



# Putting the Pieces Together



## An Outcome Evaluation of the Ypsilanti District Library Senior Deposit Collection



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# Focusing on Seniors



- **U.S. population is getting older**
  - 12% increase in 65+ population from 1990 to 2000
  - By 2030 older population is expected to double to about 70 million
  
- **Special needs**
  - Physiological, Psychological, Sociological
  
- **Research needed**
  - Survey evaluations
  - Lack of any real outcome evaluations

# Senior Deposit Collection



- **Part of larger outreach program**

- **Service model**

- Nine deposit locations
- Seniors range in age, ability and living situation
- Large print books selected by YDL librarians rotate every 3 months
- Relatively hands-off operationally





- **Determine context of program**

- Interviewed Community Relations Coordinator & selection librarians



- **Determine context of users**

- Literature review
- Characteristics
- Constraints



- **Sampling frame rationale**

- Two residential centers
  - Activity Directors
  - Seniors

- **Instrument development**



## ▪ Interviews

- 2 Activity Directors
- 3 Library Staff
- Individual Seniors

## ▪ Focus groups

- Two 4-person focus groups

## ▪ Observations

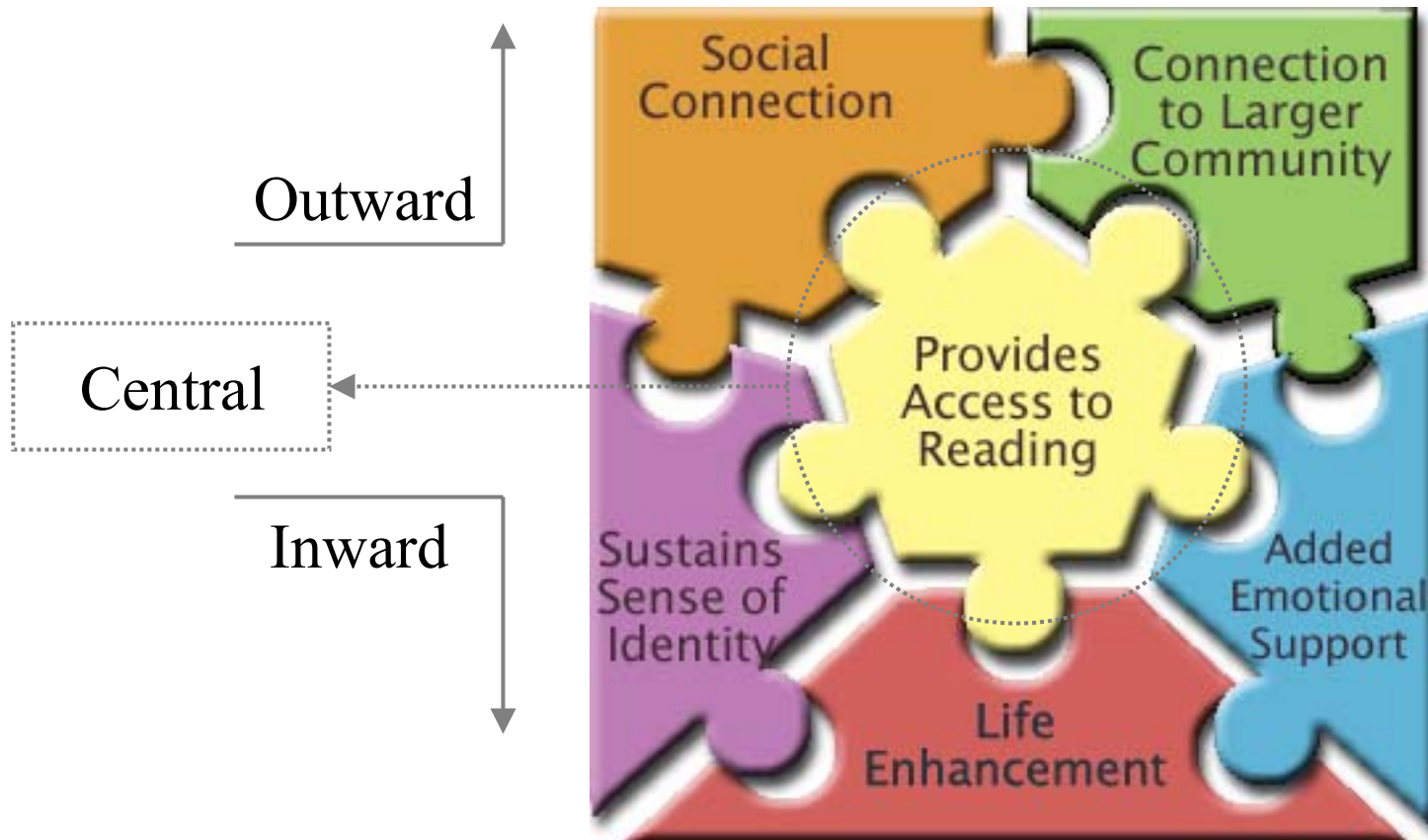
- 2 Senior Center Libraries
- Drop-off

# Data Analysis

- Reviewed interview transcripts
- Looked for themes data
- Created outcomes table
  - Indicators, Activities, Inputs
- Grouped into themes and sub-themes



# Outcomes Puzzle



## Provides Access to Reading



- Gives people a chance to read who otherwise wouldn't be able to
- Residents learn that the library is a resource

*"I wouldn't be able to read much of anything if there weren't large print books available."*

*"We rely on the library books because we can read those."*

## Provides an Increased Social Network



- Increased community connections
- Increased interpersonal connections

*“If we find a good book, it is good to share with others.”*

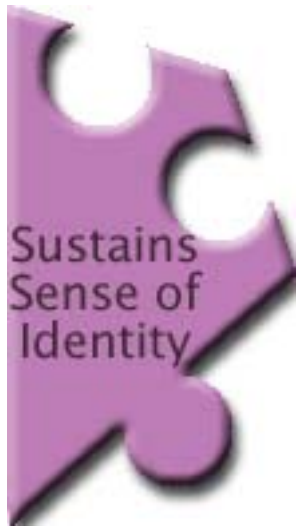
## Provides Connections to the Larger World



- Access to a wide variety of large print books allows residents a broadened world viewpoint.
- Broadening space and reducing sense of confinement

*“Reading is a way to not be closed off from the rest of the world. There are lots of benefits to reading, but this is a major one.”*

## Helps Residents Sustain a Sense of Identity



- Continued or renewed sense of independence
- Gives a sense of control and agency
- Mental sustenance
- Continuation of normal life or identity

*“It’s easy to sit in the corner and not do anything or think anything. Reading helps you get out of that.”*

*“Without it [the library] I’d feel lost.”*

## Provides Life-Enhancing Activities



- Pleasure
- Relaxation
- Sense of excitement and interest
- Provides a positive activity or relief from boredom

*“I couldn’t go to sleep without reading.”*

*“New books are something to look forward to.”*

## Gives Residents Added Emotional Support



- Provides sense of escape
- Aids in coping

*“We are confined and reading gives us a sense of hope.”*

*I don't know how I could have coped, without the books! They were my salvation.”*

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# Areas for Future Study



- Formal feedback procedures
- Elicit letters and other artifacts
- Enhancing connection between library & seniors



Questions?