

Appendix G

University of Aberdeen Zoology Museum

Existing collections, including the subjects or themes for collecting

The University has the only large, international collection of zoological specimens in the north of Scotland. The collections are the result of collecting over the last 200 years or so by the teaching and research activities of our staff and students and by the gifts of graduates and friends of the University. The Zoology Museum cares for a wide range of material that is worldwide in scope and which covers the whole of the animal Kingdom, from protozoa to the great whales. The collection contains around 75,000 specimens and it is wholly owned by the University.

The main collections types are:

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| ▪ vertebrates | approx. 15,000 objects |
| ▪ marine and fresh water invertebrates | approx. 40,000 objects |
| ▪ terrestrial invertebrates | approx. 20,000 objects |

The Museum has registered status.

Significant objects or individuals:

Many of the large skeletons in the Zoology Museum are the work of Sir John Struthers (1823-1899), first Regius Professor of Anatomy at Aberdeen, including an elephant skeleton and blue whale limbs.

Other significant objects in the collections include:

Audubon's birds: 12 skins of North American birds that were presented to William MacGillivray by the American artist Audubon. The original labels were written by MacGillivray who was Professor of Natural History at Marischal from 1840 until his death in 1852.

An egg of the extinct great auk *Pinguinus impennis*. The egg was at one time in the French Royal collections and is inscribed 'Pingouin', the French name for the great auk. The inscription was written by Monsieur Dufresne, keeper of the King's cabinet in Paris in the early nineteenth century.

The Guy Harvey collection: a taxonomic collection of fish jaws and skulls prepared in 1978 by Guy Harvey as part of his final degree examination. The collection includes a series of drawings that Harvey made to accompany the skulls, before going on to become a renowned marine artist.

Blaschka models: the Zoology museum has a collection of 40 glass models of marine invertebrates made by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka in the late nineteenth century.

Criteria governing future collecting policy, including the subjects or themes for collecting:

Acting within the framework and guidelines of the University's Acquisition and Disposal Policy, the Zoology Museum's principles and priorities for collecting are:

- To preserve important zoological material for the benefit of the University and the education of all our visitors and users.
- To build on existing strengths, and fill important gaps when the opportunity arises.

- To acquire material that is worldwide in scope to support the research activities of staff and graduate students, and to underpin the education of undergraduates and the general public about biological principles, the diversity of living creatures, their taxonomic relationships, their adaptations to life and the conservation of biodiversity.
- As well as zoological specimens, the Zoology Museum may acquire historical or modern zoological models or replicas where they relate to significant aspects of the zoological collections, are useful for display purposes, or are relevant to teaching or research within the Zoology department.
- The Zoology Museum would not normally collect scientific instruments and other research equipment, but may do so in exceptional circumstances if the objects in question have a direct relevance to an object already in the collections or illustrate significant biological research carried out at the University of Aberdeen. Scientific instruments that the Zoology Museum does not wish to acquire may be accessioned into other University collections as appropriate.
- The Zoology Museum will consider acquiring works of art and craft, including sculpture, carvings etc., when these have a direct relevance to the zoological collections already owned by the University.
- The Zoology Museum may acquire drawings, paintings, maps, prints, photographs, film and digital media that are of specific relevance to biological research and teaching in the University of Aberdeen. Such material may also be acquired where it illustrates significant aspects of the zoological collections and is useful for displaying and interpreting the collections.
- The Zoology Museum may collect printed and manuscript ephemera – e.g. instruction manuals, trade catalogues, leaflets, advertisements, letters – when the material relates to objects in the collection or to teaching and research in zoology.
- The Zoology Museum will consider its ability to provide long-term storage, collection care and staff resources before adding any new item to the collection.
- Material that the Zoology museum does not wish to acquire for its permanent collections may be offered to the Natural History Centre to support its educational activities, if it is safe for public handling and otherwise suitable for this purpose.
- See section 8d of the University of Aberdeen's collecting policy for legal consideration when acquiring biological material.

Period of time for future collecting:

The museum will acquire both historical specimens of interest and modern specimens (provided that these have been acquired in compliance with relevant legal requirements and fit with the priorities of the collecting policy).

Association/ geographical area for future collecting:

The Zoology Museum collects on a worldwide basis, to support its aims of promoting research and public education in biological science and conservation.