**Table 10.5-1.** **Decision matrix for evaluating old taxidermy mounts.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Criteria*** | ***Considerations*** |
| Historic value | * Known origin
* Length of time in the museum
* Prepared by known taxidermist
* Representative of historic taxidermy procedures
 |
| Identification | * Known species, common
* Known species that is now protected
* Unknown species
 |
| Origin | * Value based on specific geographic origin
* Value based on general geographic origin
 |
| Research value | * Specimen has been used in research
* Specimen is likely to be used in research
* Extinct species
* Rare or endangered species
* Protected species
 |
| Value as voucher | * Voucher for published research
* Voucher for unpublished research
 |
| Quality of mount | * Excellent
* Good
* Fair
* Poor
 |
| Need for conservation work | * Needs cleaning
* Needs simple repairs
* Needs complex repairs
* Requires significant intervention
 |
| Presence of arsenic or other poisons | * Poisons suspected
* Poison tests are positive
* Mount can be exhibited without danger to visitors
* Mount cannot be exhibited without danger to visitors
 |