

## PRESS RELEASE

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### First Southeastern Member Joins Lyrasis Mass Digitization Collaborative

Atlanta, GA, July 15, 2009 – Lyrasis announces that North Georgia College & State University Library Technology Center (North Georgia), Dahlonega, GA, is the first Southeastern member to join the Lyrasis Mass Digitization Collaborative. The Collaborative, founded by PALINET in October 2008, recently expanded member participation from its original Mid-Atlantic region to include the Southeastern region as a result of the recent merger with SOLINET.

"We are so excited to join the Collaborative. We were looking for an opportunity to digitize our most important historical documents, our college catalogs and yearbooks, and what we can achieve with the Collaborative will cost us less than half of what it would cost to do it ourselves," said Cynthia Horne, North Georgia Archives Assistant. North Georgia has a rich history as a land-grant college, including the distinction of being the first co-educational college in the state and the first public college in Georgia to admit women, in 1873, and the first to graduate a woman, in 1878.

The Collaborative offers members the capability to contribute materials for digitization as part of a regional digital collection. Funded by the Lyrasis membership and supported in part through a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Collaborative's first goal is the conversion of approximately 60,000 books into digital format. Through Lyrasis' partnership with the Internet Archive, the new digital resources are shared on the web, ensuring open access to rare and special library collections from the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern regions.

"We welcome our first Southeastern participant and look forward to many other libraries and cultural heritage institutions from the region becoming active Collaborative participants," says Laurie Gemmill, Lyrasis Digital Services Program Manager.

Participation in the Lyrasis Mass Digitization Collaborative greatly benefits all libraries and cultural heritage institutions. Institutions with less digitization experience can jump start a project, while larger programs can get high-volume, high-quality digitization done quickly at a low cost. Currently, thirty-one libraries and cultural heritage institutions are members of the Collaborative, including the newest participants: Bloomsburg University (PA), Bucknell University (PA), Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (PA), Curtis Institute of Music (PA), Duquesne University (PA), Free Library of Philadelphia (PA), Gettysburg College (PA), Lehigh University (PA), Penn State University (PA), Rutgers University (NJ), and Villanova University (PA).

For more information, contact Laurie Gemmill, Lyrasis Digital Services Program Manager, at 800.233.3401 x 1291, [laurie.gemmill@lyrasis.org](mailto:laurie.gemmill@lyrasis.org), or visit the Mass Digitization Collaborative section of the Lyrasis website at <http://www.lyrasis.org/Products-and-Services/Digital-Services/Mass-Digitization-Collaborative.aspx>.

### **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](http://www.lyrasis.org).

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