

TITLE

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Text CIRCA (Computer Interactive Reminiscence and Conversation Aid)

How we are perceived as individuals is largely determined by our ability to express thoughts and ideas - to display emotions through verbal or physical means - to communicate. These interactions describe our personality to the world and the world at large depends on this discourse to understand us. A fundamental problem for people with dementia is the 'dehumanizing' effect engendered by the loss of these cognitive abilities.

CIRCA is a multimedia system which utilizes touch-screen technology to access a data base of audio/visual stimuli designed to assist in prompting conversation in one-to-one or group situations.

We will demonstrate how we hope to engender a greater sense of worth and value in a 'reminiscence session' by enhancing the human experience through intuitive interaction with a diverse range of media. Early research data already gives some indication as to the comparative effectiveness of different media in generating a positive reminiscence experience. We will discuss how prototype field tests (with our expanding volunteer user-group of 40+ people with dementia and 30+ carers) informs our design development and the importance of multi-disciplinary collaboration and the development of appropriate partnerships in the funding, concept development and design for assistive technologies.

**18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE INTERNATIONAL
III CONFERENCIA NACIONAL ALZHEIMER
Barcelona, Spain, October 23-26, 2002**

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