opposite D.F. Malherbe Avenue. In 1992 Farmos was voted “Bloemfontein Institution of the Year” by Ons Stad. The present staff consists of 224 persons: 182 full-time and 42 part-time.

1.2 **FRIK SCOTT LIBRARY**

1.2.1 **Head:** Mrs R le Grange

When the Postgraduate Planning Committee started paving the way for a medical faculty in Bloemfontein, the establishment of a medical library was one of their early objectives. This collection, in time handled by Dr F.P. Scott, came into being in the National Hospital. After the green light was given to establish a medical faculty on 6 June 1969, Old Mutual donated an amount of R62 000.00 to the UOFS on 13 October to build up a medical library.

First library: Mrs M. Genis
The **University Council** decided on 17 March 1970 that a branch library under the control of the University library should be established for the Faculty. The branch library, with the Postgraduate Planning Committee collection of books as its core, was temporarily placed in the old Occupational Therapy recreation hall (Wards 29/30) in the National Hospital, and on 1 July **Miss M. Genis**, professional officer, became the first Head. **Dr D. Rossouw, Mrs Z. Fontenel, Miss M. Hills, Mrs T. Venter, Mrs H. Lombard and Miss R. du Plessis** succeeded one another as Heads of the library, until **Mrs R. le Grange**, the present Head, was appointed in 1975. In the same year the library moved to more spacious facilities in the evacuated grocery store of the National Hospital, but could move in September 1976 to its striking **permanent home** in the D-Block of the new Faculty building with its foyer opening out from the marble foyer. Through the mediation of Prof. F.P. Scott (Vice-dean, Head of the Department of Dermatology) the well-known artist, Cecil Skotnes, placed an unusual artwork in the library: a plaster carving, the full height of the space, against the four sides of the central lift and stair shaft, that portrays humans’ search for wisdom.

After the death of Prof. Scott in 1976 the library was named after him and on 12 October 1977 his widow, Mrs Dora Scott, unveiled a bust of the late Prof. Scott (presented to the Faculty by the sculptor, Gerhard de Leeuw), in the foyer of the library.
The growth of the library stock developed in an interesting way. In the first year (1970) 1014 books were ordered, 486 of which were received in the same year. Subscriptions were arranged for 400 journals, 237 of which were received before the end of the year. Prof. Scott’s imposing collection of medical books was bequeathed to the library by his widow. By 1975 there were more than 5 000 books and 1 168 journal titles. The reduction to 938 titles in 1976 due to financial constraints was viewed as a serious disaster (in the pre-computer era). At present the stock consists of approximately 70 000 book titles, 300 journal titles (in paper form) and approximately 2 000 electronic journal titles. Electronic books are high on the list of priorities.

Highlights through the years include the following:

In 1973 this was only the second library in the country to obtain direct access to the unique computerised database of the SAIMR. In 1983 satellite libraries were opened in the Pelonomi and National Hospitals, but the service was never satisfactorily utilised and was closed in 1990. In 1987 a computer terminal was installed to enable library staff to do information searches for users. Computer laboratories now enabled students to cope with advanced academic studies. Medinfo, developed since 1993, enables the library to provide medical information at lay level to the community, thereby being of service mainly to primary health care workers. This service, unique in South Africa, will be extended nationally. Gradually making information available via the Internet and other electronic techniques had made great strides.

Electronic access control ensures that the library remains exclusive to medical information seekers. To summarise, it may be argued that the Frik Scott library is regarded as one of the best medical libraries in the country.

The present staff consists of the Head, an information librarian, a library assistant, assistants responsible for counter service, interlibrary loans and the delivery of documents, a messenger who tidies the bookshelves and three assistants who help in the computer laboratory and photocopy section.