

Cultural mediation in Libraries



*Why do cultural mediation in the libraries for people living with dementia?
What is the role of the library?*

Danish libraries facilitate different approaches to culture based on the experiences gained in relation to the use of sensory-based dissemination of literature and art in general. The libraries combine many different cultural activities in collaboration with a variety of cultural actors and civil society organizations.

The starting point of Danish libraries

Based on the Danish Library Act, libraries must promote information, education and cultural activity with free and equal access to literature and cultural activities.

The libraries have the ambition to create as high a degree of inclusion as possible, for a wide range of citizens, including people living with dementia. Among other things it includes knowledge and the sharing of information about dementia to people and relatives living with dementia, as well as the rest of the surrounding community.

Combining literature with other senses in communication

Dissemination of literature and art to the whole human being through the use of different senses, for instance through the use of music, literature and art. A good piece of advice is to take both past, present and future as a starting point. The library's experience has shown that when literature is linked to sensory experiences, it gives a markedly positive response from people living with dementia.

Why share literature with people living with dementia

- To counteract loneliness and social isolation and by creating space for meaningful conversation where people can meet around and be a part of this.
- To increase mental health and create a better quality of life for people regardless of age and conditions.
- To create encounters between people across social class and spaces for the exchange of thoughts, feelings and experiences.
- To learn about ourselves through the process of learning about others.
- To create new thoughts and perspectives on the lived life and experiences of being part of a socially meaningful community.
- To create positive life content and give the experience a place in a life where memory fails and social relationships fades.

The lived life makes all the difference

- When people are allowed to involve themselves, we feel seen and heard.
- When people feel seen and heard, we feel recognized and valuable.
- When people feel recognized and valuable, the desire to exist arises.
- When people regain the desire and opportunities for change, surplus and new resources emerge.