This About Our Leaders provides a short biography of our leaders for our LYRASIS Leaders Forum in Kansas City on May 15, 2018. The Leaders Forums are face-to-face meetings across the US, Canada and soon the globe, to gather leaders to discuss, explore and workshop ideas, problems and potential solutions. Our theme this year is Experiments in Innovation.

Experts from the LYRASIS team and from the community will discuss new concepts, trends and ideas surrounding innovation. Forum participants are members of the LYRASIS Leaders Circle, the general LYRASIS membership and invitation only community drivers within the archive, library and museum profession. By reading each short biography below, you’ll get to know our leaders engaging in our LYRASIS Leaders Forum, Experiments in Innovation.

Sean Bird is the Associate Dean of University Libraries & the Center for Students Success at Washburn University. Sean has been a librarian since 2008 and his service model incorporates inclusion, inquiry and equity with a strong desire to recognize place and presence. Sean has a Masters of Library Science from Emporia State University. Washburn University is both a Leaders Circle Member and Catalyst Fund Recipient.

Danielle Butler is currently an archivist at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She completed an undergraduate degree in History at Ouachita Baptist University in 2014 and completed a Master’s in Public History at UA Little Rock in 2016. She became a Certified Archivist in 2016. Prior to her position at the Butler Center, Danielle served as project archivist for a CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collection Grant and as project archivist for a Japanese American Confinement Sites digitization grant.

Cynthia Dudenhoffer is the Director of Information Resources and Assessment at Central Methodist University. Her areas of interest and expertise include Information Management, Leadership, Assessment, Library Marketing, Programming, Educational Technology, Emerging Technologies, Creative Management and Data Driven Decision Making. Cynthia earned her Masters of Arts in Information Science & Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Lori Fenton is currently Collection Development Manager at Washburn University in Topeka where she has been for 11 years and has worked in the library field for over 20 years. In addition to collection development, she wears several other big floppy hats including serials and e-resources management and system site coordination for Topeka’s ATLAS library consortium. She is an alumna of the Emporia State University SLIM program. Washburn University is both a Leaders Circle Member and Catalyst Fund Recipient.
Scarlet Fisher-Herreman is the Tech Services Supervisor at Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. In her position, she leads a team of 17 full-time staff engaged in collection development, acquisitions, cataloging and processing work for the library's physical and digital collections. Scarlett is currently involved with a team working on digitizing the library's blueprint collection. She is also the organizational leader in managing digital content from providers including Overdrive and hoopla. Scarlett also owns her own business, Perfect Ending Grave Care, a grave-tending service for individuals and families seeking assistance with the maintenance and beautification of their loved one's gravesite. Topeka & Shawnee Public Library is a Leaders Circle member.

Lori Goetsch is the Dean of Libraries at Kansas State University. Dean Goetsch has served K-State Libraries since August 2004. Previously, she was director of the public services division at the University of Maryland’s library, head of reference services and associate professor at University of Tennessee, women’s studies bibliographer and head and librarian for information-reference at Michigan State University, and assistant reference librarian at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Michelle Hammond is the Dean Emporia State University Libraries and Archives. Hammond has served as associate director for public services for the Earl S. Richardson Library, the main academic information resource on the campus of Morgan State University in Baltimore since 2010. Before that, she worked in libraries and information services at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and Bowie State University. Before entering academia, Hammond spent nearly a decade as national content manager and music librarian for XM Satellite Radio — now Sirius/XM Satellite Radio. During that time, she led a team to create the largest CD library in North America with more than 3 million song titles. She also created a staff training program and XM internship program that continues to exist.

CaLee Henderson is the Digital Initiative Librarian at the Historical Research Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Science. She is the oral historian for the ACORN Project through the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and serves as Vice President for the Arkansas Women’s History Institute board. CaLee previously worked as a project archivist for the Butler Center.

Tara Laver joined the Nelson-Atkins as museum archivist in January 2017. Before that, she spent over sixteen years at the LSU Libraries Special Collections (Baton Rouge, LA) in the roles of Head of Public and Research Services, Curator of Manuscripts and Interim Head of Special Collections.

Gina Millsap is the chief executive officer of the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, the 2016 Gale/LJ Library of the Year. She leads an organization of 220 employees serving a community of 179,000. She’s worked in libraries for 40 years and received her Masters of Library Science from the University of Missouri. She’s been recognized as a 2007 Library Journal Mover and Shaker and is Past President of the Library Leadership and Management Association, a division of the American Library Association. She currently serves as chair of the ALA Committee on Library Advocacy and on the boards of the Public Library Association of ALA and LYRASIS, an organization that partners with libraries, archives and museums on digital content management. Topeka & Shawnee Public Library is a Leaders Circle member.

Tom Peters is currently the Dean of Libraries at Missouri State University and has been an academic librarian for 30 years. During that time, he has been involved in many reference services and projects, in-person and remote, low-tech and high-tech. Since 2012 he has served as Dean of Library Services at Missouri State University in Springfield. His current research interests focus on the history and culture of the Ozarks. He authored a biography of John T. Woodruff was published in July 2016 by Pie Supper Press. He’s currently researching a book about the rise of KWTO AM radio in the Thirties, the Korn’s-A-Krackin’ hillbilly radio variety show in the Forties, and the Ozark Jubilee nationally broadcast live television program in the Fifties.
Mary Radnor is the Acquisitions and Metadata Librarian at Fort Hays State University. She started her career in academic libraries at Kansas State University where she worked in the Interlibrary Loan Lending unit as a student worker and then later as a full-time support staff member. She graduated from Emporia State University in 2009 with a Masters in Library Science and started her first professional librarian job as the Resource Sharing Librarian at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. As the Resource Sharing Librarian, she supervised interlibrary loan operations at 2 campus libraries. After almost 3 years in this position she accepted the Document Delivery Services Librarian position at the University of Chicago Library. There she supervised a large operation of library course reserves and interlibrary loan for over four years. With a desire to return to her Western Kansas roots, she accepted the Library Specialist for Collections and Resource Development position at Fort Hays State University in 2016. After a little over a year in this position, she was then promoted to her current position. At Fort Hays she works with acquisitions, cataloging, government documents, collection development and library budget management. She enjoys the challenges of working within academic library technical services and seeks to constantly improve and expand her knowledge. She appreciates the willingness of other librarians to share their knowledge with her and being a part of the library profession.

Jenifer Sauer is the Coordinator of Scholar Services and Electronic Resources and Discovery Services Librarian at Fort Hays University. She has a Master of Library and Information Science and serves as the Library Liaison for many departments including Art & Design, Music & Theatre and Applied Technology.

Michael Scott is the State Librarian of Iowa. Scott previously served for six years as Assistant Director for Southeastern Libraries Cooperating, one of 12 regional public library systems in Minnesota. He also served as the 2011 Minnesota Library Association Legislative Chair. Michael comes to the agency with 20 years of experience in a variety of library settings, including special and medical libraries and working for an Integrated Library System vendor. State Library of Iowa is a Leaders Circle Member.

Cindy Thompson is the Associate Dean for Public Services at University of Missouri, Kansas City University Libraries. She is also the Treasurer for MLA. Cindy has held many positions at UMKC in addition to her current position. Those include Director of Public Services and Head of Resource Sharing. She has a PhD in Educational Leadership, Policy and Foundations.

Chris Vaughn is a Library Support Specialist at William Jewel College, Curry Hall. Chris began working at Jewell in August 2013. He earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Biblical Studies from Evangel University in 2007. Before joining Jewell, he worked for public libraries in Missouri since 2005. Chris lives in Kansas City, MO and enjoys keeping up with the Royals and Chiefs, cooking, and being active in the community.

For more information, please visit www.lyrasis.org.