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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Academic Libraries survey. I am a community college librarian, and this survey has been an invaluable resource for tracking and analyzing changes and trends in college libraries across the nation.

The unique longitudinal data provided by the Academic Libraries survey is crucial for understanding the evolving landscape of academic libraries. This data allows us to monitor important metrics over time, offering insights that are essential for strategic planning and decision-making. For instance, the survey's data has been instrumental in our periodic program reviews, enabling us to compare our staffing and budget with peers around the country and to use that when we need to make a case for change.

Furthermore, the Academic Libraries survey supports scholarly research, particularly in understanding the roles and attitudes of community college librarians. I have personally relied on this data in my scholarship related to scholarly communication within community colleges. The insights gained from the survey will contribute to a deeper understanding of our profession and have informed best practices that benefit our entire academic community when I complete my article and it is published.

Eliminating the NCES Academic Libraries survey would create a significant gap in the data available to librarians, researchers, and policymakers. The loss of this vital resource would hinder our ability to track progress, make evidence-based decisions, and advocate effectively for the needs of our libraries and the communities we serve.

I urge you to reconsider the proposal to eliminate the NCES Academic Libraries survey and to recognize the critical importance of this data in supporting the ongoing development and success of academic libraries nationwide.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.