

Learning Places Fall 2017

Library / Archive REPORT

Our First Trip to the Brooklyn Public Library



Ajay Pothuri

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INTRODUCTION

The scope of visiting this library was to get familiar with researching a specific topic. Since this was our first trip, we were just trying to get a feel of what can make a good or bad source to use towards a report for the class.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

What is the Genius Loci, or spirit, of this place?

The Genius Loci of the Brooklyn Public Library had an interesting feel to it. It seemed to remind me of a historical place, such as a museum. A lot of the resources in the library were pretty old, and once we

started looking at some of them, it felt like we were sort of *in* the past.

What kind of archive or library is this? What kinds of materials / sources does this place collect?

The library, specifically the 2nd floor, had a lot of resources that were pretty old. Most of them were from the actual time when the event being spoken of, or mentioned took place. Some of the folders did also contain much newer sources, like some about when the Dolphin turned up in the Gowanus Canal. There were a lot of maps, dating back to the 1900's. There was a map for almost every part of NYC, and there was one of Long Island also.

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

People could use these maps of the borough for many different reasons. The Fire Map, like the one shown below, can be used to determine what your place of residence might be made out of to determine how you can rebuild it, or renovate. It can also show any historical places that might've existed in the land that you live near.

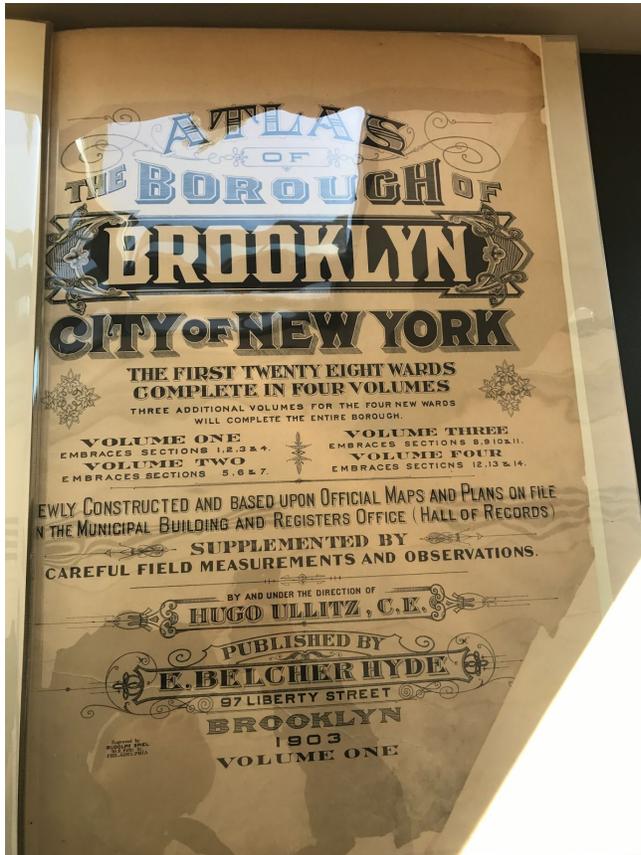


The Key for the Map above is:

SOURCE ANALYSIS

(2 citations of sources found and a brief analysis of each source—photos optional)

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #1 (consult this [website](#) for help with citations)



Ullitz, Hugo. 1903. Atlas of Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York. Volume One of The First Twenty Eight Wards Complete in Four Volumes. E. Belcher Hyde. 97 Liberty Street, Brooklyn NY.

1. What is this source and what is its purpose?

The Atlas for the City of New York that depicts all of the buildings in a particular part of Brooklyn and what they are made out of.

2. Who created it and who was it created for?

E. Belcher Hyde, and it was created for the fire department.

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

It can show us what was around the Gowanus Canal in the time period that the atlas was published in. This could also lead to us discovering who or what companies also contributed to the pollution of the canal, and how that area has changed since then.

4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

It could help out with the question “How has the evolution of Gowanus affected the pollution and community around the Gowanus Canal?”

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #2 (consult this [website](#) for help with citations)



Mcgruil, John A. November 11, 1973. New York Sunday News. New York Sunday News Edition of 1973, Page 4.

1. What is this source and what is its purpose?

Source is from the New York Sunday News. It shows how the Gowanus area has changed over the past 24 years (1940-1964).

2. Who created it and who was it created for?

First image was from the Long Island Historical Society and second was from Patrick Carroll. The images were taken of the same area to show the differences with time periods.

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

The area in the picture is of Gowanus, Brooklyn. It could show how development has changed the area of Gowanus a lot in a span of just two decades.

4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

It could answer the question of “How did the development of the surrounding areas affect the Gowanus Canal itself?”. The development of the surrounding areas could have led to the pollution of the canal.

GENERAL NOTES:

- The canal changed a lot in 24 years.
- There was once a lot of residential housing in the area.
- Most of the area was made out of brick at one point.
- Not many historical buildings in the Gowanus area.
- It once was the “heart” of Brooklyn and people were very proud of it.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What happened to most of the brick buildings that used to exist near the Gowanus Canal?
2. How did the development of the bridge near the Belt Parkway affect the residential population

near the Gowanus Canal?

3. How did the Gowanus canal influence the population of Brooklyn during the 1900s?