

ProQuest Digital Collections

Global Aging: Featured content and highlighted partners

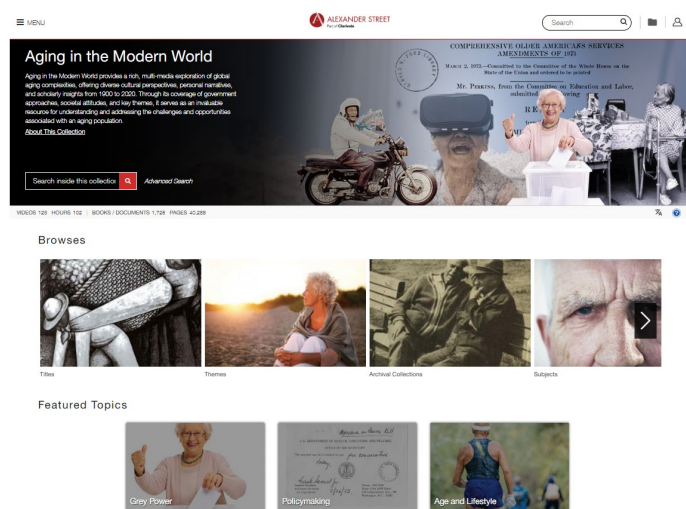
Population aging is reshaping societies worldwide—changing family structures, labor markets, health systems, and cultural life. Pairing global primary sources with scholarship and creative works helps students compare how communities define later life, organize caregiving, and represent aging in public memory, art, and everyday life.

Featured database: [Aging in the Modern World](#)

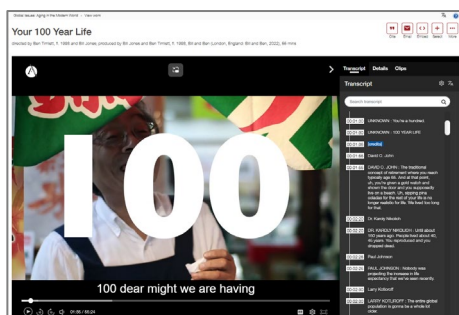
Aging in the Modern World provides a global, multimedia examination of aging from 1900 to 2020, bringing together video, books, documents, and archival materials supporting topics such as policymaking, urban planning, labor, and cultural identity. This resource presents a variety of perspectives, from personal narratives to scholarly analysis, that support teaching and research on aging as a social, political, and lived experience across cultures.

Explore featured topics within the database

- [Grey Power](#) - Aging and political influence, advocacy, and civic participation
- [Policymaking](#) - Government responses to aging populations, social welfare, and public health
- [Age and Lifestyle](#) - Work, retirement, caregiving, and daily life across later adulthood
- [Aging Across Cultures](#) - Comparative perspectives on aging, family structures, and cultural attitudes



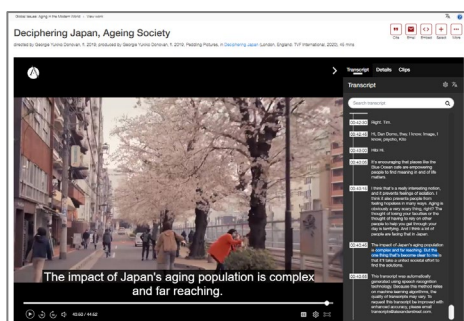
Featured research pathways



Video – [Your 100 Year Life](#) (2022)

A global documentary examining what it means to live longer in a world where pension systems, public benefits, and personal savings are under strain. Framed around rising old-age poverty and pressure on social safety nets, it explores how different countries are confronting the economic and policy consequences of longevity.

Teaching idea: Use this film to compare how countries finance later life. Students can evaluate policy levers—retirement age, pensions, healthcare coverage, and social supports—and discuss tradeoffs across national models and demographics



Video – [Deciphering Japan, Ageing Society](#) (2020)
Japan is often cited as a “super-aging” society, with high life expectancy and a low birth rate reshaping communities. This documentary examines how the country is responding to demographic change and the social consequences of longevity.

Teaching idea: Use Japan as a comparative case study. Students can identify specific pressures of population aging (caregiving, labor supply, housing, social isolation) and compare policy and community responses across countries.

Text – [The Four Lenses of Population Aging: Planning for the Future in Canada's Provinces](#) (University of Toronto Press, 2021)

Using Canada as a national case study, this book examines population aging through multiple policy “lenses,” showing how demographic change affects government planning across health care, social services, and economic priorities. While Canada-focused, it provides a framework students can apply to other national contexts.

Teaching idea: Have students use the “four lenses” as an analysis tool. Assign one Canadian example, then ask students to apply the same categories to a second national context using primary sources or news coverage.

Text – [Global Aging and Challenges to Families](#) (Routledge, 2003)

This edited volume offers a global framing of population aging as a demographic shift with direct consequences for families, caregiving expectations, and intergenerational support. It supports research on how older adulthood is experienced and managed across different cultural and social systems, including how care responsibilities are negotiated within households and communities.

Teaching idea: Have students compare two country or regional contexts and identify how family structure, gender roles, and state support shape caregiving and later-life security.

Text – [Reimagining Age-Friendly Communities](#) (Policy Press, 2024)

Focusing on urban change and the built environment, this collection examines how communities can be designed and adapted for increasingly diverse aging populations. It supports interdisciplinary teaching on age-friendly planning, housing, mobility, and public space, linking policy goals to lived experience and local infrastructure.

Teaching idea: Ask students to evaluate what makes a community “age-friendly” and propose design or policy interventions (housing, transportation, public space) for a specific city or region.

Text – [Applied Psychology Series, Aging and Work in the 21st Century](#) (Routledge, 2019)

This interdisciplinary volume addresses aging in the workplace, including labor force participation, retirement transitions, job design, and organizational responses to older workers. It’s a useful bridge between demographic change and applied questions about how work structures adapt as populations age.

Teaching idea: Ask students to compare two approaches to “aging and work” (e.g., raising retirement age vs. redesigning jobs and training) and debate tradeoffs for workers, employers, and public systems.

Archival Content – [Older Americans Month: Federal Origins and Recognition](#) (1975)

Trace the path marking the federal recognition of Older Americans Month through primary sources, including presidential proclamations, draft language, and supporting materials that show how aging shifted from a cultural concern to a federally recognized national policy issue in the United States during the mid-1970. [Dive in here.](#)

Teaching idea: Use these primary sources to examine when and why aging became a federal responsibility in the United States. Students can analyze how language, framing, and priorities in presidential proclamations and draft documents reflect shifting attitudes toward older adults.

Aging in the Modern World is included in [ProQuest One Global Studies & International Relations](#) and [ProQuest Digital Collections](#).

Featured partner
[Gray Panthers NYC](#)
Transformation Tuesday Series



The Gray Panthers are an intergenerational activist movement founded in 1970 to challenge forced retirement, combat ageism, and advance social justice across workers' rights, health care, economic security, peace, and human rights. Transformation Tuesdays are issue-driven webinars foregrounding older adults.

2024 – [Activism Against Ageism](#)

Examines ageism through civil rights, climate justice, housing, and long-term care reform, highlighting intergenerational organizing and advocacy.

Teaching idea: Analyze how older-adult-led movements frame rights and representation, then compare age-based advocacy with another civil rights framework.



2025 – [Combating Ageism in Healthcare: Palliative Care Explained](#)

Explores structural ageism in healthcare through access to palliative care, patient autonomy, and end-of-life decision-making.

Teaching idea: Use excerpts to discuss healthcare equity and ethics and identify where ageism shows up in clinical systems and policy.



Featured partner
[L'Harmattan](#)

L'Harmattan publishes French-language humanities and social science scholarship with strong regional perspectives, supporting research on aging, health, and social change.

Text – [Vieillessement et citoyenneté](#) (Aging and Citizenship) (2018)

Explores how older adults participate in civic life and how ideas of citizenship, rights, and belonging are defined across retirement and later life.

Teaching idea: Ask students to define "citizenship" in later life and evaluate barriers to participation (policy, health, ageism) using a second country as a comparison point.

Text – [Vivre en solo après 60 ans](#) (Living Alone After Age 60) (2018)

Examines later-life solo living as a social trend, including risks and supports tied to housing, health, isolation, and changing family structures.

Teaching idea: Have students map what makes solo aging sustainable (income, care networks, services) and compare how two countries address social isolation and housing for older adults.

Text – [Vieillir en Tunisie](#) (Aging in Tunisia) (2017)

A demographic and social case study of aging in Tunisia, supporting discussion of retirement, health, and social change in a MENA context.

Teaching idea: Use Tunisia as a comparison point to separate global aging pressures (care, pensions, health) from local policy, economy, and family structures.

Content from Aging in the Modern World, part of [ProQuest One Global Studies & International Relations](#) and [ProQuest Digital Collections](#).