

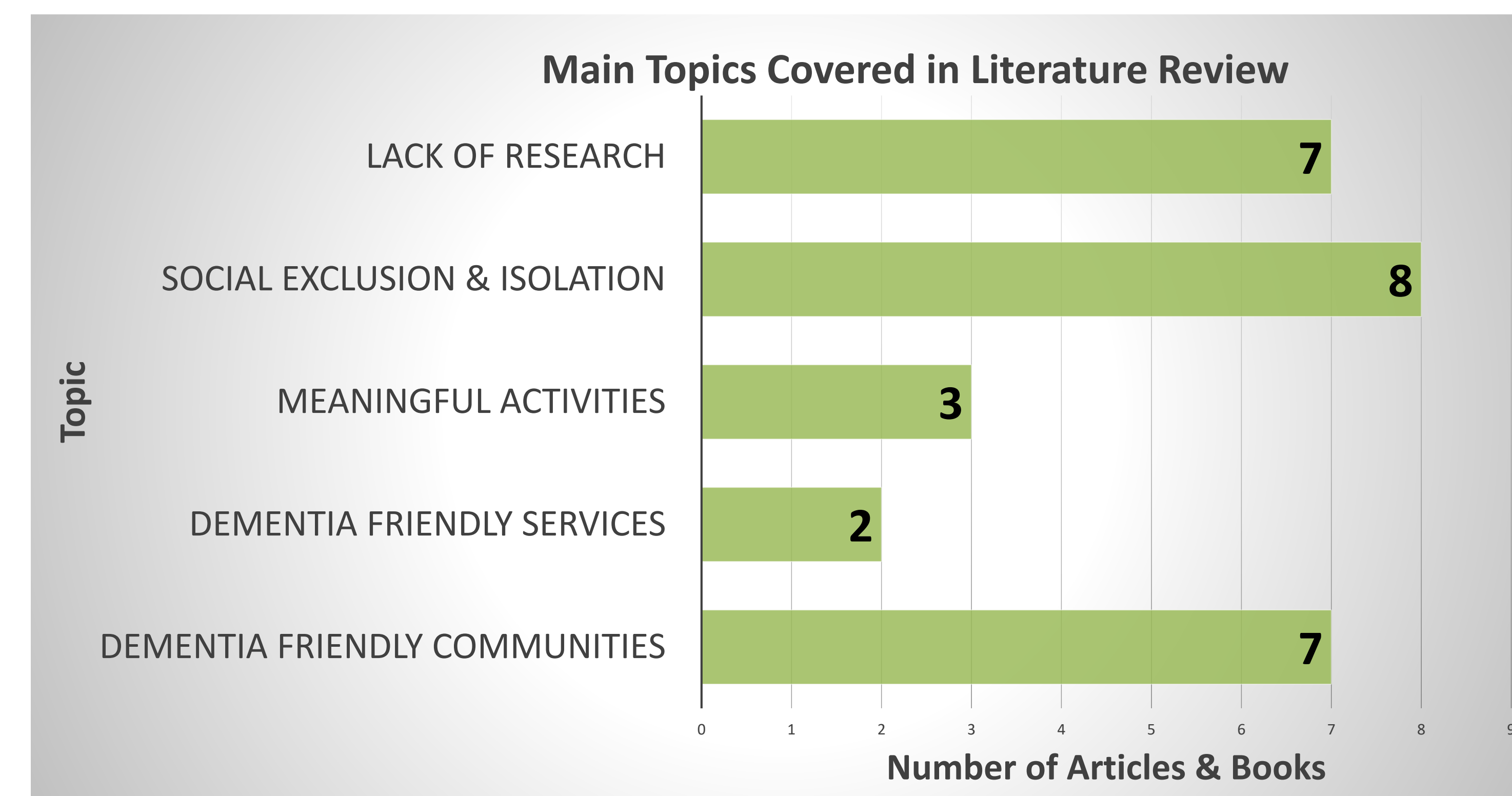
Literature Review

Research Questions

1. What qualities of a recreational/ fiction reading material, including physical qualities such as font, format, graphics, layout, organization, syntax, and themes, make it an appropriate dementia friendly reading material?
2. What best practices are essential for beneficial dementia friendly reading materials?

Resources

- 16 academic articles & books
- 1 dementia strategy plan
- 7 dementia friendly reading materials



Best Practices for Creating Dementia Friendly Reading Materials

Ample white space

- “helps the reader focus on one idea at a time” (Ostrowski & Dixon, 2016, p. 29).

Clear images in the book and on the book cover

- “large, realistic, and easily recognizable” (Ostrowski & Dixon, 2016, p. 30).

Short sentences with simple language

- “short, direct sentences and simple sentence structure” (Ostrowski & Dixon, 2016, p. 31)

Length is between 20 and 30 pages

- “allows writing to achieve substance without being overwhelming” (Ostrowski & Dixon, 2016, p. 28).

Text and images are presented together

- “prefer split screen text graphic” (Funnell et al, 2019, p. 142)

Relatable/ meaningful themes

- “a book’s content should relate in some way to the reader’s life experiences” (Ostrowski & Dixon, 2016, p. 32).

No mention of dementia or Alzheimer’s

- “look like regular books the reader would be proud to own” (*Books by Emma Rose Sparrow*, 2017).

Easy to read fonts

- “CNIB approved fonts” (Marlena Books, n.d.)

Consistent layout/ design

- “allows the reader consistency and facilitates the reading process” (Ostrowski & Dixon, 2016, p. 29).

Accessibility

- “Written and printed in Canada” (Marlena Books, n.d.).

References
Funnell, L., Garrick, I., Shirley, B., & Williamson, T. (2019). Dementia-friendly design of television news broadcasts. *Journal of Enabling Technologies*, 13(3), 137-149. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JET-02-2018-0009>
The Senior Reading Room (2017, March 27). *Books by Emma Rose Sparrow*. <https://seniorreadingroom.wordpress.com/2017/03/27/books-by-emma-rose-sparrow/>
Marlena Books. (n.d.). *What makes us different*. Retrieved September 26, 2020, from <https://marlenabooks.com/pages/what-makes-us-different/>
Ostrowski, S., & Dixon, P. S. (2016). Reading and dementia. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 11(1), 25-36. <https://doi.org/10.1044/persp1.SIG15.26>

Sample Dementia Friendly Reading Materials

The Garden



Relatable/ meaningful themes

No mention of dementia or Alzheimer’s present

Short, simple sentences and easy to read fonts

She went out to check her garden. She checked on her lilies, roses, and petunias. The petunias were her favourite.

Ample white space between sentences and around images

Text and images are presented together



Large, realistic images

Dementia Friendly Reading Materials

Examined Materials (chosen due to prior knowledge and availability from local public library):

- Johnson, B. (2018). *A love that waited*. Marlena Books.
- Kale, K. (2018). *The heart garden*. Marlena Books.
- Kale, K. (2018). *The railroad*. Marlena Books.
- Mateson, T. (2018). *The hockey game*. Marlena Books.
- Sparrow, E. R. (2014). *A dusting of snow*. Sterling Elle Publishing.
- Sparrow, E. R. (2015). *Down by the meadow*. Sterling Elle Publishing.
- Sparrow, E. R. (2014). *The sandy shoreline*. Sterling Elle Publishing.

Other Available Authors

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