

Learning Places Spring 2017

Library / Archive REPORT

Interference Archive & Brooklyn Public Library

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INTRODUCTION

On our second next site visit, we decided to focus on how to look for valid resources while researching for articles and many other valid sources. There are many sources we can search online, but it is very difficult to find what sources are reliable and which sources are fake. So we visit two places, the first was the Interference Archive which is located by 8th st between 3rd and 2nd ave. Then, our next visit was to the Brooklyn Public Library which is located by Grand Army Plaza. We learned that these two places are archives. Where they have a lot of primary sources, providing a direct or firsthand evidence of an event.

From visiting the Archive and the Brooklyn library we can get many information we were looking for that focused on Brooklyn, especially the Gowunas. We also learned that this Archives is being preserved by pure donations, and is all volunteer workers. And there are many archives along the city. The Is not a huge space, but they have small rooms with files of information. And in the Brooklyn library, we were able to access a room that had many primary sources such as maps and atlas, and they also have a room with more resources that is located at the basement.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



This is an image of the Brooklyn Public Library from entrance of the building. The land in where the library is on, was supposed to be part of Prospect Park Plaza as well. It is a historical place. In library, we were able to find many maps of the before Brooklyn and its development process throughout the years. Also, found that they received a donation from the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper.



The Interference Archive space isn't as big, but it contains many books and files. They have many pamphlets and posters along the room. Most of the posters are representing a cause or even posters with motivational quotes. This room is an exhibition space, where they gather to research for certain topics and get primary sources for the topic and the case that they were researching there was sexual violence.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (Sources*)



Unknown. (1841). The Olden Town of Brooklyn. Retrieved from Brooklyn Public Library

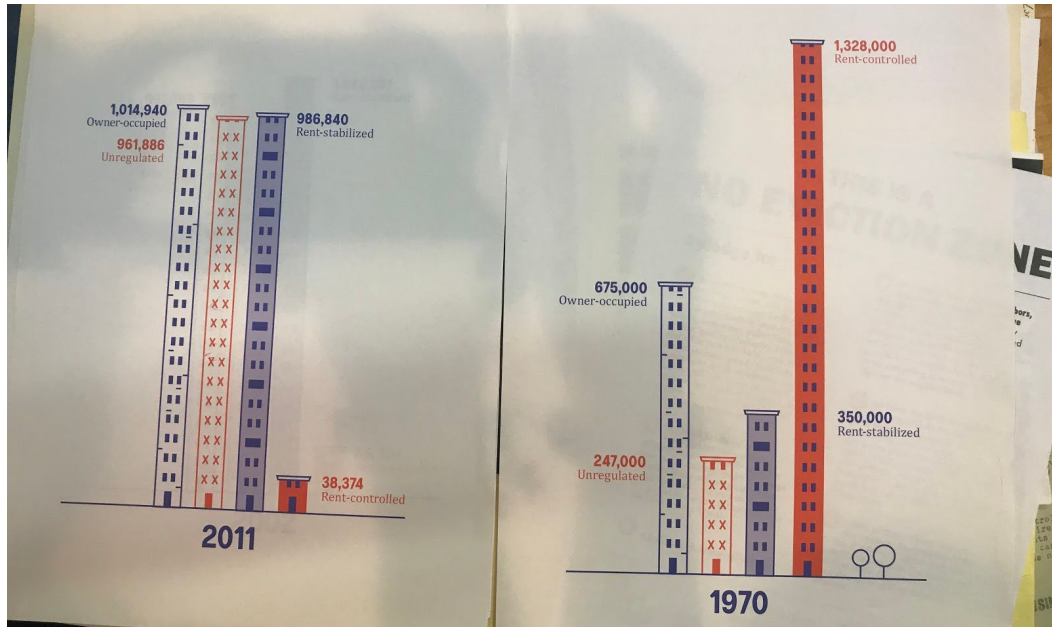
This image is a map of old Brooklyn from 1841, located in the reserve room in the Brooklyn Library. You are able to see many information from this map. From the map I noticed many differences between today and before. I found this map to be very important because is shows the difference in how people thought before and today. Also, how the land before had a more organic form to what it is today, even the Gowanus canal you can see that it was much wider before too. There were more farms and also there wasn't as many roads there are today. It helps us understand how developers started

developing Brooklyn. This source was useful for my topic Urban renewal, because I differentiate from past and present. It allowed me to understand on the process of development.



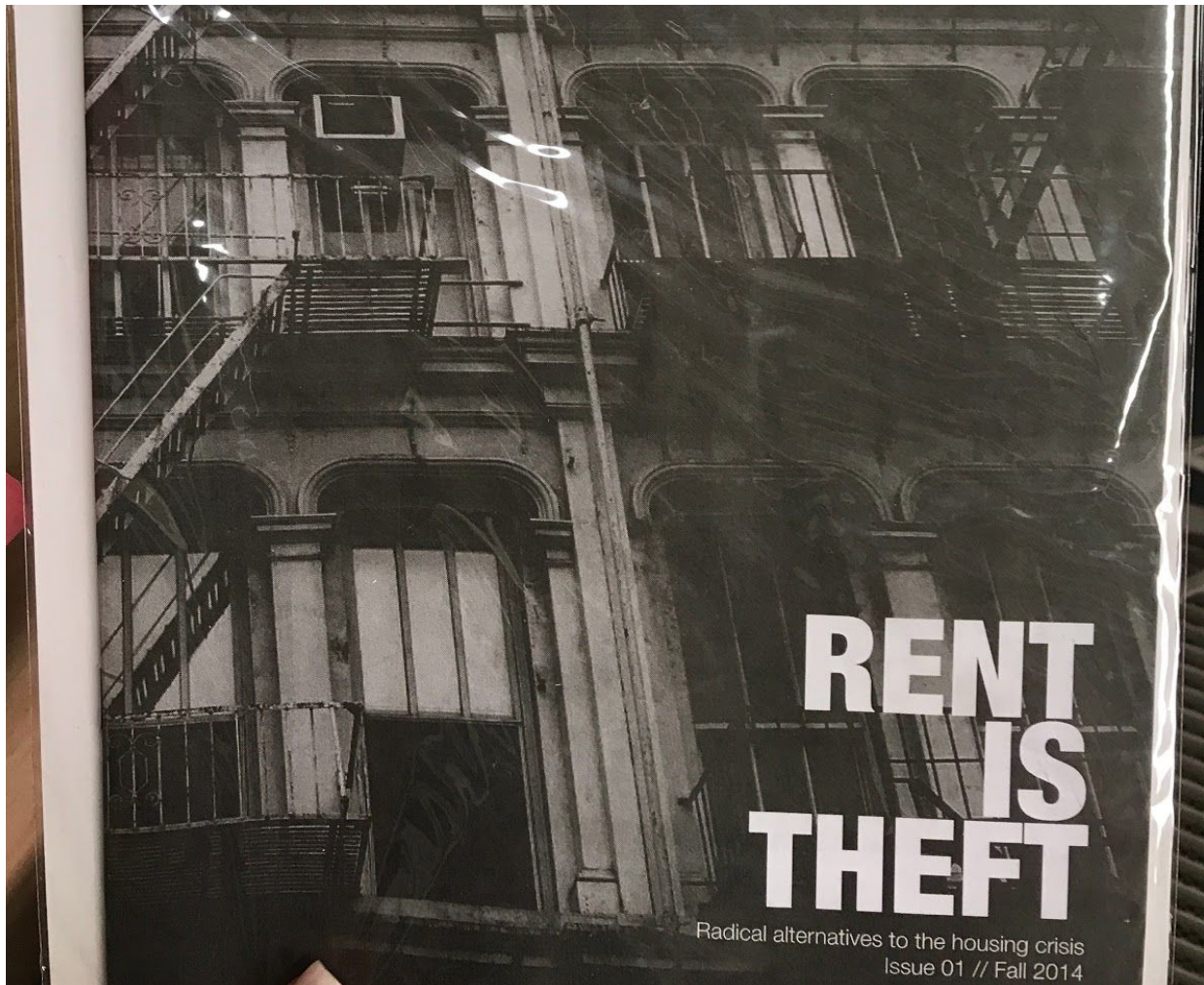
Unknown. (Nov 8 1940). Gowanus Canal. NEIG 2348. (Poster). Retrieved from Brooklyn Public Library.

This photo shows the Gowanus Canal of what it was before. You can see that was before it was all industrial work. Showing the smoke coming out of these manufacturing places. And from the map I found from 1841, you can see the drastic changes made, in which the canal is no longer known for its oysters. This image gives a clear understanding by the Gowanus Canal it so contaminated and polluted. But use can also tell that it was once a very active located where a lot of boats would come and go. This source is useful for my research because I can easily compare the industrial redevelopment being done in the canal, and of the industrial workers having to move to different location.



Unknown (1970/2011). Population Residential. Subject Files Box 5 fra- Gr. (Poster). Retrieved from interference Archive. Brooklyn.

I came across these images which show the growth between the people in residential spaces. It is very obvious the difference within 41 years. In 1970 there were more rent controlled spaces that people lived in than there is today. You can see the drastic changes, and I feel it has to do with what's going on today like, gentrification and eminent domain. Pushing away people who can't afford the rent. The reason this is useful for my research is because it helps understand the changes of public housing. I also think that a lot of these changes have to do a lot with gentrification over time.



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Unknown. (2014). Rent Is Theft. Magazines Journal Serie SCA - SNA. (Poster). Retrieved from Interference Archive. Brooklyn.

I found this image to be very interesting because it is displaying the issue that is going on today and it something that started way before we even noticed. I also found very interesting that you are able to see the quality of living in the apartment. It's a clear assumption that those apartments aren't in their best condition, and with the title of the poster it is like the people are getting ripped off for the money they are paying for what they are actually receiving. This is also a useful source for me, because even though Urban Renewal is something that no longer exists, the rise of rent, was a tool used to evacuate people from their neighborhoods.

GENERAL NOTES:

- The archive is funded by donation
- Eminent domain is the law that allows people to move others from their property
- There are many archives for many different type of records
- Back then insurance company would use atlases and maps to figure out what material the buildings are made with, to know the fire rating risk of the building.
- The Gowanus was first a creek before it was a canal
- Before the BQE there was no separation of communities
- The Brooklyn Library was given the newspaper from the Brooklyn Eagle Newsletter

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Eminent Domain: a right of a government to take private property for public use by virtue of the superior dominion of the sovereign power over all lands within its jurisdiction.

Primary source: first in order in any series, sequence, etc.

Secondary Source: pertaining to or being a derived or derivative account, an evaluation of original data, etc.; not primary or original

Sexual Violence: as a sexual act committed against someone without that person's freely given consent.

Archivist: a person responsible for preserving, organizing, or servicing archival material.

Archive: documents or records relating to the activities, business dealings, etc., of a person, family, corporation, association, community, or nation.

Sanborn Map: The Sanborn map collection consists of a uniform series of large-scale maps, dating from 1867 to the present and depicting the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of some twelve thousand cities and towns in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Depository: a place where something is deposited or stored, as for safe keeping

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How can eminent domain be addressed to certain community where those who are being kicked out don't have to suffer?
2. How has Urban Renewal impacted the housing and industrial uses of today?
3. What are some of the issues caused by Urban Renewal in today's Society?
4. How can you create your own Archive? Is it possible to do so?

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<https://library.citytech.cuny.edu/research/articles/oxford-english-dictionary>

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<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/primary%20source>