

**From:** [libnews-l-request@lists.illinois.edu](mailto:libnews-l-request@lists.illinois.edu) on behalf of [Wilkin, John P](#)  
**To:** [libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu](mailto:libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu)  
**Cc:** [Beckett, Theresa B](#)  
**Subject:** Next steps on my professional journey  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 10:50:45 AM

---

Dear University Library friends,

Following up on my announcement during the hangout today, I'm writing to share news that I will be leaving the University to serve as the next CEO of Lyrasis. While I had planned to stay on the faculty at Illinois, this professional opportunity was one that I couldn't pass up. (For those of you unfamiliar with Lyrasis, they describe themselves as "a non-profit member organization serving and supporting libraries, archives, museums, and cultural heritage organizations around the world.")

I can't begin to tell you how much I've appreciated the opportunity to serve as your dean, to help advance our institutional interests on behalf of the library, and to work closely with so many of you. We've made so much progress on so many initiatives, and we owe that all to you—our civil service employees, our Academic Professionals, and our faculty—and your commitment to Illinois and the profession. Thank you for letting me be a part of that.

It would be an understatement to say that the private sector moves more quickly than higher education: my last day here will be November 30th and I begin at Lyrasis the following day. I'm sorry our time is so short! Provost Bernhard will be following up with his own communication and will engage our Executive Committee to discuss appointing an interim dean. I know that you will be in good hands. Again, let me say thank you for all you've done to make this institution great and for your partnership with me in my time here.

John

--

John P. Wilkin  
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
230 Library, MC-522  
1408 W. Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801

[jpwilkin@illinois.edu](mailto:jpwilkin@illinois.edu)

217-333-0790

Assistant: Lucretia Williams | [lawillia@illinois.edu](mailto:lawillia@illinois.edu)