

Stimulating memories for patients and their carers

Dr Arlene J. Astell

Dementia Research group

School of Psychology

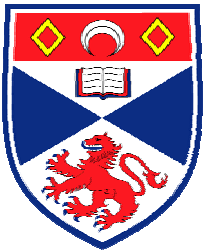
University of St. Andrews

The problem

- “Perhaps *the* most devastating consequence of dementia, to both caregivers and patients, is the progressive decline in communicative ability.” (Azuma & Bayles, 1997, p.58)
- People with dementia - affects personhood
- Families - affects relationships
- Care staff - affects development of relationships

CIRCA Guiding principles

- Use technology to find a way round impaired cognitive processes
- Maximise relatively well-retained cognitive processes
- Promote communication and positive interactions between people with dementia and caregivers



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of
St Andrews

CIRCA team

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

- Arlene Astell & Maggie Ellis
- Psychology, University of St. Andrews
- Norman Alm & Richard Dye
- Applied Computing, University of Dundee
- Gary Gowans & Jim Campbell
- Graphic Design, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art,
- Partners
 - Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia
 - Dundee Social Work Department

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Developing CIRCA

- Minimise working memory load, maximise retrieval of remote memories
- Based on reminiscence
- Touch screen
- Multimedia - photographs, songs, video
 - generic stimuli = no 'right' answer

Developing CIRCA

- Hypermedia - no 'right' place
 - flexibility
- No mouse or keyboard
- No experience necessary
- Create a failure-free experience - not a memory test



LATE EDITION THE CIRCA TIMES 6^d STILL ONLY

Listen to favourite radio themes

The Archers
 Desert Island Discs
 ITMA
 Billy Cotton Band
 Housewives' Choice
 Come In
 Harry Lauder Medley

Stop and Talk
 Touch here to stop music

Recreation

Entertainment

Dundee Life

Photographs

Video

Music

Back to start

Volume LOW [|||||] [|||||] HIGH

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Dundee Street Scenes

Sweeping up 1955

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Evaluations

- Study 1 - Between participants
- 18 people with dementia, 9 CIRCA, 9 TRAD reminiscence
- Used dyadically with caregiver
- 20-minute sessions
- Video recorded, staff ratings, interviews
- Study 2 - Within participants - 11 people with dementia

Reaction to CIRCA

- from people with dementia:
- “It takes you back and refreshes your memory”
- “This covers everything. Good thing this. It’s good to remember things. That’s entertainment!”

Reaction to CIRCA

- Families enjoy seeing their relative achieving things and ‘back to their old selves’
- Staff like CIRCA because it is easy to use - no preparation time
- CIRCA supports successful/positive 1-2-1 sessions

How does CIRCA work?

- Supports caregivers to enable people with dementia to use the system
- Facilitates joint attention between people with dementia and caregivers
- Provides a shared focus and shared activity