

Learning Places Fall 2017

Library / Archive REPORT

Site report #2

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, there are many big events that happens, no matter where we live. These events can be both big and small, from a local fire in a nearby small neighborhood to the assassination of president Lincoln, and it impacts us in many ways. An archive is a place where preserve information, such as these events, so that people can look back into it for research.

An archive has several purposes; its main purpose is to store valuable information that can be lost throughout history. It also allows people to access them for whatever purpose they need the information for, and perhaps to raise public knowledge of something they never seen or heard of. It can also protect people, such as having documentation of tax records in case of lawsuit problems, or misunderstanding. Certain archives also are legally mandated to preserve certain information, but these information might not be available to everyone.

Although an archive is a place to store information, there are controversy in which the type of information being stored is bias. The reality is that an archive is bias on its information; the types of sponsorship that funds the archive most likely decides the types of information that are available and stored, and what information its visitor can access. The information in the archive are meant to be bias, in order to give its visitor a point of view from one side, and not the whole picture.

In our site visit, we visited two different archives to search for information for our project; the Interference Archive and the Archive in Brooklyn Public Library, from the Brooklyn Collection Ephemera Desk. I will talk briefly about both archives and two piece of artifact that i've chosen to help my research for my project.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



The photo above shown is the Inference Archive, located on 131 8th St, Brooklyn, NY 11215. This archive have any records of local newspapers, pamphlets, and books about the city of Brooklyn. It is an archive that is sponsored most by volunteers, and maintain also by volunteers. The building itself seems to be a renovated warehouse, and as an engineer, I worry about the building as I've seen that a lot of the wooden beams running across the truss have cracks in them.

It is also somewhat harder to find information that I'm looking for. While a lot of the information are sorted into folders, the drawers are not very well organized, and seeing that it is an archive funded by volunteers, my guess is that their budget is also limited and unable to buy more efficient storage tools to sort the information.

The place however, while a bit rundown, does show a sense that it is a place that the local volunteers have put their best effort into maintaining the place while limited on funds and manpower. The posters in the background shown a sense of unity within the community, a feeling that there are people there and they care about it, and a sense of feeling how it is when you visit a local family, and staying with them for dinner.

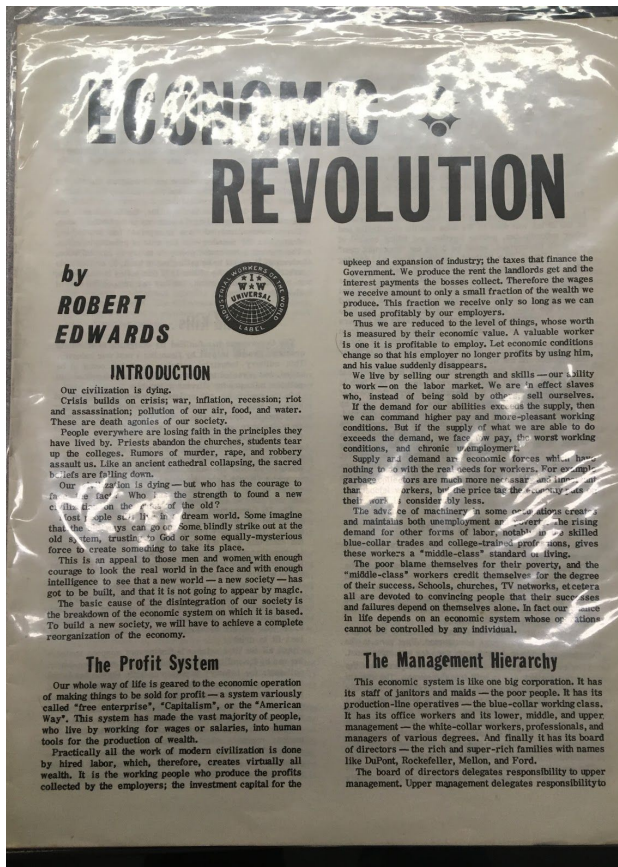


In contrast to the Interference Archive, this is the Brooklyn Public Central Library located on 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238. This place, compared to the Interference Archive, is much much larger and have security nearby the front entrance. In the photo, the eagle statue is seen there, which is the statue that was moved here when the Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper when out of business. The Brooklyn Eagle also donated most of their newspaper to the library, and we are able to find clippings of many information about Brooklyn upstairs in the Brooklyn Collection Ephemera.

This place has have much more funding compared to interference, with the library staff able to help you find the information you need, and also able to access information online as well. The information stored in this archive is more organized and easier to find because there are more finding aids. The information here is more general, where it is more like maps, documents and public records, which are more detailed.

Compared to Interference Archive, the information gather here however, does not show you a point of view, but rather, a general overview for most of them. For example, the zooming maps of Brooklyn back in the 1900s might show you how the city have changed overtime in an area, but it will not tell you how the local neighbors felt about the redevelopment of the area, where this information might be easier to find in interference Archive instead.

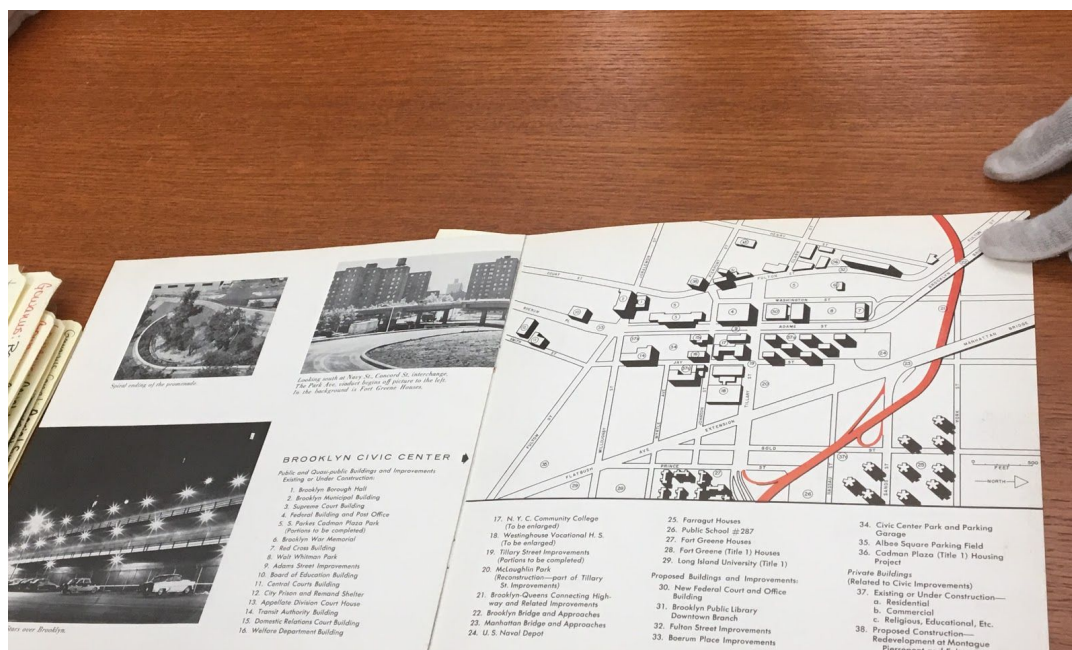
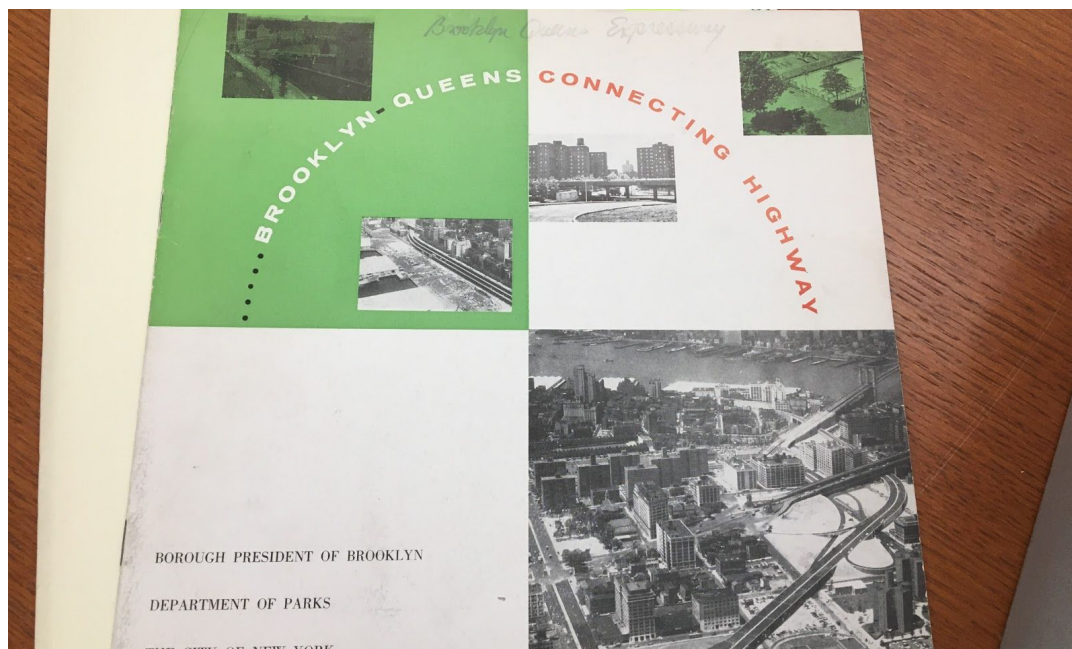
SITE DOCUMENTATION (Sources*)



[Economic Revolution], Brooklyn Collection, interference Archive (United States: Housing/Squatting/Urbanism folder), 131 8th St, Brooklyn, NY 11215

I chose this article mainly because it has a very interesting point of view. This article shows us that the author tells us that the working class is being exploited, and that the poor working class should be unified, which leads to the creation of unions. Thinking back, the unions during the Robert Moses are in league with him during his projects, and that the working class still suffers despite being in an union. Ultimately, joining the union actually later on allow the poor working class to get exploited even further, which is interesting. The “Revolution” proposed by the author also led to their downfall in the future, which is ironic when we look

back at the history.



Brooklyn Queens Expressway Pamphlet [Brooklyn - Queens Connecting Highway]. Brooklyn Collection Ephemera, Brooklyn Public Central Library (Brooklyn Queens Expressway folder). 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238

This was chosen for the fact that it shows us the planned BQE proposed by Robert Moses back in the 1900s. This pamphlet shows where the expressway will run through, and which neighborhoods will they demolish in order to build it. It is also seen in the photo that Robert Moses' view of the expressway is that a domination of automobiles allow people to travel and flourish in the city, and the photo also shown his vision of the expressway co-exist with a public park, where in reality, that is not very possible due to the pollution and noise of being near the expressway.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Interference Archive / Brooklyn Collection
 - Archive site report (Template online)
 - place (impression)
 - talk about artifact (at least 2)
 - citations on it
 - space
 - Archives
 - preserve information
 - make it accessible
 - history
 - political power (?)
 - choice of information to be saved
 - protect people
 - records
 - legal mandate (certain info.)
 - Kinds of materials collected
 - institutional document
 - personal books
 - Cultural *ephemera
 - digital material
 - Types of Archives
 - Community Archives (Interference Archive)
 - Corporate
 - Government
 - Religious
 - Historical Societies
- * Vocabulary words
- * Deposit

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Cultural ephemera: Culture or cultural practices that lasts a very short period of time.

"ephemera, n.2." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/63197?rskey=MzGcCY&result=1&isAdvanced=false#eid>

Depository: A place or receptacle in which things are deposited or placed for safe keeping; a storehouse, a repository.

"depository, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/50382?redirectedFrom=depository#eid>

Microfilm: Film containing microphotographs of the pages of a book, periodical, etc.; a length of such film.

"microfilm, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/117965?rskey=3VBExG&result=1&isAdvanced=false#eid>

Letterhead: a printed heading on a sheet of letter paper containing the name, address, etc., of an organization or individual; (also) stationery or a sheet of paper with such a heading.

"letterhead, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/107545?redirectedFrom=letterhead#eid39355838>

Morgue: a storage place for a collection of past printed news material, the information is sorted and to keep as a record.

Stereoscope: An instrument for obtaining, from two pictures (usually photographs) of an object, taken from slightly different points of view (corresponding to the positions of the two eyes), a single image giving the impression of solidity or relief, as in ordinary vision of the object itself.

"stereoscope, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/189944?redirectedFrom=stereoscope#eid>

Facade: The face or front of a building towards a street or other open place, *esp.* the principal front. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*, of an architectural design concerned with elegance, etc., in the façade of a building alone.

"façade, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/67424?redirectedFrom=facade#eid>

Sanborn Atlas: a collection of maps that originally shows the types of materials that a building is made out of, its main purpose is to allow insurance companies to determine how much they should charge for a certain neighborhood.

Propaganda: The systematic dissemination of information, *esp.* in a biased or misleading way, in order to promote a political cause or point of view. Also: information disseminated in this way; the means or media by which such ideas are disseminated.

"propaganda, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from:

<http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/152605?rskey=wptgO9&result=1&isAdvanced=false#eid>

Archive: A place in which public records or other important historic documents are kept.

"archive, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, June 2017. Web. 23 June 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.oed.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/view/Entry/10416?rskey=YO2Cet&result=1&isAdvanced=false#eid>

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Is the information bias from a specific archive too extreme that it is consider to be a collection of propagandas?
2. What if the information from two different archives contained conflicting information? Is there a way to determine which one is credible?
3. If the archive's main purpose is to store information and important documents, but the types of documents to be stored are chosen or influence by its sponsorship, will the archive loses its credibility?