

Learning Places Fall 2016

Library / Archive REPORT

The Brooklyn Public Library



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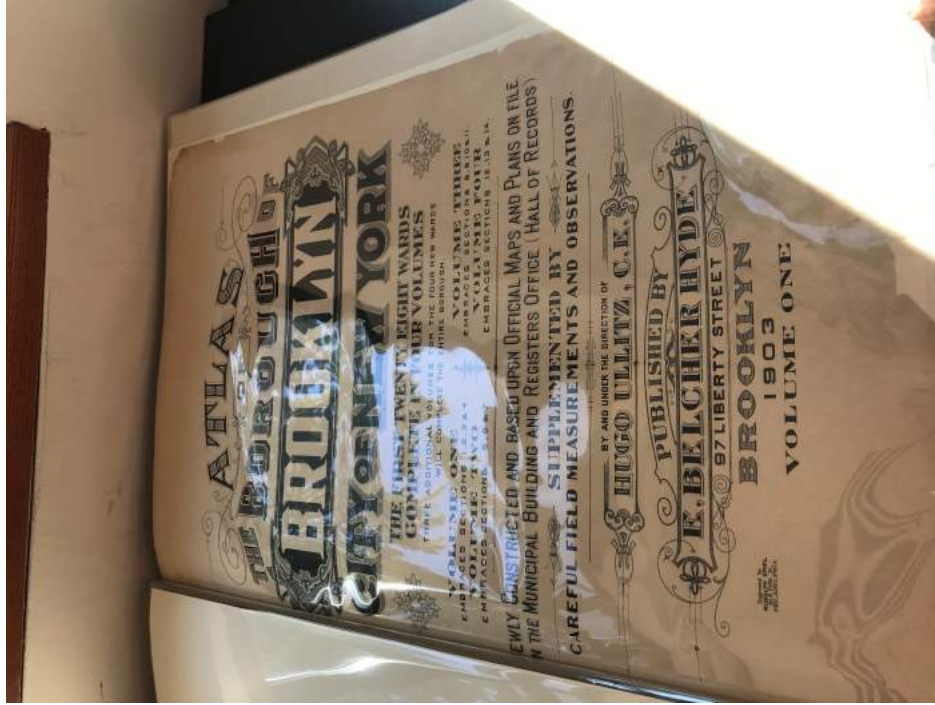
10.10.2017

INTRODUCTION

Today, we visited the Brooklyn Public library located at the Grand Army Plaza. We had the pleasure of meeting a special guest who allowed us access to the Brooklyn Collection. The Brooklyn collection is a certain part of the library which is open to classes and gives access to archive materials. We also went over how to access photographs through the library website. Materials in this section of the library are not allowed to leave the library. However, we found a lot of resources such as newspaper clippings, atlases,

maps and more that can help us in the future to conduct research.

SITE OBSERVATIONS



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

This is a library where it is open to the public. The Brooklyn Collection is open to classes for research and access to archive materials.

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

The guest at the library showed the class multiple atlases and fire maps. She also had newspaper clippings separated into folders and separated by topic. Our class is focused primarily on Gowanus.

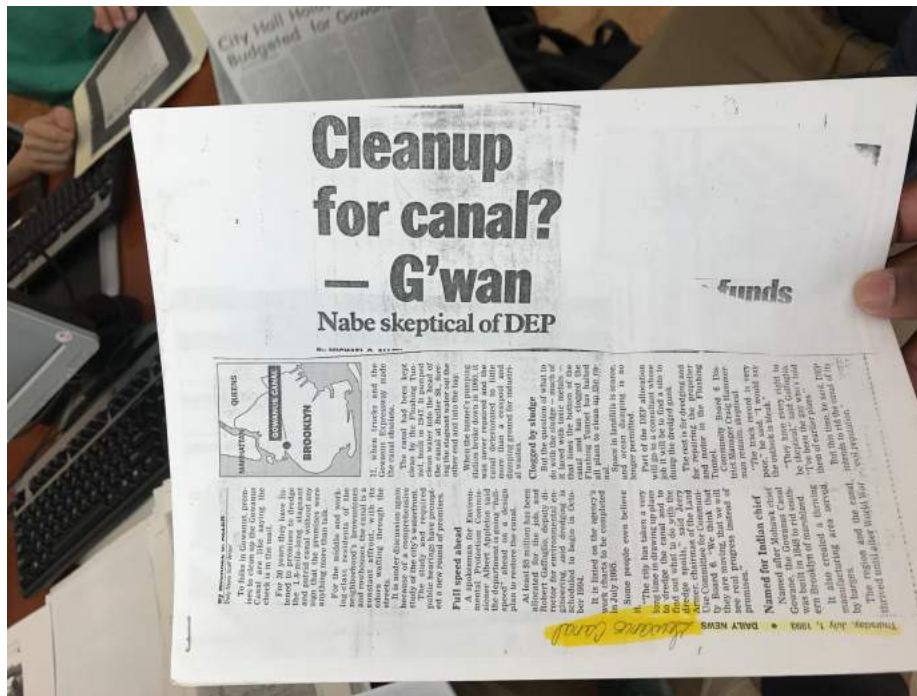
Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

Many people can use this collection. More importantly, information such as the atlases can only be found here at the Brooklyn Library.

Are there any special rules for using or accessing material?

If you are accessing online material, you must follow it through the library's website. Also, Newspaper clippings must be returned into the same folder in which it was removed from.

SOURCE ANALYSIS



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

Allen, M. G. (1993, July 1). Daily News. *Cleanup for canal? -Gwan*, p. 0-1.

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

This is a newspaper clipping from one of the folders in the Brooklyn Collection.

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

This article was created for the public to show the importance of the cleanup of Gowanus Canal. It was in the papers in the year 1993 from the Daily News.

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

In class, we are studying the Gowanus Canal. This is good because the Brooklyn Collection has many sources about the Gowanus Canal that we can be able to use in our research.

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

The Daily News have been talking about the cleanup since 1993 and it still hasn't been done. We have been visiting the area of Gowanus a few times and I can see changes slowly starting to happen.

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

Jackson, K. T. (n.d.). *The neighborhoods of Brooklyn*.

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

This is a book resource which talks about the several neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Gowanus being one of them.

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

This was a book written by Kenneth Jackson to inform readers about the different types of neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Many people live in Brooklyn and aren't aware of certain neighborhoods and places.

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

In this book, there is a portion focused on Gowanus which talks about the industrial aspect and

the ongoing construction going on.

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

I can use this source in my research project because I can compare how Gowanus was structured back when this book was published versus how it's structured today. I can continue to talk about the efforts of construction and modifications being made as well.

GENERAL NOTES:

- The neighborhood was formerly called the Gaslight District.
- Early sections were built by slave labor.
- The canal has inspired some beautiful architecture.
- The EPA also has no idea about the long-term effects on people who live near the canal, and no one is studying it.
- The Gowanus is literally a sewer. First, small businesses along the canal are illegally dumping sewage and wastewater into it.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. In the future, are we able to revisit the Brooklyn Collection to gather more information for our research project?
2. Based on the information and sources gathered at the library, what is the best way to compile our findings in terms of using the atlas?

