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Health Library and Learning Center at Trexlertown

Lehigh Valley Health Network

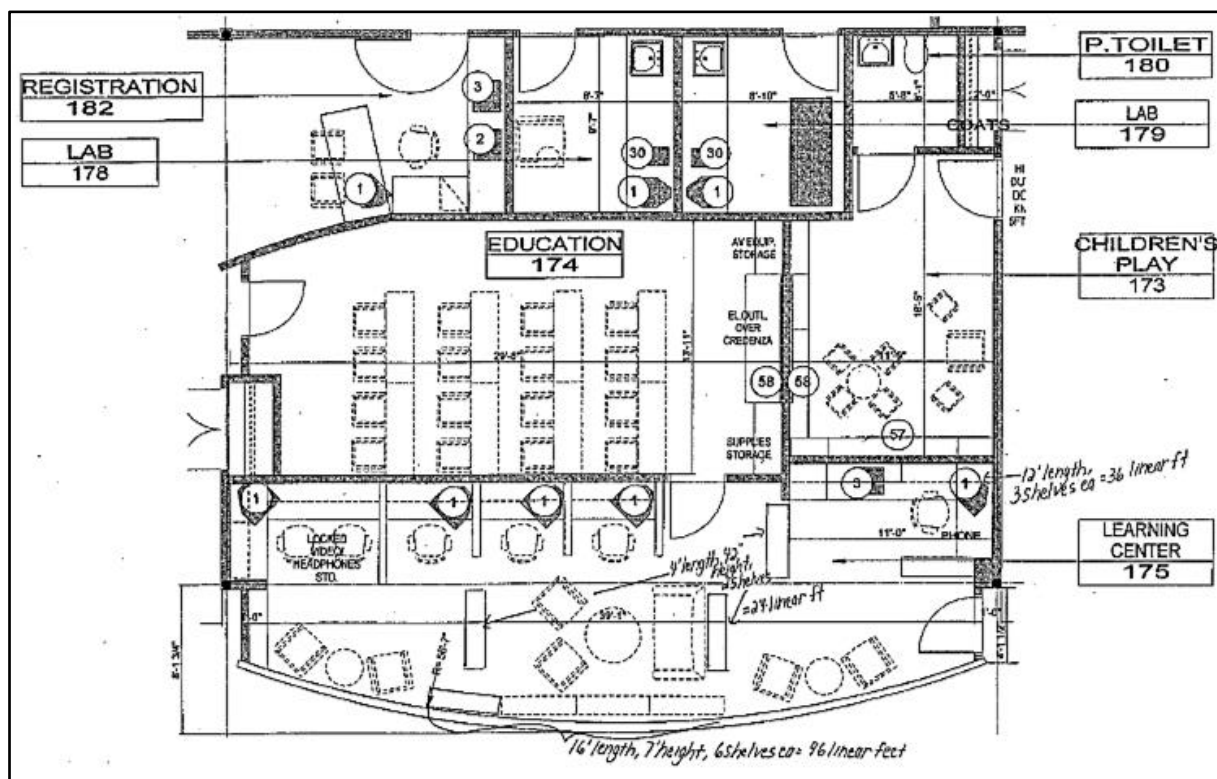
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Health Library and Learning Center (HLLC) at Trexlertown Mall

The **Health Library and Learning Center (HLLC)** opened November 13, 1999 as part of the Health Center at Trexlertown in the Trexler Mall.

It was conceived to empower users to be active participants in their healthcare through access to health and medical resources and services; to facilitate the learning needs of the Lehigh Valley community regarding health needs, and to support the medical initiatives of LVHHN by helping patient become knowledgeable about their specific diseases.



The Health Library provided access to multimedia health and medical resources tailored to a patient's preferred learning style and individual needs. The focus was on accurate, credible subject content but was meant to be a diverse collection representing conventional and alternative medical topics with the assistance of an interdisciplinary Patient/Family and Consumer Education Committee.

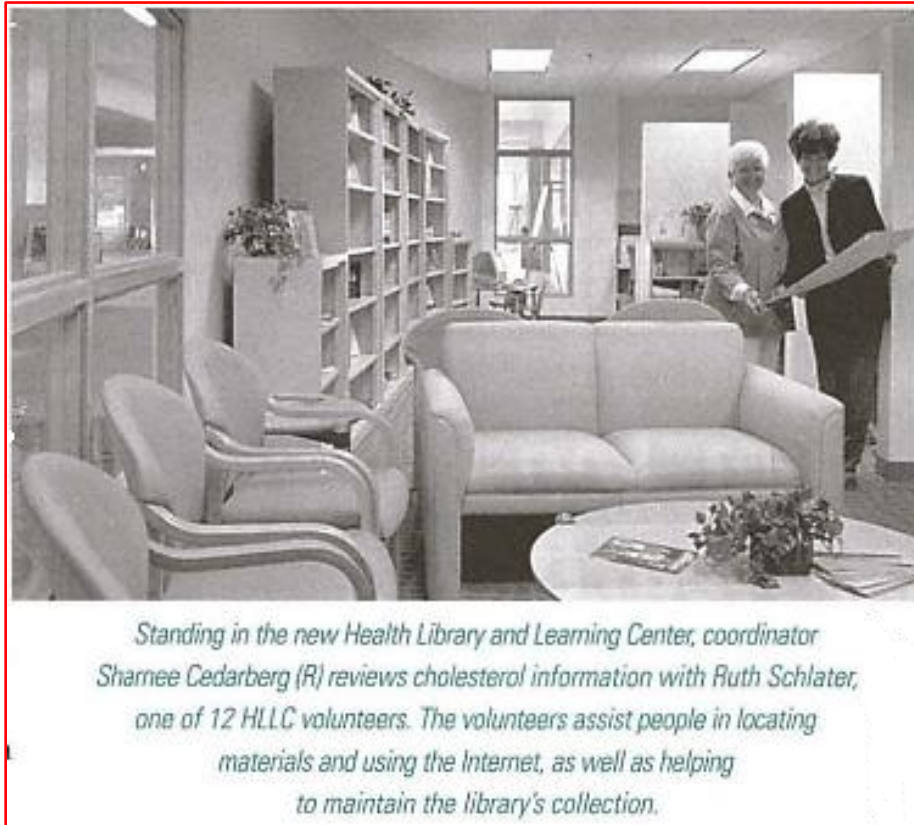
Over 1,300 resources including hundreds of books were available for individuals to checkout. A collection of health-related journals was also available along with pamphlets and videos.

A specially-designed database of 120 subject categories was created through the efforts of the Center for Educational Development (CEDs, now the Department of Education) and LVHHN public affairs department. It was used to maintain and track materials and their usage. Materials included both purchased and custom materials created for the health library. The material aimed to be written at an 8th grade level and were tested for reading level.

Selected healthcare websites were offered and included U.S. DHHS Healthfinder, Aahoo! Internet Healthcare Directory, Healthtouch Online, MedicineNet, IVI Publishing's onhealth and various health

browsers as well as a selected list of government and professional healthcare websites such as the New York Online Access to Health (NOAH) Database and the American Academy of Family Physicians website.

Planned with the assistance of Patient and Consumer Education Specialists, Deborah Swavely and Joyce Najarian, the HLLC was coordinated by Sharnee Cederberg, RN. It was staffed by specialists and volunteers and was open Monday through Friday with varying morning to evening hours.

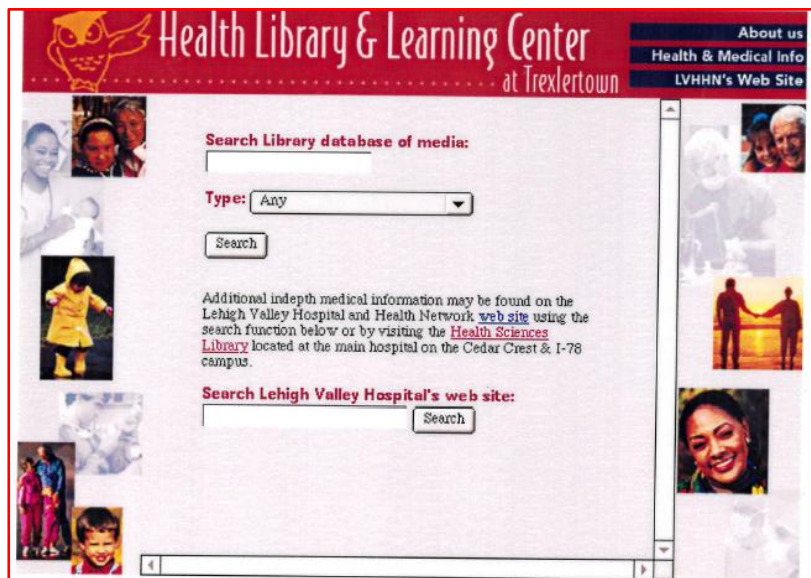
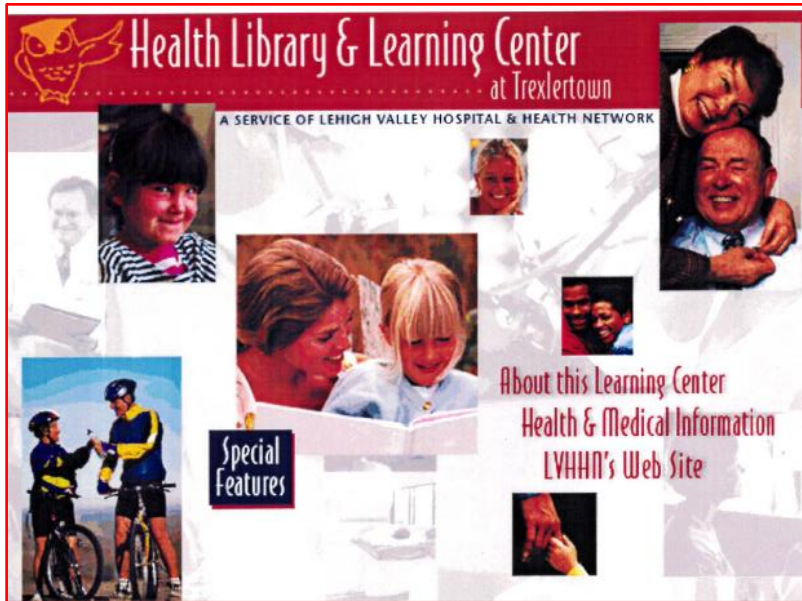


Physician offices were provided with "Prescription for Learning" pads to encourage patients to visit the library and learning center.

While personal computing gained popularity in the 1980's, it was still out of reach for many people and the health library provided five multimedia computers, a black and white printer, a color laser printer, two videocassette players with monitors, a video projection unit, computer software and Internet web searching. There was an iMac computer and software geared for use by elementary school children as well.

Assistance was provided with searching for health and medical information. Visitors could copy information and mail requests for information were filled for patients unable to visit in person.

A website was designed for the library and learning center.



One of the aims of the HLLC was to sponsor programs for learning assessments, health risk assessments, and individual and group education.

The HLLC closed in 2002.