

## UMMP Object Donation Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in donating objects to the U-M Museum of Paleontology. The museum has long depended on the interest and generosity of the public in building an internationally recognized collection and advancing the science of paleontology.

The University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology is a research and teaching institution whose mission is illuminating the history and meaning of life through geological time—for students, colleagues in science, and the general public. The UMMP can accept donations of fossil specimens and associated documentation that are consistent with its mission and can be accommodated by current or future infrastructure.

**Requirements for donated materials.** Objects can be accepted and accessioned into the Museum's collections when the following conditions are met:

1. Objects or specimens are relevant and useful to the purposes and activities of the Museum. Decisions about accessioning new specimens are made by Curator(s), with consultation with the Director and appropriate Research Museum Collection Manager as needed. Approval of the Dean of LSA or their designate is required in any decision to acquire large collections or make other commitments requiring substantial funding in excess of typical Museum expenditures for cataloging, storage, and/or display.
2. The Museum can adequately provide for the storage, protection, and preservation of the objects under conditions that insure their availability in keeping with professional standards.
3. The Museum can acquire valid and legal title to the object/objects effective in the United States or the country of origin, if different, without restrictions as to use or future disposition, and a legal instrument of conveyance (usually a deed of gift form supplied by the Museum), giving an adequate description of the object and the precise conditions of transfer, signed by the donor or seller and by an authorized Museum representative, and subject to approval of the U-M General Counsel.
  1. If, under special circumstances, an object is accepted with restrictions or limitations, such conditions must:
    1. be approved by the Curator-in-charge and the Museum Director,
    2. be stated clearly in the instrument of conveyance and made part of the accession records for the object, and
    3. be strictly observed by the Museum.

4. Provenance is essential for the scientific value of specimens as well as establishing the legality of their collection. Under most circumstances, it is expected that specimens accessioned in the collection will have details of geographic locality (i.e., place of collection) and stratigraphic horizon (i.e., the rock unit from which the fossil was collected).
5. The Museum can be assured the object was not collected or recovered under circumstances that would support or encourage irresponsible damage to, or destruction of, biota, geologically, historically, or culturally significant sites, or human burial places.
6. The Museum acknowledges, supports, and is in compliance with all state and federal legislation relating to the collection, acquisition, and retention of objects, including, but not limited to, laws pertaining to objects improperly removed from their country of origin, laws protecting plants and wildlife (and parts thereof), and laws protecting antiquities and historic properties.

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