## **Public Comments for ICR 202402-1850-008**

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## **Comments Received:**

Please reconsider your plan to stop collecting longitudinal data about college & university libraries. Just a fraction of the budget the Pentagon gets & uses for unnecessary expenditures would fund this survey for years. It is a bet you can almost always win that when any entity - governmental, educational, corporate, or non-profit - are trying to save money, the very first place they will cut will be the library. But when a center whose supposed concern is education thinks that it is not important to know what is happening to academic libraries, not important to have statistics, for instance, on the use of and demand for print vs. online materials, and the budget impact of these demands on academic libraries of various sizes -- well, that is taking contempt for libraries to a new level. And it makes you look really hypocritical too. Libraries are a vital part of the beating heart of education. You can't get a complete picture of what is happening to education without it. And longitudinal data is unique in that you can't go back and do it later. If you don't do it at the time, it is lost forever and the ability to look at historical trends and functions of the library is compromised. I have been working in academic libraries for over fifty years now, and can attest to the importance that these statistics have in providing factual data for sound decision-making. PLEASE CONTINUE TO COLLECT THIS DATA!!!!!!