

POLICY MEMORANDUM

No. II-50

Maintenance of Natural History Collections


The University has in its possession several natural history collections that have both historical and scientific value. Some items in these collections are unique and must be preserved as a resource for scientists of the future. It is recognized that the ownership of these natural history collections places a burden of responsibility for their care upon the University. The following University procedures are designed to protect these collections for future use:

1. A list of all natural history collections will be maintained in the Office of the Provost. This list will include general information on the contents of the collection, the source of the collection, the department responsible for the collection, and the name of the Curator responsible for maintaining the collection.
2. The Curator for maintaining the collection will be appointed by the department chair of the responsible department.
3. The funds for the maintenance of the collection will be provided by the responsible department.
4. The responsible department and the Curator are required to provide at a minimum the following:
 - a. A complete inventory of the items in the collection must be maintained.
 - b. Safe storage for the items which will prevent loss, damage, or deterioration of the items in the collection.
 - c. A means of providing access to the collections by scholars while maintaining the integrity of the collection.
5. Collections which, for reasons of cost or lack of interest, cannot be maintained as described above, will be given to other universities, museums, etc., who are willing to accept the responsibility for appropriate maintenance of the collection. The responsibility for locating the recipient for such a collection is the responsibility of the responsible department and the Curator.
6. No new natural history collections will be accepted or assembled without the expressed willingness of a department to accept the responsibilities outlined above.
7. Departments will have until July 1, 1989, to achieve full compliance with this policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

RESPONSIBILITY: Provost

BASIS: University of Missouri General Officers


John F. Carney III
Chancellor