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Comments Received :

I strongly oppose the plan to eliminate the Academic Libraries component of IPEDS. I am an advocate with the American Library Association, and I work as an academic librarian at an accredited, doctoral-granting institution.

Academic libraries are a foundation of postsecondary education. Academic librarians teach students information literacy, digital literacy, and generative AI literacy along with a myriad other services. These three skills are arguably the most important skills of our time.

The loss of data provided by the Academic Libraries survey will marginalize the impact of academic libraries by hindering their abilities to demonstrate said impact via longitudinal and peer data. The domino effect will 1) diminish the perceived value of academic libraries, 2) pave the way for further reductions in academic libraries' already-insufficient budgets, and finally, 3) result in students who are less prepared to address current and future challenges, which is a shameful disservice to students and to society as a whole.

The real harm of eliminating the AL component of IPEDS dwarfs any perceived benefits.