

DE – ACCESSIONING POLICY

DEFINITION

De-accessioning/disposal

The process by which a Museum permanently removes accessioned materials from its holdings either by returning them to the depositor, transferring them to another institution or selling or destroying them. Also called *permanent withdrawal*.

POLICY

De-Accessioning

A periodic review of the items, artefacts held, shall be carried out.

De-accessioning proposals will be brought forward to the board for approval or disapproval by staff or board members.

Only items held that clearly fall outside the conditions of the Acquisition Policy outlined above or duplicates of items already in the collection (in which case the copy in better condition would be retained) may be de-accessioned.

The Dutch Connection accepts the principle that there should be a strong presumption against the disposal by sale of any items in their ownership and shall seek a more suitable repository if it is considered that the items would benefit from relocation. All prior agreements with donors will be respected, and only items chosen for de-accessioning which cannot be returned to their original owner or transferred to another repository, or sold, can be destroyed.