Reading Material for Persons Living with Dementia

This list is a reviewed collection of items prepared by the Alzheimer's Association Green-Field Library. Contact your local library to find out how it supports persons living with dementia and dementia friendly library services.

On this resource list:

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Alzheimer’s Association resources
General
Reading for pleasure - collections
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Library Tip
Visit your public library or local bookstore and ask to see “high interest, easy readability” books in topics of interest to the person with dementia: picture books for reminiscence, travel books; cookbooks with photographs; gardening books with color illustrations; also see our resource list: Personal Narratives (books written by persons with dementia)

Alzheimer’s Association Publications

A list of books and magazines for families, health facilities, and libraries
Alzheimer’s Association Green-Field Library
located on this page:
https://www.alz.org/help-support/resources/virtual_library/resource_lists
Personal narratives (person’s living with Alzheimer’s)
Alzheimer’s Association Green-Field Library
Located on this page:
https://www.alz.org/help-support/resources/virtual_library/resource_lists

General

Many Alzheimer’s patients find comfort in books
Milt Freudenheim
New Old Age Blog
New York Times; April 22, 2010

Picture books and dementia
Jenny Barlow
Bookology.com
A personal perspective in reading with a person living with dementia with suggestions for picture books
https://www.bookologymagazine.com/article/5195

Rekindling love of books for elderly and readers of dementia
Esther Ashby

Reading for pleasure – collections

Books for people with dementia
Palm Beach, FL: Healthcare Products, LLC:
Available in the Alzheimer’s Store

Classics for beginners - discussion
List of the classics that might be recommended for early stage for persons living with dementia
Available on Goodreads
**Conversation cards**  
Richfield, OH: Shadowbox Press  
Available on Amazon

**Picture books for those with dementia**  
Goodreads  
Available on Goodreads

**Share-time picture books for reminiscing and storytelling** (non-verbal reminiscent books for people with Alzheimer’s disease and memory loss)  
Available on Amazon

**Reading for pleasure – individuals author collections**

*Emma Rose Sparrow*

*Hugh Morrison*

*Jamie Stonebridge*

*John Moher*

*Judi Parkinson*

*Lydia Burdick*

*Matthew Schneider*

**Self-help**

*I have Alzheimer’s*  
Requires access to a computer - at alz.org; links to information on what to expect, treatments and research, programs and support, planning, overcoming stigma, younger-onset, living well, and making a difference  
Chicago, IL: Alzheimer’s Association  
https://www.alz.org/help-support/i-have-alz
**By us for us guides**
Kenneth G Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program (MAREP)
Waterloo, ON: University of Waterloo
https://the-ria.ca/resources/by-us-for-us-guides

*Dancing with dementia: my story of living positively with dementia*
Christine Bryden
London, UK: Jessica Kingsley, 2005
Available on Amazon
Green-Field Library Call No.: WM 220.5 B666d 2005

*Dancing with elephants: mindfulness training for those living with dementia, chronic illness or an aging brain*
Jarem Sawatsky
Toronto, ON: Red Canoe Press, 2017
Available on Amazon
Green-Field Library Call No.: WM 220 S271 2017

*Dementia (diseases and disorders)*
Detroit, MI: Lucent Books, 2009
Lizabeth Hardman
Available on Amazon

*Keeping busy: a handbook of activities for persons with dementia*
James R. Dowling
Boston, MA: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995
Available on Amazon

*Living your best with early stage*
Lisa Snyder
Forest Lake, MN: Sunrise River Press, 2010
“Provides a thorough, practical guide on coping with the diagnosis, managing symptoms, finding meaningful activity, planning for the future, maintaining important relationships, participating in research, and much more. This book is a working guide to help the person with Alzheimer's feel empowered to move forward in life in light of this challenging diagnosis.”
Available on Amazon
Speaking our minds
Lisa Snyder
Seven persons share their thoughts and feelings about living with dementia.
Available on Amazon
Green-Field Library Call No.: WM 220.5 S675 1999

What the hell happened to my brain
Kate Swaffer
Kate shares her insights on living with early onset dementia and the impact it has on herself and her family.
Available on Amazon
Green-Field Library Call No.: WM 220.75 S971 2016

Research on Reading and Dementia

Download here

Muellenbach, JM. The role of reading classic fiction in book groups for people with dementia is better understood through use of a qualitative feasibility study. Evidence Based Library & Information Practice. 2018; vol. 13(2), pp. 97-98
Download here

Resources for Librarians

Alzheimer’s and related dementias [interest group]
Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA)
http://www.ala.org/asgcla/interestgroups/igard

Dementia friendly libraries
ActionAlz.org
Guidelines for library services to persons with dementia
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Libraries offer Alzheimer’s activities for senior living
Paula Spencer Scott
Reaching for memories: expanding services and programming to patrons living with Alzheimer’s disease
David J. Kelsey. Public Libraries Online. Nov 8, 2018

Reading and dementia
Jennifer Brush
https://brushdevelopment.com/reading-and-dementia

Reading during different stages of dementia
Esther Heerema
https://www.verywellhealth.com/reading-through-dementia-progression-98565

https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2015/02/09/stimulating-minds

Reading Material for Persons Living with Dementia
A selected list of references

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