

Museum Mysteries

Exercise Overview – For Facilitator to review with the presentation before the exercise.

Instructions:

This activity contains several scenarios discussing whether or not it is in the best interest of the museum/library/archive/zoo to accession objects into the permanent collection or deaccession existing objects from the collection.

The presentation contains:

- 1) a title slide with the mission of the institution

- 2) a slide that discusses the details of the object for consideration

- 3) a discussion slide that will prompt you to discuss the object as a group and learn of some possible considerations for or against the accession or deaccession:

- 4) As a group, you should decide whether or not the accession or deaccession is in the best interest of the institution and why before moving on to the next “location”

The facilitator should be ready to assist in the discussion and possibly compare to “real life” similar situations from the group.

Goals of the Exercise:

The goal of this exercise is prompt the group to discuss possible reasons why a museum/library/archive/zoo should accession or deaccession an object. This will allow the group to learn best practices for each type of institution and see how the practices are similar and/or different. The facilitation of the discussion will not only educate the group on best practices in the field, but will also allow for critical thinking and conversation with colleagues in their region.