Comparing the ALS to IPEDS AL Component

I. <u>IPEDS and ALS general information</u>: this section highlights the core differences between the **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Survey**, conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and the **Academic Libraries Survey**, previously conducted by the NCES and the Census Bureau.

	ALS	IPEDS
Universe	• Uses the IPEDS universe as a frame to select eligible institutions in the US • Includes degree-granting institutions only • N = 3,827 (as of 2008)	• All postsecondary institutions in the US and other jurisdictions that participate in federal student aid programs authorized under title IV of Higher Education Act • Includes degree-granting and non-degree-granting institutions • N = 7,178 (as of 2010)
Data Collection Schedule	• Biennially • Collected during 1 long data collection that opens in the fall and closes in March	• Nearly all IPEDS data are collected annually; some are collected biennially • Collected during 3 data collection periods with fixed end dates
Data Collection Process	• Data are entered by librarians • Librarians key data into the system • State librarians serve as state coordinators for the survey	• Each institution identifies a "keyholder" who enters data • Keyholders may key data or upload data • Coordinators for some states and for-profit entities review the data before final submission
Data Collection Support	• Support is available through Census Bureau • One NCES staff member • Webinar training available through the American Library Association	• Dedicated Help Desk available daily at toll-free number for keyholders • Each survey has an NCES staff member assigned to it (7 total survey directors and 2 team leaders) • Training for new keyholders, online webinars, and other trainings for keyholders and data users
Data Collection Cost and Institutional Burden	• Overall burden: 8.3 hours for 1 survey with up to 100 data elements	• Overall burden: 113.9 hours for 9 surveys with up to 15,000 data elements
Data Tools	• Peer Comparison Tool (12,000 visits per month)	• Data Center (250,000+ visits per month) • College Navigator (1 million+ visits per month) • Data Feedback Report (available through IPEDS Data Center)
Publications	• *First Look*—1 per collection (every 2 years; most recent *First Look* downloaded 3,200+ times since release in December 2009) • Other NCES publications – Statistical Analysis Reports (none since 2001)	• *First Look*—3 per year (most recent *First Look* downloaded 6,300+ times) • IPEDS Descriptive Analysis Reports • Other NCES publications – Statistical Analysis Reports – Statistics in Brief – Web Tables – Issue Brief (most recent 2010)

II. Reporting Process Differences: The ALS will formally be integrated into the IPEDS 2014-15 Spring Collection for postsecondary institutions, which will most likely open December 2014 and close April 2015. It will be called the Academic Libraries component. This section highlights the main differences in reporting procedures between the 2 collections.

Old Academic Libraries Survey (ALS)	New IPEDS Academic Libraries Component (AL)
voluntary	mandatory
administered by Census Bureau /NCES	included in IPEDS (administered by NCES)
collection time: November -February	spring collection
biennial	annual
completed by Library Director	completed by IPEDS Key Holder & Library Representative

III. Summary of changes to the ALS: This section highlights the changes to the 2012 ALS that will be integrated into the 2014-15 AL. While the reporting of library staff, expenditures, collection, and services have been maintained, more granular details in the reporting of these categories have been collapsed or eliminated to be consistent with IPEDS reporting. For more details on why some categories have been added, eliminated, or modified, please view the Technical Review Panel's notes.

	Old Academic Libraries Survey (ALS)	New IPEDS Academic Libraries Component (AL)
Eligibility Criteria	• Library expenditures exceed $10,000; organized collection; trained staff; established hours; physical facility	• Eligibility has been reduced to Library expenditures > $ 0 (other criteria have been dropped) **smaller libraries with expenditures <= $100,000 will be required to report collections, while larger libraries with expenditures >$100,000 will report collections and expenditures**
Outlets	• Report # of branch and independent libraries	• No change (except to include virtual and/or electronic libraries in count)
Staff	• Report librarians, other staff, total, other paid staff, student assistants • Report FTE staff; employee fringe benefits • Report salaries and wages allocated by staff	• Section has been separated: all staff information (1st bullet from the left and FTE staff) will be reported in the IPEDS HR component while all expenditure (salaries, wages, fringe benefits) paid from the library budget will remain in AL • SOC category for library staff has changed to librarians; library technicians; and archivists, curators, and museum technicians;

Library Expenditures	• Total salaries and wages • Purchases of books • Service costs • Other information resources • Total expenditures	***only libraries with expenditures > $100,000 will be required to report it*** • Total salary and wage expenditures collected, if paid from library budget • Purchases of books, subscriptions, and other resources expenditures will be collapsed under "materials/services costs" • Total expenditure still reported
Library Collections	• Report books, e-books, microforms, and audiovisual materials • Is library collection entirely electronic?	• Reporting what was added during the FY will no longer be reported; instead only report a count at the end of the FY year. • Physical and digital/electronic counts of materials are differentiated for books, databases, and media (which include audiovisual materials).
Library Services	• Interlibrary loans provided to other libraries • Interlibrary loans and documents received • Circulation • Information services to groups	• Interlibrary loans provided to other libraries category still reported, just collapsed • Interlibrary loans and documents received category still reported, just collapsed • Circulation still reported, just differentiated by physical and electronic/digital collection • Information services to groups has been eliminated
Library services, typical week	•	• Eliminated because the category is inconsistent with IPEDS reporting
Electronic services	•	• Eliminated because information is collected elsewhere and these services are already provided by most libraries
Information literacy	•	• Eliminated because IPEDS doesn't collect information about discipline-based standards
Virtual Reference	•	• Eliminated due to probability of changing technology definitions in future years; only the indication of having a general virtual reference will be asked