

Archive Report-New York Public Library



The New York Public Library is a contemporary building from the late 1890s. It belongs to the neo-classic architectural style. It is the largest public library in New York City.

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Introduction

In this archive report I have included a historical map that was displayed on a table for us during our visit to the New York Public Library. I chose another map from the The New York Public Library Digital Collection to compare both maps.



This map shows the elevated and surface lines that connect Grand Central Terminal before its official opening in 1913. The maps show a magnified portion of the streets adjacent to Grand Central Terminal at the upper left side. It does not have an orientation (North arrow), however it has a scale and legend. Also it contains a title and a grid that are used to describe the subways routes towards Grand Central Terminal.

Author: Rand McNally & CO.

Publisher: Rand McNally & CO.

Place of Publication: New York

Date: Date Issue: 1912

Audience: General public

Origin: The map was published in 1912 to inform the citizens of New York. My assumption is that many copies were printed.

Context: The map describes the elevated and surfaces lines that connect Grand Central Terminal. In addition, the map also shows the location for hotels and theatres of the City of New York.



I chose this informative map from the NYPL Collection. It shows an old subway map of the city. It contains all the necessary information in order to read a typical map. For instance, it has an orientation (North arrow), scale and legend. It contains a title and a grid that are used to describe the subway routes in the city.

Author: Hagstrom Company, Inc.

Publisher: Hagstrom Company, Inc.

Place of Publication: New York

Date: Date Issue: 1936

Audience: General public

Origin: The map was published in 1936 to inform the citizens of New York. My assumption is that many copies were printed.

Context: The map describes the active subway lines of the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT), Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit (BMT) and their stations. Today, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) runs those subway lines illustrated on the map.

Comparison and Contrast

The first map shows the elevated and surface lines of transit system of the New York to Grand Central Terminal. The second map shows the expansion of subway system in other part of the city of Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. There is a gap of more than 20 years between them. It seems that the subway system advanced with population growth.

References

The New York Public Library. (1912). *The Heart of New York: Grand Central Terminal: Only Railway Station on the Subway, Elevated, and Surface Lines*. Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/8f298140-f78e-0130-01f1-58d385a7b928>

Hagstrom's Map of New York Subway and Elevated Systems [Map]. (1936).
The New York Public Library. Manhattan, NY: Hagstrom Company.

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse>