

Include all accounts of life story work with people with dementia published in English in or after 1984.

Definition of ‘life story work’:

- **Must involve the creation of a tangible product about an individual with dementia’s life, or parts of their life** (This excludes narrative exercises followed by one off exhibitions or performances, and similarly it excludes life review conducted for therapeutic reasons with no book, box or other tangible record produced for future use as a result. There is no stipulation about what the ‘product ‘ is – could be a book, piece of art work or video, as long as it is tangible and remains with the individual, see next bullet point)
- **There must be an intention, explicit in the paper, that the life story product remains with the individual with dementia and is used in ongoing practice/care** (this could be in any setting – care homes, hospitals, or in a person’s home – and the people involved in the ongoing practice could again be anyone – family members, therapists, care staff, volunteers etc)

Note: while there are different ways of doing life story work, some of which may be considered to be better or worse practice (for example, those that don’t include the person the story is about directly), all accounts that claim to be life story work and meet the above definition should be included.

Definition of ‘people with dementia’:

- If the paper claims to be about people with **dementia or Alzheimer’s disease** (including **confusion’** or **‘memory problems’**) this will be **included**.
- If the paper is only about **another form of cognitive impairment, for example stroke, brain injury or learning disability, exclude** (unless it is also about people with dementia, as defined above, in which case an attempt will be made to separate the findings at the data extraction stage).

Definition of ‘account’:

- **Includes all studies, including those about the process of life story work and those about its outcomes for any group, regardless of quality**
- **Includes theoretical accounts, guidance and training, descriptive and opinion pieces**
- **Include multi-component studies where one element of the intervention is life story work** (meeting the definition set out above).
- **Excludes single case studies, letters, editorials and book reviews** (in the case of the latter, any relevant books or articles referred to will be followed up separately).
- **Includes systematic reviews** (the citation lists from these will be used to pick up additional relevant material)

EXCLUDE:

- Foreign language
- Published before 1984
- Single case studies, letters, editorials and book reviews
- About people with another form of cognitive impairment, such as stroke or learning disability (unless dementia is also present)
- Data will only be extracted from written records – videos and podcasts should therefore be excluded.

Note about PhD dissertations: these will be included as potentially relevant in the first instance and a view will be taken jointly, once all other selections have been made, about whether to extract data from them.