

Collection Development: Dementia and Memory Loss

Standards and Statements from Professional Organizations

- [ALA's Library Services for Patrons with Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)
- [IFLA's Guidelines for Library Services to Patrons with Dementia](#)
- [RUSA's Guidelines for Library and Information Services to Older Adults](#)

Determining Community Needs

- [Vermont Alzheimer Statistics](#)
- Feedback from community groups: Talk with local organizations, agencies, and professionals that serve people with memory loss in your community.
- Patron requests from caregivers.

Categories of Materials

- Both adult and children's collections
 - Nonfiction books on an array of topics
 - Short fiction (such as folktales, myths, and short stories) and poetry
 - Books that are highly illustrated with color photographs. Popular subjects can include animals, flowers, fashion, countries, old cars, etc.
 - Books for reading aloud. The text should be short and have a simple story line.
- Audio books in both CD and downloadable formats
- Magazines
- Music in both CD and downloadable formats
- Videos

Promotion and Display

To increase the promotion and circulation of materials:

- Offer individual appointments to the person and their care partner to help them choose materials that interest them.
- Talk to local organizations, agencies, and professionals serving people with memory loss. Invite them to the library for a tour or ask if library staff can attend one of their events.
- Display materials in an attractive, convenient location.
- Use clearly visible signage to identify the area where materials are shelved.
- Offer to bring programs using library materials to senior living communities and adult day settings in your area.

Publishers and Distributors of Materials

The Vermont Department of Libraries does not endorse or recommend specific vendors. Because materials for patrons experiencing memory loss may be difficult to find, this list is intended to provide libraries with a broad range of options to consider.

Libraries are not limited to this list and may select their preferred vendors and follow their local procurement procedures.

- [Sunny Street Books](#)
- [Reading2Connect](#)
- [Marlena Books](#)
- [Nana's Books](#)
- [Bi-Folkal](#)

Training and Other Resources

- [Dementia Friendly America Library Sector Guide](#)
- [Librarians: Serving Patrons with Dementia](#)
- [ACT on Alzheimer's \(MN\) – Sector Guide on Libraries](#)
- [WebJunction: Serving Older Adults in a Changing World](#)
- The ABLE Library has [a small collection of adult picture books](#) available to order with your large print deposit collection or through ILL.