

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #2

Brooklyn Collection



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DATE: 10.11.2018

INTRODUCTION

What were your expectations of the place before arriving? How did your experience live up to your expectations? What did you notice about the place that you didn't already know from reading or previous visits?

I expected to see a huge historic library as the New York public library since it is the main library in Brooklyn, but it was not as old as I expected. On the other hand, the location of this library is really awesome, I like how the library is located at the eastern side of the Grand Army Plaza which encourages people to come and visit the library. After I entered the library, I found out that it is a great library because it has a great collection of information about Brooklyn history and the history of all the changes that happened in Brooklyn neighborhoods over time.

ARCHIVE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 photographs of archival resources and provide a title for each image. The title should be a word or short phrase that sums up the subject matter in the photo.



Downtown, Brooklyn map in 1854



Downtown, Brooklyn map in 1926



An article about the Atlantic Yards

Why did you choose these images? Do they summarize a feeling you have for the place? Do they focus on prominent objects or features of the place? Explain.

These pictures are the strongest evidence that supports the main idea of the Brooklyn Collection that I found in the library. It summarizes all the information that I had collected about Downtown Brooklyn neighborhood. The maps above show how this neighborhood changed over time and how they used these blocks in many different ways. The article talks about a specific block where the Barclays Center was built. It shows how important is this block to build on it a great building like this. I also observed that the Barclays Center was and still the major interaction in this area.

Describe a few of the archival documents you examined. What purpose do they serve now? What purpose do you think they served when they were published or created?

I got a folder that full of articles that talk about the Atlantic Yards. It has a lot of information about the changes that happened. It talks about all the new projects and the developments that raised in Downtown Brooklyn. Some of these projects overlap part of the Atlantic Terminal Urban Renewal Area and the Long Island Railroad train yard. It focuses more on the Barclays Center and how it was developed. These articles collect very important information about this area. It is really important for the library to keep it in the Brooklyn collection because these articles stated the history of the changes that occurred in such a great space in Brooklyn.

Consider that the Brooklyn Collection is part of the Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library. What public amenities are offered to users of the space (water fountains, wheelchair access and other supports for the disabled, public telephones, phone charging stations, WiFi, subway and bus stations, etc.)? What public amenities are missing?

The Brooklyn Central Library offers a lot of amenities to users of the space. For example, it has a lot of transportations around it, there are the B41 bus and the 2-3-B-Q trains near it. Also, inside the building, they offer computers, WiFi, full accessibility, meeting rooms, passport office and off hours book drop. The only missing amenity is that they don't have enough people to guide you inside the library.

How have the planners, designers, and architects communicated the purpose of the place, via signage or design elements?

This library designed very well. First, there is a big porch in front of the main entrance of the building. Second, the architects of this place design a huge open space by the entrance of the library and this can connect all the rooms together, you can go to the second floor from the sides. This creates a great circulation inside the library which makes people move easily inside the building.

Are there any restrictions or rules (either explicit or implied) about how to use the space or interact with other people? Do you see anyone using the space in a manner that exceeds or violates the intentional design? Describe.

While I was in the collection research room, I observed a paper sign on the table that has a list of police rules.

- All large bags and coats must be checked.
- This room is only for the use of Brooklyn Collection materials.
- This is a quiet area.
- Drink, gum, and pens are not permitted.

Everyone was following the rules and no one was making any distraction.

What is your personal experience of the place? Think about sound/smell/touch, your body's movement, contact with the ground and physical comfort. How does the place make you feel? Briefly compare your experience visiting the Brooklyn Collection to your experience visiting the Map Division of the New York

Public Library.

For my personal experience about this place, it was a really good place, very quiet and clean. Personally, I liked the New York Public Library more because it is a huge building that shows a great architectural work, it has more space for reading and it gives you a comfortable feeling from the depth of the interior space in these great building.

ANALYSIS/DISCOVERIES

Use this section to reflect on your observations. Remember to refer to your observations when drawing general conclusions.

Thinking about the neighborhood in which the place is embedded, who is this space designed for and for what general purpose?

When I was in the library, I was observing people to figure out what kind of people are coming to the library. Then, I found out that the people who are coming to this library are just regular people like us, people who come to study but there were no tourists. I think this library was designed for the students, teachers, anyone who needs to make a research or anyone who wants to set in a quiet place to work. So this library is served for educational purposes and research.

Reflect on your experience examining and studying the materials from the Brooklyn Collection. Did you encounter anything unexpected or surprising, and if so what and how? Why do you think the articles, maps, books, and other information is preserved, if so much information is available in digital form? Who is it preserved for?

This library has a lot of information about Brooklyn Collection and I like how they keep everything organized for having all the details of every single topic separately. I was not really surprised for anything since it was all new information for me. I think this information is preserved because it is creating a remarkable history that is proved by all of this information with details. Also, I think it is hard to preserve information safe in a digital form. So they are keeping it in a safe place like the library as a hard copy to make these copies as rare pieces that you can not find it anywhere else.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. Write down THREE questions that require further research to answer. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project; do not use questions you can answer with a quick google search.

1. Why is the Brooklyn plan changing so fast?
2. Who is responsible for this change?
3. When is this change going to stop?
4. How can transportation be affected by this change?