

Learning Places Fall 2017

Library Report 2

Visit to the NYPL

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INTRODUCTION

Our visit to the NYPL was mainly focused on finding out the history of the Gowanus through the usage of all sorts of maps on the area from different times. I had expected the library to be big given that i've seen its size from different angles, but what i had not expected was the architectural integrity of the inside of the building. I had never seen the library from the front, and always thought that the back of the library which connected to Bryant park was the front so seeing as how the back was dull I

had figured it'd be the same inside.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

(include photographic documentation and visual notes—at least 2 photographs 1 sketch required)

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

The spirit of the library struck me as historical, beautiful, and knowledgeable. Granted it is a library, but with all the fine detail to the architecture that shows it's roots it might as well be considered art.

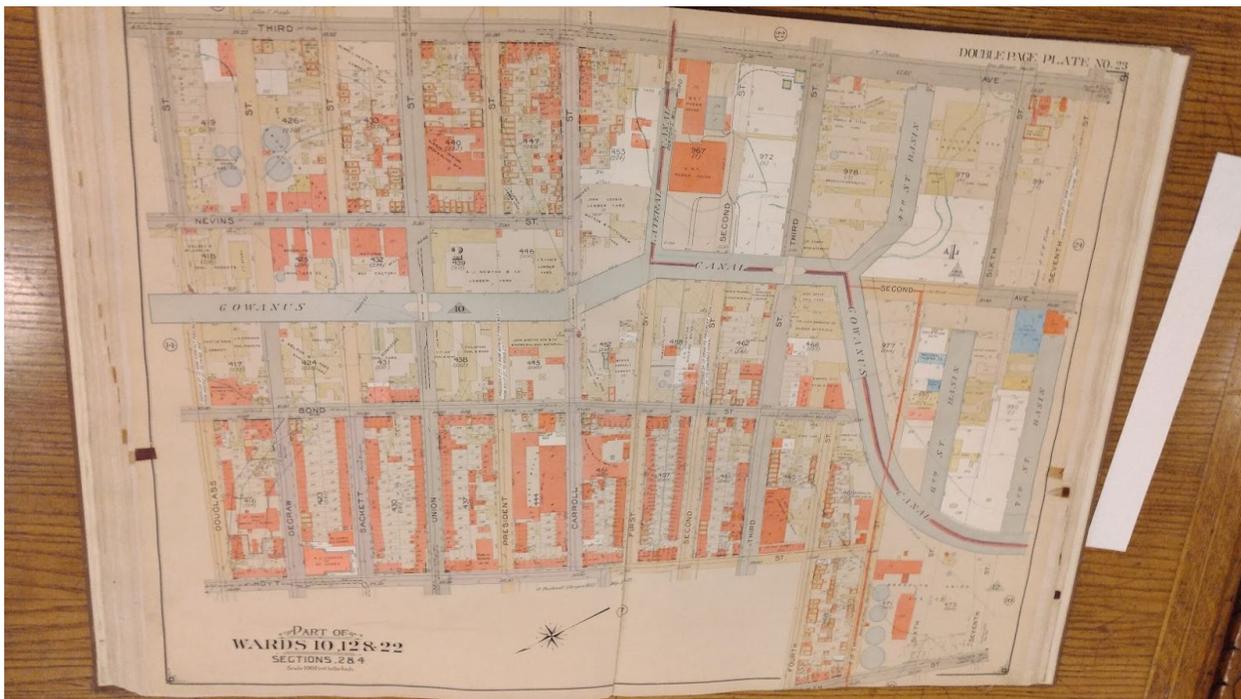
What kind of archive or library is this? What kinds of materials / sources does this place collect?

This library is a cultivation of historical documentation, research documents, free readings etc. that is open to the public and can be accessed freely during the open hours.

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

Given the contents of the library it is mostly scholars in search of important documentation and information to help them in writing their scholarly essays, and also by businessmen and researchers to find evidence that can impact their work and how it is presented. The library holds over 55 million items that can pretty much be used by anyone for whatever purpose they need in that moment.

(below is an image of a map that highlights flammable areas that could be used for insurance companies and etc.)



Are there any special rules for using or accessing material?

While the vast majority of the items in the library are open to public use, there are some exceptions/restrictions when it comes to some very sensitive documentation. For example, the maps that we had taken a look at. An appointment needed to be made so that the librarians could have enough time to pick out what we needed and present them to us, and while looking at them we were told not to touch or move around any of the documentation only because the paper is very old and therefore fragile so only trained professionals like the librarians should be the ones to physically handle the maps or whatever sensitive/fragile documentation is withheld inside the NYPL.



(image of the first plan of the city of New York)

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)



The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Print Collection, The New York Public Library. (1776). *Plan of the city of New York, in North America* Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47d9-7ad5-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

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

This is a map of New York before it's development. It's purpose is to propose a plan or rather an idea of how New York should look like when everything is built.

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

It was published by Jeffreys and Fayden for the use of government officials and early developers to split up and plan out the layout of New York's development.

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

This source just shows the early development of New York and can mostly relate to the how New York was supposed to look like as opposed to how it actually came out to be.

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

This map can be used in a research project about the history of New York and answer the question,

“how was New York first planned out and what has changed since then?”

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



Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. (1916). *Use District Map Section No. 16* Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e4-7685-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

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

This is a District map of New York, closed in on the Gowanus area, that designated area usage. A zoning map simply.

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

It was created by The City Board for developers so they knew what could be developed where.

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

it relate to?

This shows us the first effects of zoning on the gowanus and the first zoning regulations that were put into place.

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

This map could be used in a research project about zoning in the gowanus and answer the question, “when were the effects of zoning first seen in the gowanus and how long ago did it begin?”

GENERAL NOTES:

- The gowanus area has been built very differently than what was planned.
- The NYPL has a mass collection that i had not anticipated
- The NYPL’s architecture is very beautiful, well preserved, and artistic
- The front entrance is actually more beautiful than i had thought
- The Library is a very attractive tourist stop.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How has the plan for the gowanus changed over the years?
2. How has the value of the gowanus and its properties changed over the years?
3. How can we use maps to help predict what will become of the gowanus, or rather New York, in the future?