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Research Proposal Guidelines

The Rochester Museum & Science Center aims to encourage and support research projects¹ that:

- (1) help RMSC staff better understand our collections,
- (2) have intrinsic merit and are likely to make substantive contributions to one or more of the fields of inquiry relevant to the RMSC collections,
- (3) are scientifically defensible, and
- (4) are relevant to the mission of the RMSC.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their fit to these criteria. Toward that end, proposals should:

- Clearly identify the research problem, question, or hypothesis to be investigated or tested.
- Be focused and well-written in clear language understandable to a non-specialist.
- Indicate, to as detailed an extent as is practical, the objects in the RMSC collections that will be studied, complete with accession and/or catalog numbers if known.
- Detail the methodology(-ies) to be used and include a clear indication of how extensive object-handling and records-accessing are likely to be. Include descriptions and assessments of any destructive analysis proposed and the nature and extent of object photography.
- Demonstrate that the researcher is familiar with and understands current research, including relevant methodologies, in the field, and that the project has been thought through in the context of relevant previous and current research efforts.
- Outline specific goals of the project and propose a firm timetable for the project's completion.
- Demonstrate convincingly how the proposed project will help the RMSC staff better understand the collections and how the project will make a substantive contribution to the relevant field(s) of inquiry.

¹ "Research projects" are viewed as typically of longer duration than one day as distinguished here from short-term examinations of objects in the collections.

If you have any questions regarding submission of a reserach proposal, please contact Kathryn Murano, Collections Coordinator, at (585) 271-4552 x 329 or kathryn_murano@rmsc.org.