

**Author Full Name :** Keith Lance**Received Date :** 06/24/2024 10:55 AM**Comments Received :**

The federal government plays a unique and irreplaceable role in the collection and dissemination of high-quality public data about college and university libraries. Historically, that responsibility has been assigned to the National Center for Education Statistics. NCES should be funded sufficiently to continue discharging these duties. Otherwise, I would strongly recommend the reassignment of academic library data collection and dissemination to the Institute of Museum and Library Services-- which would require new funding for IMLS. It is entirely unacceptable for NCES to cease to fulfill these duties without them being reassigned to another federal agency with the staff, expertise, and experience required for such large-scale data collection. Planning, evaluation, budgeting, management, and other important decisions by higher education generally and academic libraries specifically require ready access to complete, accurate, publicly and readily available data about the nation's academic libraries.