

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

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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

<https://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/22/many-alzheimers-patients-find-comfort-in-books/>

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

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/86449914/rekindling-love-of-books-for-elderly-and-readers-with-dementia>

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 reminiscence 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.

New York, NY: W.H.Freeman & Co, 1999

[Available on Amazon](#)

Green-Field Library Call No.: WM 220.5 S675 1999

What the hell happened to my brain

Kate Swaffer

London, UK: Jessica Kingsley. 2016

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

Rimkeit, BS; Claridge, G. Literary Alzheimer's, a qualitative feasibility study of dementia-friendly book groups. *New Zealand Library & Information Management Journal*. Dec 2017; vol. 56(2), pp. 14-22.

[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

<https://www.actonalz.org/sites/default/files/documents/ACT-SectorGuide-Libraries.pdf>

Guidelines for library services to persons with dementia
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
<https://archive.ifla.org/VII/s9/nd1/Profrep104.pdf>

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
Full-text: <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2018/11/reaching-for-memories-expanding-services-and-programming-to-patrons-living-with-alzheimers-disease>

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>

Stimulating minds: libraries develop programs to serve patrons with Alzheimer's and dementia. Terra Dankowski. American Libraries. Feb 9, 2015
<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2015/02/09/stimulating-minds>

Reading Material for Persons Living with Dementia

A selected list of references

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