

## PRESS RELEASE

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### LYRASIS Awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant for Open Source Support Initiatives

Atlanta, GA, October 15, 2009 — Kate Nevins, chief executive officer of LYRASIS, announced that LYRASIS has been awarded a grant of \$192,000 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to plan a support service for assisting libraries with the adoption and use of open source software and systems.

Open source programs are increasingly deployed within the library community, and LYRASIS has identified the need for support services to improve effective implementation. The grant will provide LYRASIS with consulting expertise and dedicated staff resources over a six-month period to assess library needs in depth, develop strategies to address those needs, and define a plan for establishing a service to support informed decision-making, adoption, and use of open source software applications within the library community.

Cathy Wilt, president of LYRASIS, who leads innovation efforts for the organization, said, “Despite the desire for widespread adoption, library open source developers, many of whom are volunteers or employees of individual libraries, have limited capacity for providing support to users or potential users. As a not-for-profit organization built on collaboration among members, LYRASIS is well positioned to foster adoption of and provide independent support for a range of collaboratively-developed open source applications.”

#### About LYRASIS

Created in 2009 by the merger of PALINET and SOLINET and later joined by NELINET, LYRASIS is the nation’s largest regional membership organization serving libraries and information professionals. The primary service area is the Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern, and New England regions but LYRASIS has members in many US states and in other countries. Though large in

scale, LYRASIS is known for its local touch - fostering collaboration and cooperation among members and facilitating their success through networking and collaboration, innovative solutions, and significant cost savings through group purchasing for products and services. For more information, please visit [www.lyrasis.org](http://www.lyrasis.org).

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