

## HOW TO START A PERSONAL COLLECTION

Personal collecting is a popular hobby for many people. Many collections highlight a collector's story and their passion in a particular subject whether it be in history (e.g. telephony), popular culture (e.g. Spiderman comics) or a even a location (e.g. Palmerston memorabilia).

Below are some steps to keep in mind when starting your own personal collection.

### 1) **Decide on what you want to collect.**

In the collection world, there is a fine line between collecting and hoarding so even before you start collecting you should have a good idea on **what you want to collect**. Consider your interests and choose a collection that resonates personally for you.

### 2) **Focus your collection.**

Narrow down your collection to make it more manageable. You are also making the collecting experience more enjoyable and more challenging by looking for particular items.

### 3) **Research your collection.**

Know your collection inside and out. The more you know the better curated your collection will be especially when purchasing new additions or sharing your collection with others.

### 4) **Start with inexpensive purchases.**

Collecting can be an expensive hobby. Start slow and aim to collect a few special pieces each year. This prevents wasting money on objects that you later do not need or value.

### 5) **Network and join collector groups.**

Going to shows and networking with fellow collectors help build relationships and assist you in finding rarer pieces for your collection. Other more common places to search for finds is EBay, Flea Markets, Antique Stores and Garage and Estate Sales.

### 6) **Store and Showcase your Collection.**

How is your collection stored? Light levels, temperature and humidity fluctuations are all harmful for most collections. Consider storing and displaying items in curio cabinets, frames or shadow boxes throughout your home where dust, natural light, and humidity and temperature fluctuations are minimal (away from basements and bathrooms). For more information, on how to properly take care of your collection, contact your local museum.