately addressed.

Academic libraries play a pivotal role in supporting the educational and research missions of our institutions. The data collected through IPEDS is essential for:

- Institutional Planning and Decision-Making: Accurate and comprehensive data on academic libraries helps institutional leaders make informed decisions about resource allocation, strategic planning, and the development of new programs and services.
- Benchmarking and Performance Metrics: IPEDS data enables academic libraries to benchmark their performance against peer institutions, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate their value to stakeholders.
- Advocacy and Funding: The data is crucial for advocating for adequate funding and support at local, state, and federal levels. Without it, academic libraries will face significant challenges in justifying their needs and demonstrating their impact.
- Research and Analysis: Researchers and policymakers rely on IPEDS data to analyze trends in higher education, including the evolving role of academic libraries. Discontinuing this data collection will create a significant gap in our understanding of these trends.

The decision to cease collecting data on academic libraries undermines the ability of our institutions to fulfill our missions and serve our communities effectively. I urge the Education Department to reconsider this decision and maintain the collection of data on academic libraries in IPEDS.

The academic library community has made its position clear: this data is invaluable and must be preserved. I respectfully request that the Education Department take our concerns into account and continue to support the collection of data on academic libraries.

Thank you for considering my comments.