The new security system and air-conditioning provides a safe storage environment for the books, artefacts and archives. Donations of Medical books are welcome, especially those written by Auckland or NZ authors. Restricted space in the centre means that while no large items can be accommodated, gifts of medical artefacts and instruments are greatly appreciated. Ownership of the books and artefacts is vested in a sub-trust of the A+ Trust, totally independent of the Auckland DHB. This Trust is also set up to accept donations and bequests. Donations to the Ernest and Marion Davis Memorial Library may be made through the A+ Trust, www.aplustrust.org.nz

To support the Ernest & Marion Davis Library, call:
The Curator
Phone (09)307 4949
Ext 22260
In 1961 Sir Ernest Davis donated a comprehensive medical library to the Auckland Hospital Board in memory of his wife, Marion. This generous gift was facilitated by Mr Warwick Macky, a consultant urologist at Auckland Hospital. Situated in the grounds of Auckland City Hospital, it was the major medical Library in Auckland, until the 1970s when it was gradually superseded by the Philson Library in the newly established School of Medicine. By 1980, the Marion Davis Library was functioning as a lecture centre and medical history library, with a unique ambience enhanced by medical artefacts, especially the James Newman collection of apothecary jars.

For at least 7 years negotiations between Perpetual Guardian, the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB), the A+ Charitable Trust and the Marion Davis Trust Committee of Management culminated in superb renovations which provide splendid Lecture Halls & Conference Facilities.

The extensive renovations were necessary for seismic strengthening, to provide a lift and to comply with fire and safety regulations, within the requirements of the Trust Deed and with the approval of the ADHB. The renovations were funded by the Endowment Trustees (Perpetual Guardian) from the Marion Davis Trust (about $1.5 million), with significant contributions from the Auckland District Health Board and the A+ Trust.

The ADHB owns the library building, a sub-trust of the A+ Trust owns the artefacts and books (except for the RACP Historical Collection) and the function of the Centre is overseen by a Committee of Management specified by the Trust Deed, consisting of representatives of the Royal Australasian Colleges of Surgeons, Physicians and Obstetrics & Gynaecology and the Dental Association of New Zealand. It is recognised both as a medical history library and as a museum.

HISTORY

FACILITIES

The new air-conditioned conference centre can cater for up to 100 people. On the ground floor is a large foyer (with displays of medical artefacts and the collections of apothecary jars), the Marion Davis Lecture Hall (accommodating 75 people) with adjacent brand new kitchen facilities for dining. On the lower ground floor there is the Ernest Davis Lecture Hall (100 people) and the Kaye Ibbertson room (12 people). A lift provides easy wheelchair access to the lower ground floor. High-quality AV equipment is provided in both lecture halls, together with connection to the Hospital intranet. The new kitchen facilities can cater for 75 (90 standing) people for dinner, using preferred outside caterers.

BOOKS & ARTEFACTS

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians’ collection of historical books make up approximately 1/3rd of the nearly 5,000 books catalogued and shelved in the Library. Mainly of Medical Historical interest, there is also a separate display of books written by or concerning Auckland Doctors.

The displays of medical, nursing and dental artefacts are a work in progress. While most displays are housed in the new centre, some are displayed in the Auckland City Hospital. For example, the John Richards microscope collection is showcased in the Davis Room of the Clinical Education Centre on the 5th floor of the hospital. One of the aims of the displays of artefacts is to emphasise the contribution of Auckland doctors to medicine, e.g. the Hardie Neil display of the broncho-pulmonary segments of the lungs.

USAGE

Use of the building is complementary to the Clinical Education Centre (CEC) on the 5th floor of Auckland City Hospital. There are no dining facilities provided in the CEC however a sit down dining facility is a feature of the Marion Davis Lecture Hall which makes this a very suitable venue for functions requiring hospitality of this nature. With the excellent AV equipment, conferences for up to 100 people are well catered for with a unique ambience provided by the apothecary jars, displays of medical artefacts and interesting pictures.

It is anticipated that ADHB staff will make good use the facilities for their meetings, as well as meetings of medical, dental and veterinary associations and allied medical groups e.g. nursing and pharmaceutical sponsored conferences.

The Auckland Medical History Society uses the facilities for their monthly meetings and assists with the displays of artefacts and collection of historical books.