We are pleased to announce the 2022 recipients of the LYRASIS Catalyst Fund. The Catalyst Fund is an award program that provides support for new ideas and innovative projects from the LYRASIS membership. It is administered by the LYRASIS Leaders Circle to expand opportunities to explore, test, refine, and collaborate on innovations with potential for community-wide impact.

The Catalyst Fund was created to directly fund projects by member institutions that are designed to benefit the entire community of archives, libraries, and museums. These projects were carefully reviewed and chosen based on their potential for scalability and maximum impact on all collections-holding institutions. The application cycle opens in January, however, staff are available to discuss concepts and will review drafts and provide feedback throughout the year. Potential applicants are HIGHLY encouraged to reach out to staff to schedule an appointment to learn more.

West Virginia University, The American Congress Digital Archives Project, $39,300

The American Congress Digital Archives Portal will provide open access to congressional archives by bringing together these geographically dispersed and civically important sources from multiple institutions using open-source software (OSS) into a single online portal. The portal will illuminate the connections across collections, provide opportunities for new scholarship in civics and history education, and make the archives of the “People's Branch” more equitably available to the people.

Louisiana State University Libraries, Y'all Means All: Piloting a Distributed Digitization to Support Digital Diversity, $31,800

The goal of this project is to advance digital inclusion for small and under-funded cultural heritage institutions in our state by setting up a regional digitization hub in central Louisiana.
University of North Carolina System Office, Scalable Math Institute for Open Course Development, $25,000

To pilot a model for developing and implementing a large-scale open, inclusive, and responsive math curriculum. The SUM Institute will result in a ready-made, adaptable model for open math education that can save students millions of dollars, improve measurable learning outcomes and pace to graduation, and scale to meet the needs of educators across a System, state, or disciplinary community.

Kentucky Virtual Library, CC-PLUS: Beyond the Danger Zone, $23,808

This project aims to deliver a working implementation of CC-PLUS in a large consortia setting and to develop an implementation toolkit and user documentation, paving the way for use by libraries and consortia worldwide. Dubbed “magical” by KYVL’s stats guru, CC-PLUS automates COUNTER harvesting and pulls data from multiple vendors into a common interface. In early 2023, other implementers will be invited to participate in development and craft a vision for sustainability.

George Mason University Libraries, Geographies for Inequity: Exploring the Hidden Lives Next Door, $39,500

This project will create a model for advancing social justice scholarship with undergraduate students using a blend of digital humanities practices and historical fieldwork in local communities. Results will be published and made available in a digital repository.

This year George Mason University will be the second recipient of the “Sandy Nyberg Award.” The award recognizes proposals that demonstrate the highest levels of innovation in the areas of preservation, conservation, collections, writing, and publishing. After 34 years of service to LYRASIS (formerly SOLINET), Sandy Nyberg retired last year in June 2021. In celebration of her impact on the cultural heritage sector, LYRASIS established the Sandy Nyberg Award as part of the Catalyst Fund.

The published results of all Catalyst Fund projects are required to be open source and may be found here.

Want to learn more about ALL the benefits of LYRASIS membership? Please email membership@lyrasis.org