

Learning Places Fall 2016

Library / Archive REPORT

The Heart of Brooklyn



[Photo taken by www.brownstoner.com]

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INTRODUCTION

Going to the Brooklyn Public Library, the first few things that popped out is how the library itself looks from the outside. It has unique features that make the Library look a museum and the surrounding area if full of trees and bushes, so the library has a very eco friendly surrounding around it, which is prospect park. The Arc that's across from the Brooklyn Public Library gives that whole area a whole feel of center community of Brooklyn. Within the Brooklyn Public Library while walking in you see community coming together as a whole. When you arrive at the 2nd floor right off the stairs you can see a old phone booth that has graffiti on it, showing a piece of Brooklyn that holds a lot change and history. Overall the library was an amazing place to visit and get to know.

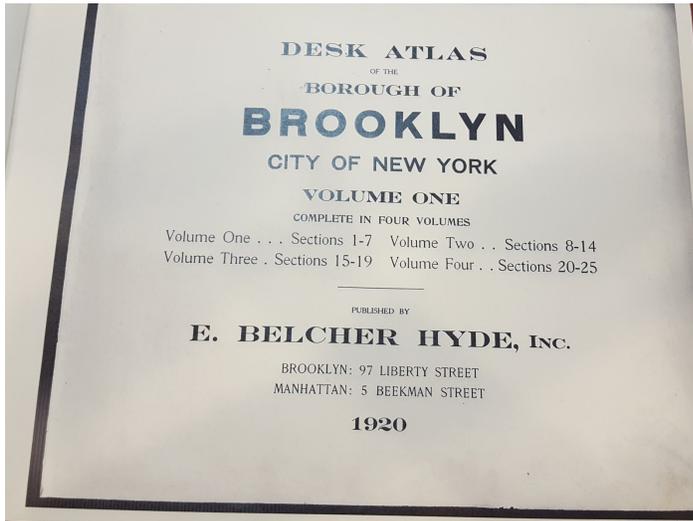
SITE OBSERVATIONS



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

The Genius Loci or spirit of the Brooklyn Library is the Library itself, it seems to be the heart of Brooklyn. The reason it seems to be the spirit is because a lot of information on Brooklyn as a whole is there dating back centuries, holding all of the rich history from every corner of Brooklyn and telling a story of how Brooklyn became to be. The Brooklyn Public Library and it's surrounding areas, such as prospect park and the Arc across from the Library bring a warm social center. The Brooklyn Library bring the community of Brooklyn from every corner together, making it a very special place.

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



The kind of library that The Brooklyn public Library consist of is that it contains a lot of historic background on Brooklyn and what all the areas of Brooklyn have gone through. Not only does it provide historic background but, it also includes all the different types of maps of Brooklyn from different years. Seeing the maps and what they have and show about the Brooklyn we know today is very interesting because we get to see how it was back in day and all the things Brooklyn was. The picture to the

left is a picture of a book called the "Desk Atlas" and this mapping book shows the different areas in Brooklyn and what are in those areas around that time and how the neighborhoods were design. Brooklyn Public Library collects different types of sources, such as maps from different years, newspaper clippings from different years and different newspaper companies, also books. This collection where the picture was taken is on the 2nd floor of the library which is dedicated different resources primarily on Brooklyn.

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

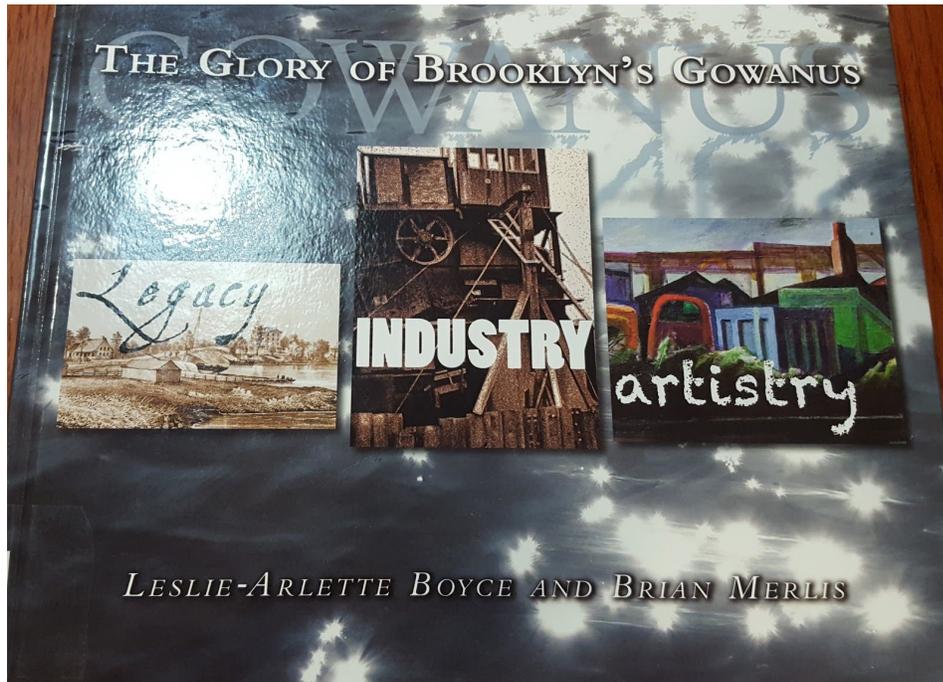
The collection that the Brooklyn Public Library has might be used by different people who are looking for different resources on Brooklyn or certain areas of Brooklyn. Looking at the collection that the library has would help the researcher look at the history of what they are researching and as well the change that has occur in the area. It would also help get a lot of different information from a lot of different time period and as well different resources like old newspapers, maps, books from different authors or articles from different time periods.

Are there any special rules for using or accessing material?

Some of the special rules on using the material is to be careful while using them. Flipping through some of the old pages in the books, you have to be careful turning the pages and making sure that nothing gets broken off or messed up because most of the materials in that area are very unique. Another this is, make sure that newspaper clippings go back in the order in the way you saw them.

SOURCE ANALYSIS

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #1



Boyce, L. A., & Merlis, B. (2011). The glory of Brooklyn's Gowanus: legacy, industry, artistry.

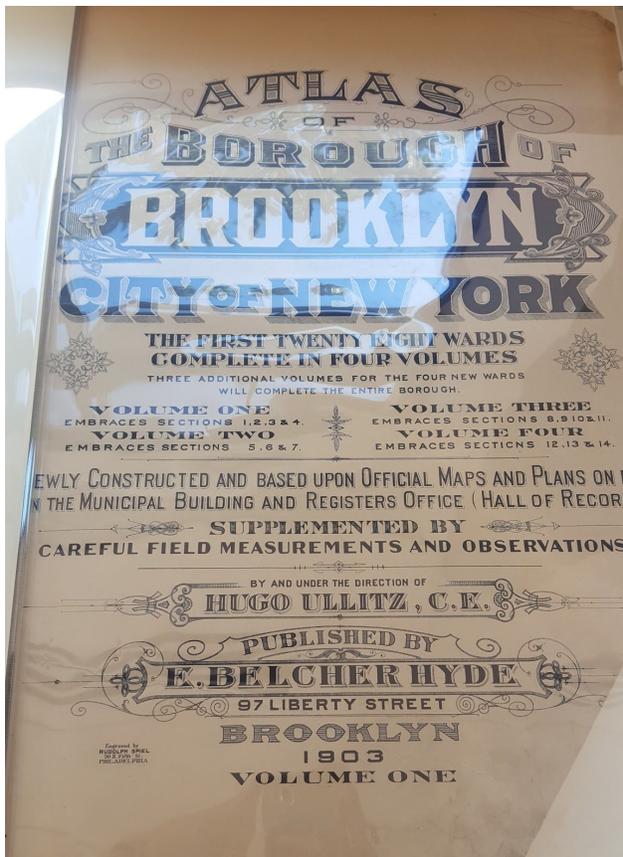
1. What is this source and what is its purpose?
 - This source is a book mainly written about the area named Gowanus and the purpose for this source is that it shows the history and the different types of areas created in this one area in Brooklyn called Gowanus showing the changes it went through and all the things that made the Gowanus what it is known for.

2. Who created it and who was it created for?
 - This was created by Leslie-Arlette Boyce and Brian Merlis, and this book was created for the people of Brooklyn to see what the Gowanus is and what are the different areas of Gowanus.

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?
 - What this source tells us about the place we are studying is that it is made up of different areas that make it what it is today and showing how change always occurs in this area. The themes that this relates to is the history of a place and what the changes are in those areas through the different time periods.

4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?
 - This book is of great use for someone who is doing a research project because it has so many different areas that make it up, not only history but as well the story of the different areas. This book is great for a question that has to deal with change happening within the area they are researching about.

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #2



Ullitz, H. (1903). *Atlas of the borough of Brooklyn, City of New York: the first twenty eight wards complete in four volumes ...: newly constructed and based upon official maps and plans on file in the municipal building and registers office (Hall of Records) supplemented., Volume One.,* Brooklyn: E. Belcher Hyde.

1. What is this source and what is its purpose?
 - This source is huge book of different maps of different areas of Brooklyn and the purpose for this book is that it was made in order to help developers build their developments and know the history of what was build there before.

2. Who created it and who was it created for?
 - E.Belcher Hyde was the creator of the maps and it was created for developers and for knowledge of what the land looks like in different areas of Brooklyn.

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?
 - What this source tells us about the place we are studying is that it ha a lot of dated of things that show the history of Brooklyn and what Brooklyn looked look like in 1903 and how all the different neighborhoods use to be. This relates to the history of Brooklyn and what it was back in the day and how it has changed so much since that time.

4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?
 - This is good for a research project because if you are learning about a certain area in Brooklyn looking at this book of maps helps you see what the area use to look like in 903 and what that neighborhood what it was at that time and as well what was build in that area. This is great for a question that has to do with change in the area that is being study and as well as how much has it changed since that time.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Maps are very important and they all have different things that shows something different.
- The Gowanus area had many books that talked about the areas canal and the things that were around it.
- In the maps The Gowanus Canal was always shown and how the area was build around it.
- There was a book that talk about the guide of the Gowanus Canal and Red Hook back in the day
- Newspaper clippings show all the different changed the Gowanus area went through over time.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Is the current eco system around the Gowanus Canal health to be around?
2. Would the new developers, develop eco-system public spaces that would help clean and keep clean of the Gowanus Canal?
3. What is going to happen to the artist of the Gowanus Canal area once new developers start to build?