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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Lilly Endowment, Inc. has presented a grant of \$132,000 to the American Library Association for a major project to combat the problem of adult functional illiteracy.

It is estimated that some 20 million Americans cannot read well enough to understand a want ad, a package label, or even a simple news story. Public libraries are among the institutions uniquely suited to take an active role in the national effort to increase literacy.

The Lilly Endowment, Inc. grant will fund a one year project to train 200 librarians in the techniques of establishing programs to teach literacy skills to disadvantaged adults. These key personnel from state libraries and regional systems will, in turn, train members of local public library staffs.

According to Jean E. Coleman, Project Director and Director of ALA's Office for Library Service to the Disadvantaged, "The strategy of training a core of librarians to train others, is the most efficient way to reach the greatest number of people who need help with reading skills."

The training programs will fully utilize the guidebook, Literacy and the Nation's Libraries, published by ALA as part of the association's growing national literacy effort.

Further information on the project may be obtained by contacting Ms. Coleman at ALA Headquarters.