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To whom it may concern,

As library services are excellent at evolving in providing services and essential student outcomes to higher education institutions, they must remain a part of the reporting system. Library services are not outdated versions of academic libraries, but vital collaborators in educating lifelong learners in essential research and information management skills. In addition, libraries are part of institutional research teams, OER contributions, collaborations for STEM and Makerspaces, and contributors to the conversations around RSI and HIPS. Therefore, the data needed for advancing scholarship and research in the evolving nature of libraries is key to the success of higher education planning. Furthermore, the data is necessary to effectively plan and steward our people and resources using peer institution comparison. Since the ACRL Benchmark is voluntary and unavailable to all institutions, this data from IPEDS must be included and retained. Instead, look for ways to limit and improve the number of questions to include a more current picture of the nature of library services provision and staffing. The questions entail an outdated picture of libraries and could be simplified by improving the questions and directions related to data entry.

I advise your team look at the usage and downloads to recognize the value of the information, if you have not already done so.