

PRESS RELEASE

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Lyrasis Announces Launch on April 1, 2009

Atlanta, GA, and Philadelphia, PA, April 1, 2009 — Lyrasis, the new regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals, launches on April 1, 2009. Formed by the merger of two well-established networks, PALINET and SOLINET, Lyrasis represents over 4,000 member libraries and cultural heritage institutions and now serves nearly a third of the United States, plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Currently the largest library network, Lyrasis is a national leader in innovation, collaboration, and effective support of libraries and information professionals.

“Lyrasis creates unprecedented opportunities for members to collaborate, innovate, and draw strength from each other within a large and diverse library community,” says Kate Nevins, Lyrasis Chief Executive Officer.

Through membership in Lyrasis, organizations benefit from extended networking and collaborative opportunities; personalized service and support; expanded education and consulting programs; greater purchasing power on more than 900 products and services from over 157 vendor partners; and innovative technology solutions to meet the challenges of constant change. Lyrasis facilitates communities of interest, where members work together as peers and with industry experts.

Lyrasis President Cathy Wilt notes, “Lyrasis is brand new, but our roots are deep in supporting resource sharing among members and the community of libraries and cultural heritage institutions.”

Members of the new organization, now founding members of Lyrasis, will access established programs and areas of expertise from both networks, including SOLINET’s successful track record with major grants and foundation awards and expert reputation in disaster recovery and preservation, and PALINET initiatives like the Mass Digitization Collaborative, the Library Leadership Network, and technology expertise with open source and other emerging tools.

A new website goes live on April 1. The site, www.lyrasis.org, offers Lyrasis members access to new and expanded features, including the combined education program of classes and workshops, with many new topics and interest tracks; the largest array of products and services from any library network at discounted member rates; a consolidated job bank; the Technology Sandbox where members try out new software and tools; expanded RSS feeds, blogs, and podcasts; and more.

For more information about Lyrasis membership, please visit www.lyrasis.org after April 1, 2009.

About Lyrasis

A regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals, Lyrasis facilitates their success today and tomorrow by providing access to shared knowledge and expertise, innovative products and services, and customized solutions to serve their communities effectively and, by working together, advance the profession. Lyrasis is the new organization resulting from the merger of PALINET and SOLINET, and currently serves nearly a third of the U.S., including 16 states east of the Mississippi, plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, please visit www.lyrasis.org.

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