**Remember Your Patrons Living with Memory Loss**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/remember-your-patrons-living-with-memory-loss.html>

Research shows that many people living with dementia can still read and benefit from using a wide variety of library materials. View this webinar to hear practical advice on choosing reading materials uniquely suited to each individual, following the tenets of person-centered care. Presenters share simple ways to create more dementia-friendly libraries and provide examples of literacy activities and programs hosted at libraries and memory cafes around the world, including oral reading, browsing through books, singing, choral reading of poetry, and word games. Previously held misconceptions will dissolve when you see how libraries of all sizes can positively impact people living with dementia.

Presented by: **Mary Beth Riedner** and **Tami Hurst**

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Dementia-friendly Audit** | |
| In learning about the challenges and strengths of living with dementia, spend some time auditing how welcoming your library is for these members of your community. Check those factors you feel the library already accounts for, and circle those you’d like to improve upon.   * Wear name tags. * Train staff and volunteers about dementia and on communication strategies. * Provide materials that help caregivers and materials that appeal to people with dementia. * Consider cultural and ethnic interests. * Offer individual appointments to help select materials. * Display dementia-related books, DVDs, etc. * Offer resource bags for check-out, e.g., themed materials, reminiscence kits, Tales & Travel. * Other:   **Remember:** Consider materials that your library already owns and brainstorm how those materials could be used to offer literacy activities to those living with dementia. These could be from different areas of your collection and include a variety of formats. | |

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| **Community Collaborators** |
| Which local organizations might you be able to collaborate with to bring literacy activities to those living with dementia? These could be government, public, private, non-profit or philanthropic organizations, among others. For an extended list of options, review potential partners for collaboration in WebJunction’s [Community Partnership and Collaboration Guide](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Community_Partner_Collaboration_Guide.html). List those agencies and contacts you could connect with to better serve this community. |
| **Patron Needs and Interests** |
| How can you obtain information about the unique interests of your patrons living with dementia? Possible options include surveys, questionnaires, one-on-one conversations, offering readers advisory appointments, etc. Explore community discovery strategies in the WebJunction collection, [Beyond the Survey – Basket of Discovery Tools](https://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/Topics/smart-spaces/basket-of-community-discovery-tools.pdf) (pdf) and select a few approaches to identify the needs and interests of your patrons living with dementia.  Why do the approaches you’ve selected make the most sense for you, your library, and your patrons? |
| **Appropriate Materials Selection** |
| The presenters covered a number of criteria to consider when selecting materials for patrons living with dementia. As you select your materials (short fiction, non-fiction, local history, poetry, song lyrics, maps etc.), consider if they meet the following criteria.   * Colorful photographs * Topic of interest to patron * Large font (avoid small fonts) * Lots of white space (avoid dense text or too many images) * Avoid childish illustrations or offensively simple text * Avoid heavy books, though coffee table books are good format for audience * Less text, more pictures * Simplified sentence structure * Avoid travel guides * Other: |
| **Spreading the Word** |
| What methods can you think of to spread the word about the value and benefits that the library can offer to those in your community living with dementia? These could include presentations by library staff at outside organizations, press releases, library newsletters, social media, etc.  List some of the methods that you will use to market your offerings: |

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| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** |

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