

Book review: Adam A. Zych (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Old Age, Ageing, and Disability*, Association Thesaurus Silesiae, Katowice 2017

Human life has unprecedentedly quickly extended over the last hundred years. This great and magnificent triumph of human, constantly dreaming of longevity, “was completely unexpected. Demographers have not predicted a progressive increase in survival in these oldest age groups” (Friedman, 2015). A man transcends new, unexplored horizons of longevity. We have a significant role to fulfill ahead of us, which will have profound and far-reaching effects for future generations. *The Encyclopedia of Old Age, Ageing and Disability* was written in response to the challenges of today’s world.

The Encyclopedia is a comprehensive work including entries written by nearly 250 authors, experts in the field of gerontology and related areas. It was prepared under the Adam A. Zych’s stewardship. Professor Zych is a distinguished scholar, a full professor at the Institute of Pedagogy of the University of Lower Silesian in Wrocław.

This five-volume compendium contains over 1,400 entries, including 300 biographies, written in a clear and accessible style. The encyclopedia covers a wide range of topics including but not limited to: adaptation to disability, „Age-Friendly Cities”, ageism and discrimination, alcoholism and aging, Apallic Syndrome and „The Eyegaze Communication System”, the art of good dying, communicating with individuals with dementia, „dementagogics”, „Dementia Friend”, „digital immigrants”, elderspeak, end-of-life care, gerotranscendence quality of life, glottogeragogics, homelessness of the elderly, human life cycle, human life span, Laboratory of Architecture 60+” (LAB 60+), language and interpersonal communications in old age, loneliness and solitude, media culture of seniors, non-pharmacological treatment for Alzheimer’s disease, „The Lift Metaphor”, the old man in the Church, „The Time Travel”, robotisation and

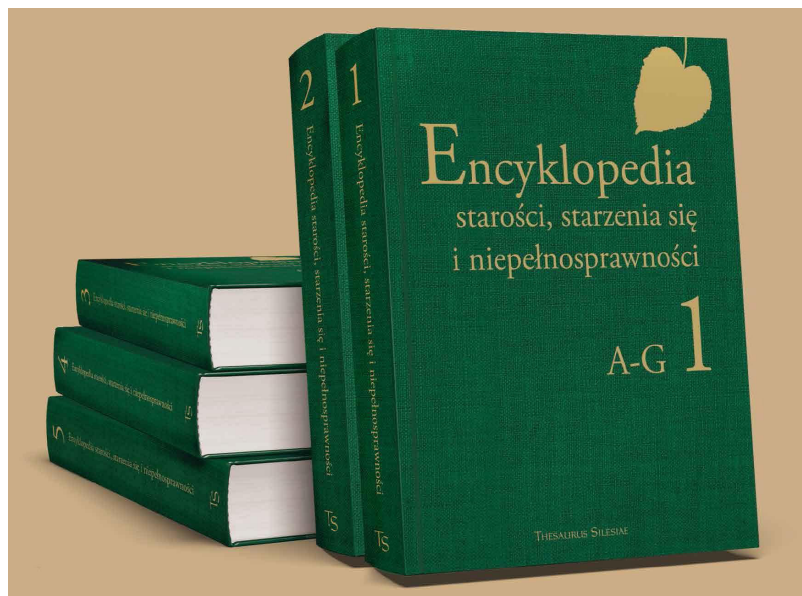
ageing, senior centre, silence in the life of elderly person, special andragogy, speech therapy for seniors, total pain.

The encyclopedia is a very informative resource addressed to health and social care workers, members of associations, societies and charitable foundations, acting for the elderly and the disabled. It will also benefit employees of employment agencies, academic teachers, students, libraries, care institutions, researchers, activists in governmental and non-governmental organizations, family caregivers who in their daily lives, lean with love, kindness and care over the care recipients. This unique work opens the reader's door to a world of comprehensive knowledge from which a holistic view of individuals in late adulthood and their needs emerges. It discovers a new way of reflection, perception, and action to improve the quality of older adults' lives. This publication is a remarkable foundation for the further development of gerontology and related sciences.

Netografia

Friedman L. F., *'One of society's greatest achievements' – in a simple chart of the past 175 years*, 2015 – Internet: <http://www.businessinsider.com/how-has-life-expectancy-changed-throughout-history-2015-6?IR=T>

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Source: press materials. Publishers: Association Thesaurus Silesiae