

## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND DEMENTIA**

### **I. Information about the library**

1. County in which the library is located:
2. Number of inhabitants in the place (city, municipality) in which the library operates
3. Number of professional employees (librarians) in the library
4. Number of library members

### **II. Data about the person (preferably head of the library) filling out the survey**

1. Birth year
2. Gender
3. Number of years of working experience in the library
4. Position
5. What diseases are you most afraid of?
  - a. cancer
  - b. Alzheimer's disease (AB)
  - c. Stroke
  - d. heart attack
  - e. diabetes
  - f. depression
  - g. COVID-19
  - h. something else
6. Do you know anyone who has (or has had) AB?
  - a. yes, an acquaintance, neighbor and / or friend
  - b. yes, a family member
  - c. no

### **3. Please answer whether these statements are true (T) or false (F)?**

- i. Dementia is a normal part of aging.
- ii. AB is an incurable disease.
- iii. Most people with AB live in organized living facilities (e.g. homes for old people).
- iv. People under the age of 65 cannot get AB.
- v. People with AB cannot enjoy books due to declining intellectual skills.
- vi. People with AB should continue to go to social events, weddings, etc.
- vii. It is better not to say in front of others that a family member has AB.
- viii. People with AB have adequate care and social services in our society.

**4. Is there a civic organization (NGO) in your community that brings together people with dementia and / or their family members?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I do not know

**5. Do users with dementia and / or their carers have any benefits in your library? Multiple answers can be selected.**

- a. yes, free enrollment
- b. yes, longer loan period
- c. yes, the material can be delivered to their home address
- d. yes, something else: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. no, we do not have such users
- f. no, but we're thinking about it
- g. no, and we don't even think about it

**6. Has the professional staff of the library (at least one person) received any training related to working with people with dementia? Multiple answers can be selected.**

- a. Yes, they participate in conferences on this topic
- b. Yes, follow the professional literature on this topic
- c. Yes, they are members of the "Dementia Friends" initiative
- d. Something else:
- e. I don't know
- f. No

**7. Please indicate the extent to which your library space is adapted for people with dementia, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 - not adapted at all and 5 - fully adapted**

- a. Library space does not change often.
- b. In the library space, users can easily navigate (easy navigation).
- c. The library space is well and clearly marked (good contrast of colors and backgrounds on the labels, bold letters, etc.).
- d. The entrance to the library is visible, without obstacles and large glass / reflective surfaces.

- e. The passages (eg between shelves and individual rooms) are wide enough and there is nothing in them that would impede movement.
- f. The library space is well lit.
- g. Library floors are neither shiny nor slippery.
- h. Noise levels are limited in the user space.
- i. There is a family or gender-neutral toilet in the library (which caregivers can enter together with a user with dementia)

**8. Does your library have the following material? Multiple answers can be selected.**

- a. fiction which is linguistically and visually adapted for people with dementia (such as Marlina books in English)
- b. read aloud materials
- c. richly illustrated material (eg on the topic of animals, flowers, old cars, biographies of famous people) but which is not primarily aimed at children
- d. fiction for adults with the topic of dementia (e.g. Lisa Genova: Still Alice)
- e. children picture books on dementia
- f. professional and popular literature on dementia (for caregivers, for the public)
- g. professional literature for caregivers of people with dementia (eg psychological support, tips for spending quality time)
- h. non-book material intended for people with dementia (eg photographs, sensory toys, board games, puzzles, three-dimensional objects that encourage conversation, recollection)
- i. something else:
- j. we do not possess any material

**9. What activities, programs and services does your library offer to people with dementia and their family members? Multiple answers can be selected.**

- a. individual meetings / counseling in order to select material for reading with the help of professional staff, find the required information, etc.
- b. marking World Alzheimer's Day and / or World Alzheimer's Month. Please describe how you mark them:
- c. setting up occasional exhibitions on the subject of dementia

d. distribution of promotional and / or informative free materials (brochures) on dementia (about the disease itself, relevant associations and health care institutions, available community services, etc.)

e. referring to useful online sources on dementia (via library websites, social networks)

f. home delivery of library materials

g. giving library space for use to associations, institutions and individuals for various events related to dementia (eg Memory Cafe)

h. organization of reading activities / programs (reading aloud, etc.) specifically for people with dementia and their family members. Please describe how they are organized, who participates in them, strengths and weaknesses: \_\_\_\_

i. organization of creative workshops (music, art, etc.) specifically for people with dementia and their family members. Please describe how they are organized, who participates in them, strengths and weaknesses: \_\_\_\_

j. organization of social and recreational activities (games, conversation, socializing) specifically for people with dementia and their family members. Please describe how they are organized, who participates in them, strengths and weaknesses: \_\_\_\_

k. organization of information and educational activities (eg lectures) specifically for people with dementia and their family members. Please describe how they are organized, who participates in them, strengths and weaknesses: \_\_\_\_

l. organization of programs and activities (lectures, workshops, book presentations, etc.) with the aim of sensibilization of the general population about dementia. Please describe how these activities are organized, who participates in them, the pros and cons

m. something else. Please describe

n. we do not offer any programs for this group of users, but we are thinking about it

o. we do not offer any programs for this group of users, nor do we think about it

**10. Which institutions and organizations does your library cooperate with in organizing programs and services for people with dementia and their family members? Multiple answers can be selected.**

a. educational institutions (eg kindergartens, schools)

b. cultural institutions (eg theater, museum)

c. health facilities (eg hospitals, health centers)

d. civic associations, NGOs (eg for pensioners, for people with dementia)

e. Community facilities (eg retirement homes, dormitories)

f. something else:

g. we are not cooperating, but we are thinking about it

h. we do not cooperate, nor do we think about it

**11. Please indicate to what extent the following reasons make it difficult to organize library services for people with dementia in your institution (on a scale of 1 - not difficult at all to 5 - very difficult). If your library does not provide any services or programs for this user group, please indicate here the reasons why you do not organize them. Multiple answers can be selected.**

a. Lack of easily accessible records of the number of people with dementia in your area

b. too few potential users with dementia in the community

c. disinterest of potential users

d. inability to easily contact potential users (eg do not live in organized housing but are scattered, do not come to the library)

e. lack of adequate books in the Croatian language

f. lack of specialized non-book material in the Republic of Croatia

g. lack of resources (finances, staff, adequate space)

h. too many other commitments, library programs, etc.

i. librarians do not have enough information and knowledge about people with dementia and ways in which the library could help solve their problems and raise their quality of life (I don't know what we could do)

j. something else. Please specify:

**12. Please indicate to what extent you agree with the above statements on the relationship between libraries and dementia (1- Strongly disagree, 3 - Neither agree nor disagree, 5 - Strongly agree)**

a. Although public libraries should meet the needs and interests of all members in its communities, this is in practice impossible, and they have to chose priority service groups in their communitiy.

b. People with dementia (primarily those in the early and middle stages of the disease whose intellectual abilities are not significantly impaired) have the right to access adequate library materials and services.

b. People with dementia (primarily those in the early and middle stages of the disease whose intellectual abilities are not significantly impaired) in my library have access to adequate library materials and services.

c. Quality library services can contribute to raising the quality of life of people with dementia and their family members

- d. Librarians should be made aware during their studies of the importance of library services for people with dementia and their family members.
- e. Librarians should be familiar with information about dementia and basic ways to communicate with people with dementia
- f. Librarians should have access to quality continuing professional development in the field of library services for people with dementia.
- g. Libraries should contribute to raising public awareness about dementia.
- h. Libraries should contribute to building a dementia friendly community (town, village).
- i. There are too few people with dementia in the community for the library to organize special collections and services especially for them.
- j. Financiers of public libraries (cities, counties) should use public funds to encourage public libraries to provide services to people with dementia and / or their family members

**13. Please indicate if you consider anything else important for this topic, which has not been mentioned so far.**

**14. If you want to participate in the second phase of the research (short interview), please leave your e-mail address. Important: Your address will not be associated with your answers in any way.**