ICT (Information and communication technology) has the potential to support RT (reminiscence therapy)
- permitting individuals to stay in their local communities while communicating with others at a distance
- engaging multimedia
- allowing for multiple users
- interacting through dynamic methods
- aid caregivers by reducing RT session prep time and opportunity for remote sessions

Purpose of technology
- accommodating for deficits: using technology to ease participation
  - gaming devices, touch screen, and prototype devices for motor impairments
  - headphones and magnifying of images for hearing and vision impairments
- compensate for memory deficits
  - gather materials from users’ daily activities - audio recording, GPS, cameras
  - alleviate caregiver strain originating from repeatedly providing details to help patient recall facts
- taking advantage of continuing abilities: using technology to harness strengths
  - sensory awareness, musical responsiveness and emotional memory have been labeled “continuing abilities” in dementia
  - ex: photographs, background music, narration, panning and zooming in reminiscence video slideshows
- Personalized photos: materials gathered from family members
  - more interest and less distraction
  - adverse reactions to disturbing photographs (wartime photos, lost family members)
- Generic photos: materials that were from the general era in which one grew up in
  - prompted more storytelling from individuals
  - potential for emotional distress if they do not recognize themselves in pictures
Memorable - Research Reading Notes

- Gathering issues for RT is a challenge → technology can bridge geographic distance and address transportation barriers
  - family members can upload personal materials
  - archives for generic photos
  - remote RT (caregiver and patient in different location)
  - tailoring
    - own log-in
    - USB sticks to store personal reminiscence materials
    - challenges: remembering to carry around USB stick or recall password for patients and overwhelmed staff
    - automatically detecting reactions of users to reminiscence content using brainwave sensors
- evaluating progress and use
  - logging to report speed with which people with dementia learned games
  - useful data for health professionals to adjust interventions
  - potential privacy issues with tracking

Involving Family Members in the Implementation and Evaluation of Technologies for Dementia
Amanda Lazar


- Problem
  - Despite the well-documented benefits of activities, many assisted-living facilities and memory care units do not offer sufficient activities for individuals with dementia
  - Using technology may be one way of fostering activities during family visits
- Methods
  - 6-month evaluation of a technology designed to engage individuals with dementia in activities in MCU (memory care unit)
  - Contexts:
    - weekly sessions with researcher
    - activity room with staff
    - activity group for individuals with memory issues
  - Groups enrolled:
    - residents
    - family members
    - staff
Additional Readings

- Value Sensitive Design and Information Systems
  http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-007-7844-3_4

- Technology Studies to Meet the Needs of People With Dementia and Their Caregivers
  http://jag.sagepub.com/content/28/1/5.short

- Digital family portraits: supporting peace of mind for extended family members
  http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=365126