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Comments Received :

Please do not eliminate the Academic Libraries portion of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). This data collection tool is vital for small libraries that are not able to afford the cost of accessing the data collected by ACRL. IPEDS is the only freely available source of this benchmarking data. The paywall for ACRL data causes an equity issue for poorer institutions. IPEDS allows us to compare data among similar libraries and bring attention to needs with our administration and can help us to improve our services by supporting teaching. Learning, and research. ACRL is focused solely on library data, and so data is not considered within the context of the entire institution. Another result will be the fragmentation of data, as different entities will try to fill the gap. There will no longer be a consistent, reliable data collection tool (many current data collection services now align with IPEDS descriptions and categories). Thank you for your time in reconsidering the elimination of this useful tool.