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Please continue collecting data about Academic Libraries as you've been doing since 1966!

The idea of ending this unique and important longitudinal data collection is shortsighted -- and it won't even save much money, as it literally has never been easier to collect, or cheaper to store, data than at the present time. Furthermore, since it's not possible to go back and collect missed data, to stop the survey would forever create a break in statistical information (even if it were resumed), thus directly reducing the usefulness of a powerful tool for assessment.

The Academic Libraries survey makes it possible to understand budget, staffing, and service trends in libraries, and also allows individual libraries to benchmark their collections (and collection strengths and gaps) in comparison to and contrast with their institutional peers, thus avoiding duplication of effort and excess costs. Survey data are widely used in and entirely necessary to academic libraries: they help to focus collecting efforts and -- as a direct result -- this survey creates savings, not only of money but also other resources as well!

University libraries are a wonderful resource for the public good (I use them often), and I would hate to see their costs increased and value reduced by this "penny wise and dollar foolish" proposal to stop collecting information. Knowledge is key in making good choices for library collections and ensuring the wise use of resources.

Please continue this crucial survey! Thanks for your consideration.