

PRESS RELEASE

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First New England Member Joins LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative

Atlanta, GA, December 15, 2009 – College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME, is the first LYRASIS member from its New England region to join the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative. The Collaborative now has active participants from the Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern, and New England regions of the US, reflecting the diverse membership of LYRASIS, the nation's largest membership organization serving libraries and information professionals.

"We are delighted to be working with LYRASIS to digitize materials, primarily from our archives. As a small college with limited staffing, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to participate in this well-planned, professional digitization program at a cost we can afford," said Jane Hultberg, director of Thorndike Library, College of the Atlantic.

The Collaborative was established to assist members with their digitization needs. As part of this effort, LYRASIS has joined the Open Content Alliance which supports free and open access to the rich cultural heritage materials of LYRASIS member institutions. LYRASIS partners with the Internet Archive to share the new digital resources on the web. The Collaborative is funded by the LYRASIS membership and supported in part through a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

"It is exciting to welcome our first New England participant," said Laurie Gemmill, LYRASIS digital services program manager. "We look forward to other libraries and cultural heritage institutions from the region joining the Collaborative as it continues to grow."

Participation in the 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-nine libraries and

cultural heritage are members of the Mass Digitization Collaborative, including the newest participants: American University (DC), Emory University (GA), Mary Baldwin College (VA), North Georgia College and State University (GA), Southern Adventist University (TN), and University of South Carolina Upstate (SC).

For more information, contact Laurie Gemmill, LYRASILS digital services program manager, at 800.233.3401 x 1291 or laurie.gemmill@lyrasis.org. Visit the LYRASILS Mass Digitization Collaborative at www.lyrasis.org/massdigitizationcollaborative.

About LYRASILS

Created in April, 2009 by the merger of PALINET and SOLINET and joined shortly thereafter by NELINET, LYRASILS is the nation's largest regional membership organization serving libraries and information professionals - providing opportunities for networking and collaboration, offering innovative solutions, and significant cost savings through group purchasing for products and services. For more information, please visit www.lyrasis.org.

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