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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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## The Society

The Natural Sciences Conservation Group promotes: research and exchange of ideas; advances in technical and ethical standards; the public profile of the conservation and preservation of natural science collections and objects; training; and publications.

## Membership

The Group is keen to open its membership to all those involved in the care and conservation of natural science objects and encourages their active participation.

### Annual Subscription

Students (UK only)	£8.00
UK personal	£10.00
Overseas personal	£12.00
Institution	£25.00

## Newsletter

The Newsletter is a forum for articles, views and opinions on the care, conservation and curation of natural history and associated material. The Newsletter is produced three times per annum (January, May and September) and is free to all members.

### Advertisements

1/4 page	£15.00
1/2 page	£25.00
Full page	£50.00

### Instructions for Authors

Material should be type-written and double-spaced in A4 format and if possible accompanied by a text file or Word document on disk (Dos-formatted). The pages should be numbered and the position of any tables and/or figures should be indicated on the hard copy. The names of animal and plant species should be underlined and the authority name given in full for the first time used, thereafter they may be omitted. All references should be given in full. Articles and other items for inclusion should be submitted to the Editor at least three weeks before the publication date.

Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those shared by the NSCG Committee, the Editor or the membership at large.

## Editorial

Welcome to Issue 20 of the Newsletter...

'A box of matches is the curator's best friend'

So ran the title of the discussion organised by the Group for Education in Museums and Engage earlier this year. It's topic – the sensitive issue of disposal. It raises the perennial question of rationalisation, and one which has no doubt been posed to everyone who has had a major move in the last few years, or who is planning one now. How should museums and galleries decide what not to keep? Is what we keep and display in fact essential to our future? And importantly for us, the NSCG, how do scientific collections differ from this? The MA itself concedes in its ethical guidelines that "there are circumstances in which disposal may be appropriate", when it may otherwise affect the "care, access and context" of the collections. Incendiary stuff...

You'll find enclosed with this edition of the Newsletter a copy of the MA's Code of Ethics. There is a short piece on page 21 on whether we should adopt it at the next AGM. How do you feel about adopting something that is essentially a code for those who work in museums? Most conservation as well as museum organisations expect their membership to observe a similar code, so surely following the country's leading organisation for ethical guidance in this sphere is the best way to go? Read, digest, contribute...

*Vicki Noble*

### *Contributions for Issue 21, January 2003*

All articles, news, adverts and other items for inclusion for the next issue of the NSCG Newsletter should be sent to the address below:

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