

Deaccession Procedures for the Johnson County Historical Society

We have been collecting as a museum since 1931 and have over 50,000 items in our collection. That's a lot of stuff! The introduction of collections policies helped us to narrow the focus of what items we now accept. This means that we can identify some artifacts that do not belong within the scope and mission of our collection and are then eligible for deaccession.

The decision to deaccession, the process of permanently removing an item from the collection, is made cautiously and follows the ethics, standards, and best practices endorsed by the [American Alliance of Museums](#).

The JCHS reserves the right to keep, lend, or otherwise dispose of (deaccession) donated materials. Deaccession can be a confusing term, but it is essential and necessary to maintaining a healthy and growing museum collection.

Deaccessioning means:

- The Curator recommends deaccessioning an artifact
- The Director approves and the Collections Committee is informed
- Records of deaccessioned artifacts are permanently maintained
- Deaccessioned items are disposed of in any of the following ways:
 - Donation or exchange to a nonprofit institution.
 - Public auction outside the Museum's immediate locale.
 - Destruction (a last resort for dangerous or broken items not eligible for auction or donation)

Please note that no item can be accepted by the Collections Committee with the intention of immediate sale. *Any and all money generated from the deaccession of an artifact can only be used to acquire new artifacts or to preserve and store artifacts in the current collection.*

What is eligible for deaccession?

- Items in unsalvageable, deteriorated, or dangerous condition
- Items with no relationship to Johnson County and museum mission
- Items with no records or provenance and that do not fit within the education collection
- Items with multiple examples