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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAGE to Continue Providing Trips to ALA Annual Conference for Library Support Staff Paraprofessionals

Thousand Oaks, California and London, United Kingdom (May 2005) – Earlier this year, SAGE Publications, in partnership with ALA's Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), provided three deserving library support staff paraprofessionals with \$1000 each to attend the 2005 ALA Annual Conference. Now the two groups have signed an agreement to continue the grant through 2008, doubling the number of staff helped annually.

The **SAGE Library Support Staff Grant** will honor library support staff members who are often the "unsung heroes" in today's libraries. And since the realities of library budgets seldom provide the finances for them to attend conferences, SAGE and ALCTS are making it possible for six paraprofessionals to go to ALA's Annual Conference each year.

To be eligible for consideration to receive the grant, applicants must be currently employed in a full-time support staff position, have worked a minimum of three years in technical services (acquisitions, cataloging, collection development/management, preservation of library materials, serials), and must not have previously attended an ALA Annual Meeting.

"Interest in the pilot version of the grant was phenomenal and clearly illustrated that our libraries are staffed by dedicated, motivated paraprofessionals," said Pamela Bluh, Chair of the 2005 ALCTS Support Staff Grant Award Jury. "They hold the American Library Association in the highest regard and are eager for opportunities to enhance their skills."

"We have a long history of supporting those engaged in scholarly and creative endeavors" said SAGE President and CEO, Blaise Simqu, "and when we had such great response to the 2005 Support Staff Grant, we resolved to continue our involvement into the future."

SAGE has agreed to fund the **SAGE Library Support Staff Grant** for three years. At the end of that period, SAGE and ALCTS will reevaluate the agreement with the option to renew it every three years thereafter. Under the terms of the new agreement, SAGE will provide \$1,000 to each of six eligible library support staff to attend the ALA Annual Conference.

About SAGE:

SAGE Publications is a leading international publisher of journals, books, and electronic media for academic, educational, and professional markets. Since 1965, SAGE has helped inform and educate a global community of scholars, practitioners, researchers, and students. SAGE Publications, a privately owned corporation, has principal offices in Thousand Oaks, California, London, United Kingdom, and in New Delhi, India.

About ALCTS:

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services is responsible for the following activities: acquisition, identification, cataloging, classification, and preservation of library materials; the development and coordination of the country's library resources; and those areas of selection and evaluation involved in the acquisition of library materials and pertinent to the development of library resources.

