

THE WILMA L. WEST LIBRARY

Home Modification/Universal Design and Occupational Therapy

Scope

The purpose of the pathfinders created by the staff of the Wilma L. West Library is to provide occupational therapy practitioners and students, as well as consumers, starting points from which to begin to do research about a topic. A pathfinder is not a comprehensive listing of available resources but a guide to specific and reliable sources of information.

Introduction to the topic

“*Home Modification* refers to converting or adapting the environment to make tasks easier, reduce accidents, and support independent living. Examples of home modification include:

- Lever door handles that operate easily with a push
- Handrails on both sides of staircase and outside steps
- Ramps for accessible entry and exit
- Walk-in shower
- Grab bars in the shower, by the toilet, and by the tub
- Hand-held, flexible shower head
- Lever-handed faucets that are easy to turn on and off
- Sliding shelves and lazy susans in corner cabinet
- C or D ring handles on cabinet doors and drawers for easy gripping.

(Retrieved September 10, 2017 from
<https://www.homemods.org/directory/nrcshhm/aboutus/>)

“*Universal Design* is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. An environment (or any building, product, or service in that environment) should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it. This is not a special requirement, for the benefit of only a minority of the population. It is a fundamental condition of good design. If an environment is accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use, everyone benefits. By considering the diverse needs and abilities of all throughout the design process, universal design creates products,

services and environments that meet peoples' needs.” (Retrieved on September 10, 2017 from <http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/>)

Online databases

Eldercare locator

The Eldercare Locator is a nationwide service that connects older Americans and their caregivers with trustworthy local support resources. Since 1991, the Eldercare Locator has been linking those who need assistance with state and local agencies on aging, as well as community-based organizations that serve older adults and their caregivers. Whether help is needed with services such as meals, home care or transportation, or a caregiver needs training and education or a well-deserved break from caregiving responsibilities, the Eldercare Locator is there to point that person in the right direction.

The Eldercare Locator is a public service of the Administration on Aging (AoA), an agency of the U.S. Administration for Community Living.

AbleData

AbleData provides objective information on assistive technology and rehabilitation equipment available from domestic and international sources to consumers, organizations, professionals, and caregivers within the United States. We serve the nation's disability, rehabilitation, and senior communities.

MEDLINE Plus®

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's Web site for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, it brings you information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in language you can understand. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free.

REHABDATA database

REHABDATA, produced by the National Rehabilitation Information Center, is the leading literature database on disability and rehabilitation. The database describes over 70,000 documents covering physical, mental, and psychiatric disabilities, independent living, vocational rehabilitation, special education, assistive technology, law, employment, and other issues as they relate to people with disabilities. The collection spans 1956 to the present.

Reference resources (print and electronic)

Eldercare Locator (2017). Home Improvement Assistance. Washington, DC: Office of Administration on Aging. (Retrieved on September 7, 2017 from http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Resources/Factsheets/Home_Modifications.aspx .)

Ainsworth, E., & de Jonge, D. (2011). An occupational therapist's guide to home modification: practice. Thorofare, NJ : SLACK.

Preiser, W.F.E. & Smith, K.H. (Eds.). (2011). *Universal Design Handbook*. (2nd Ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

Associations, Foundations, and Organizations

[Environmental Design Research Association \(EDRA\)](#)

[Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access \(CATEA\)](#)

[Institute for Human Centered Design](#)

[The Center for Universal Design](#)

[National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification](#)

Image, video or podcasts

Aging in place in the home – [Vital Living Forum](#) (video)

[OT in Home Modification](#) (video)

American Occupational Therapy Association/American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Official Papers

American Occupational Therapy Association. The Commission on Practice. (2015). [Complex Environmental modifications](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69, 6913410010p1-6913410010p7. doi:10.5014/ajot.2015.696S01

American Occupational Therapy Association. The Commission on Practice. (2015). [Occupational therapy's perspective on the use of environments and contexts to support health and participation in occupations](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69, 6913410050p1-6913410050p13. doi:10.5014/ajot.2015.696S05.

Bass, J; American Occupational Therapy Association. The Representative Coordinating Committee. (2016). [AOTA's Societal Statement on Livable Communities](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 70, 7012410020p1-7012410020p2. doi:10.5014/ajot.2016.706S01

Fact sheets

Fagan, L.A., Sabata, D. & American Occupational Therapy Association. (2016). [Home Modifications and Occupational Therapy](#).

Tips for Living

[Remaining in your home as you age](#) (2011)

[Helping your older parent remain at home](#) (2011)

Specialty certification

AOTA Specialty Certification in Environmental Modification

Publications

Christenson, M, & Chase, C. (2011). Occupational therapy and home modification: promoting safety and supporting participation. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.

Selected Articles on the role of occupational therapy

Aplin, T., de Jonge, D., & Gustafsson, L. (2015). [Understanding home modifications impact on clients and their family's experience of home: A qualitative study](#). *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 62, (2), 123-131. DOI: 10.1111/1440-1630.12156.

Aplin, T, de Jonge, D & Gustafsson, L. (2013). [Understanding the dimensions of home that impact on home modification decision making](#). *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 60, (2), 101-109. DOI: 10.1111/1440-1630.12022

Barg, M., Carlson, R., & Moser, C. Z. (2013). [Classroom modifications](#). *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, and Early Intervention*, 6, 73-80. doi: 10.1080/19411243.2013.811347.

Chase, C.A., Mann, K., Wasek, S. & Arbesman, M. (2012). [Systematic review of the effect of home modification and fall prevention programs on falls and the performance of community-dwelling older adults](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 66, 284-291. doi:10.5014/ajot.2012.005017

Cheesman, M. F., Jennings, M. B. & Klinger, L. (2013). [Assessing communication accessibility in the university classroom: towards a goal of universal hearing accessibility](#). *Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation*, 46, 139-150. doi: 10.3233/WOR-131742.

Chiatti, C., & Iwarsson, S. (2014). [Evaluation of housing adaptation interventions: integrating the economic perspective into occupational therapy practice](#). *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 21, 323-333. doi: 10.3109/11038128.2014.900109.

Farage, M.A, Miller, K.W., Ajayi F. & Hutchins, D. (2012). [Design principles to accommodate older adults](#). *Global Journal of Health Science*, 4, 2-25. doi: 10.5539/gjhs.v4n2p2.

Horowitz, B.P., Nochajski, S.M. & Schweitzer, J.A. (2013). [Occupational therapy community practice and home assessments: use of the home safety self-assessment tool \(HSSAT\) to support aging in place](#). *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 27, 216-227. doi: 10.3109/07380577.2013.807450.

Moore, A. & Lynch, H. (2015). [Accessibility and usability of playground environments for children under 12: A scoping review](#). *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 22, 331-344. doi: 10.3109/11038128.2015.1049549.

Morgan-Brown, M. & Chard, G. (2014). [Comparing communal environments using the Assessment Tool for Occupation and Social Engagement: using interactive occupation and social engagement as outcome measures](#). *The British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 50-58. doi: 10.4276/030802214X13916969446994.

Somerville, E., Smallfield, S., Stark, S., Seibert, C., Arbesman, M. & Lieberman, D. (2016). [Occupational Therapy Home Modification Assessment and Intervention](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 70, 7005395010p1-7005395010p3. doi: 10.5014/ajot.2016.705002

Stark, S., Keglovits, M., Arbesman, M. & Lieberman, D. (2017). [Effect of Home Modification Interventions on the Participation of Community-Dwelling Adults With Health Conditions : A Systematic Review](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 71, 7102290010p1-7102290010p11. doi: 10.5014/ajot.2017.018887.

Stark, S., Somerville, E., Keglovits, M., Conte, J., Li, M., Hu, Y.L. & Yan Y. (2017). [Protocol for the home hazards removal program \(HARP\) study: a pragmatic, randomized clinical trial and implementation study](#). *BMC Geriatrics*, 17, 90. doi: 10.1186/s12877-017-0478-4.

Stark, S. L., Somerville, E., Keglovits, M., Smason, A., & Bigham, K. (2015). [Clinical reasoning guideline for home modification interventions](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69, 6902290030p1-6902290030p8. doi: 10.5014/ajot.2015.014266.

Struckmeyer, L. R. & Pickens, N. D. (2016). [Home modifications for people with Alzheimer's disease: A scoping review](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 70, 7001270020p1-p9. doi: 10.5014/ajot.2015.016089. doi:10.5014/ajot.2015.016089

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