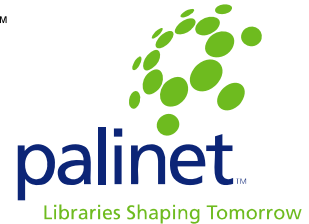


press release

S O L I N E T[™]
A NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE



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PALINET and SOLINET Boards in Merger Talks: Due Diligence Underway

The new organization's membership of more than 3000 institutions would establish an unparalleled Community of Practice creating greater opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Atlanta, GA and Philadelphia, PA -- February 22, 2008 – The Boards of Trustees of two leading library cooperatives, PALINET and SOLINET, met earlier this week and are moving forward with their intention to combine the two organizations, subject to the approval of their respective memberships. This is an exciting opportunity for two successful, membership-driven organizations to join together to serve a diverse library community. With the combined membership, resources and expertise, the new organization would be uniquely positioned to meet the rapidly evolving needs of libraries and cultural heritage organizations.

Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Chair, SOLINET Board of Directors, and Dean of Libraries for University of Kentucky Libraries, explains, “It makes sense strategically. Both organizations are passionate about the services we provide, and there is much synergy between the two Cooperatives. Members would benefit from combining the strengths of both organizations.”

Due diligence is currently underway and will continue for approximately the next 60 days, after which the Boards of both organizations are expected to make a final recommendation to their memberships. Subsequently, a series of Town Hall meetings will be held throughout the regions so that all members can participate in open discussions. The process will conclude with a vote by each membership to proceed.

“Together, we have one of those rare and special opportunities to effect the changes needed to impact the challenges we face today and into the future. It is the right time in our profession to take this step.” said Joseph Lucia, President of PALINET Board of Trustees, and Library Director at Villanova University.

The new organization would provide the same great service with the same close local connection valued by both memberships. Additionally, members could expect:

- ***A stronger library community*** – Over 3000 diverse member organizations.
- ***Expanded education curriculum*** - An expanded curriculum in topics ranging from next generation library catalogs to collection management for digital libraries and more.
- ***More consortial savings opportunities*** – Even greater volume discounts on electronic resources and other products and services.
- ***Technology leadership*** – Expertise in the latest library technologies from expert staff and library leaders at institutions throughout the combined membership.
- ***Increased capacity for innovation*** – Development of essential new programs through increased operating efficiencies.

About PALINET

PALINET, a member-owned and governed regional library network, was founded in 1936 and is one of the largest U.S. networks, serving 600+ members throughout the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. PALINET provides innovative training opportunities through its classroom and online distance education programs and live events and discounts on hundreds of library services from more than 80 business partners through its group purchasing program. For the latest information on PALINET, visit <http://www.palinet.org>.

About SOLINET

The Southeastern Library Network, Inc. (SOLINET) is an Atlanta-based not-for-profit library cooperative serving the Southeastern United States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia) and the Caribbean. A membership network of libraries and other information organizations, SOLINET works in collaboration with many partners, from local to international, to provide leadership for cooperative action, improve access to information, and enable members to effectively anticipate and address the region's needs for education, economic development, and improved quality of life. <http://www.solinet.net>

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