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Comments Received:

Libraries are a significant investment in the education of students in higher education institutions. Without the libraries, the cost of funding for individual researchers and students would be another burden on them that many could not afford. By eliminating the library section, it would appear that NCES does not value libraries and the contributions they make. The IPEDS statistics should help administrators, faculty, and staff learn the value of the libraries as a part of the overall picture of their institution. Some libraries have librarians also serving as faculty but are not counted in the statistics for other faculty. Cutting those numbers would deplete the overall number of faculty and staff if the Academic Library survey section were eliminated. For most libraries, the staff salaries represent 50% or more of the total budget for the library. By removing the survey, that fact would not be available. Some parents and students looking to attend an institution of worth look for the library as a part of the value of higher education and a place they know they can depend on. They may assume that libraries are no longer valued if the library survey is not there. There is a need and use to the library survey being a part of IPEDS.