

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Mass Digitization Collaborative Now Open to Lyrasis Members

Atlanta, GA, April 28, 2009 — Lyrasis, the new regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals created from the merger of PALINET and SOLINET, announces that the Mass Digitization Collaborative originally created to serve members in the Mid-Atlantic region has now been expanded to include Lyrasis members throughout the Southeastern US and beyond. For legacy SOLINET members, this is a new benefit of Lyrasis membership, one of the expanded collaborative opportunities that is an outcome of the merger.

"We are very happy that the Collaborative now reaches nearly a third of the US, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands," says Laurie Gemmill, Lyrasis Digital Services Program Manager. "This is an unprecedented opportunity for cultural heritage institutions of all types and sizes to work together across a wide geographic area to create and share important digital resources."

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.

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.

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

### **About Lyris**

A regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals, Lyris 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. Lyris 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.lyris.org](http://www.lyris.org).

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