**Archives and Other Sources to Consult for Your Research**

By now, you probably already know the difference between secondary and primary documents. In this guide, you will find a list of several on-line resources to consult while you are identifying primary documents. There are many more resources than these, and you should always let your investigative sensibilities guide you toward others! Importantly, you should also note that an in-person visit to an archive or library will yield far more detailed and extensive results than what you’ll find here. This should be considered a first step, not the complete journey, in your research.

**Archives**

Your first stop should be reading over this excellent link from the Association of American Archivists, which gives you an overview of how to do responsible archival research:

<http://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives>

***Here is a list of archives that you may wish to consult:***

New York Public Library (<http://archives.nypl.org/>)

Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (<http://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/>)

Municipal Archives (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/collections.shtml>)

Municipal Library (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/library/chlibrary.shtml>)

NYU Tamiment and Wagner Archives (<https://library.nyu.edu/about/collections/special-collections-and-archives/tamiment-wagner-archives/>)

NYU Fales Library and Special Collections (<https://library.nyu.edu/about/collections/special-collections-and-archives/fales-library-and-special-collections/>)

**Other Sources**

***Newspapers, Periodicals, Blogs***

**Proquest Historical Newspapers (http://search.proquest.com/cv\_525234/advanced?accountid=12768)**

Proquest has dozens of searchable resources, but perhaps the most useful for our purposes are the *New York Times* Historical Index and the *New York Amsterdam News* archive. These provide every article published in the *Times* from 1851 to 2010 and from the *New York Amsterdam News*, a newspaper for and by African American New Yorkers, from 1922-1993.

**LexisNexis Academic Universe (**[**http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/**](http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/)**)**

Lexis Nexis catalogues national, international, and local articles from hundreds of newspapers and periodicals. It also catalogues legal, financial, and biographical information and is particularly useful if you are trying to dig up information about court cases.

***El Diario, La Prensa***

This is accessible at the New York Public Library on 42nd Street or at home if you have an NYPL card. If you speak Spanish, this will be an indispensible source of information about the Spanish-speaking communities of the Lower East Side.

**Ethnic News Watch** (<http://search.proquest.com/ethnicnewswatch/advanced?accountid=12768>)

This may overlap with other sources you discover, but considering the diverse populations of the Lower East Side, there may be information in this resource to help you tell your story.

***The Villager***

(<https://www.thevillager.com/>)

The Villager covers local Lower East Side events and perspectives in a more in-depth way than most city-wide newspapers do. You can’t go back too far in its archives here, but it’s a great place to look.

**Evgrieve.com and the The Lo-Down**

<http://evgrieve.com/> and <http://www.thelodownny.com/>

These two blogs will tell you everything you want to know about how Lower East Siders think about NYU and it might tell you a lot more than other sources about the topics you’re researching.

***Demographic Data***

**American Community Survey (http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)**

This is a compilation of very recent census data and can be helpful, though tricky, to use. Try some of the other tools below to see if you can find the information you want before you get caught up in this one!

**1940 Census (**[**http://1940census.archives.gov/**](http://1940census.archives.gov/)**)**

This is the most recent census that is fully searchable and available on-line. You can even look at the scanned manuscript records of this census. While most of our research will focus on the decades after 1940, this might be helpful to give you a sense of what existed before the era we are studying.

**New York City Department of City Planning (**[**http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/subcats/resources.shtml**](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/subcats/resources.shtml)**)**

The census fact finder can give you some pretty detailed information about specific census tracts and neighborhoods.

**Census Data 1990-Present (Available only at Bobst)**

The census measures hundreds of different factors and they are not always the same from year to year. This data may help you determine the characteristics of the build environment and populations of the neighborhoods you are studying.

**Neighborhood Change Database (**[**http://demographics.geolytics.com/ncdb2010/default.aspx**](http://demographics.geolytics.com/ncdb2010/default.aspx)**)**

Using this tool, you may be able to trace the rate and variables of neighborhood change in the neighborhoods you are studying.

***Maps***

**Digital Sanborn Maps (http://sanborn.umi.com/)**

These can give you a lot-by-lot view of what you are researching, but only records maps up to 1951.

**Department of City Planning (http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/subcats/resources.shtml)**

You can find maps of Community Board Districts and what the DCP defines as “neighborhoods” here. Also check out the zoning maps. This is generally a good resource for understanding what the DCP has in store for different areas of the city.

**Policy Map (http://nyu.policymap.com/maps)**

I’ve never used this tool before, but it looks great! You can search an address and it will bring up a whole host of information about the area in which it is located.

***Other***

**Federal Response to Radicalism in the 1960s (**[**http://go.galegroup.com/gdsc/i.do?action=interpret&id=3ENS&v=2.1&u=new64731&it=aboutCollections&p=GDSC&sw=w&authCount=1**](http://go.galegroup.com/gdsc/i.do?action=interpret&id=3ENS&v=2.1&u=new64731&it=aboutCollections&p=GDSC&sw=w&authCount=1)**)**

There were many neighborhood activists in Brooklyn in the 1960s. You may find information about them here.

**National Archives (**[**http://www.archives.gov/**](http://www.archives.gov/)**)**

Although this resource is certainly not exclusive to New York, we sometimes come across surprising tidbits by searching the database.

**National Union Catalog and Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) (**[**http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/**](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/)**)**

This tool can help you identify the appropriate manuscript collections to consult in relation to your research topic.

**WorldCat (**[**http://www.worldcat.org/**](http://www.worldcat.org/)**) and ArchiveGrid (**[**http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/**](http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/)**)**

These two resources can help you identify manuscripts, books, and other sources that may be helpful for your research. You can also find out if the sources are on-line or digitized first before you take a trip to an archive.

**NYU Furman Center (**[**http://furmancenter.org/**](http://furmancenter.org/)**)**

The Furman Center researches housing and real estate through New York City and produces reports that may be helpful to you.

**Dissertations & Theses Global (**[**http://search.proquest.com/pqdtglobal/advanced?accountid=12768**](http://search.proquest.com/pqdtglobal/advanced?accountid=12768)**)**

People writing dissertations and theses are often doing the most current research, or are at least researching topics that are currently popular. You may find a dissertation related to your topic here.

**NYC Guidebooks**

Tourists have been visiting New York City for fun, danger, and titillation for more than a century. You can learn a lot about the history of New York neighborhoods, businesses, buildings, parks, landmarks, and entertainment through guidebooks from the past and present. Search “New York City Guidebooks” through New York Public Library.

**Housing Data Coalition Toolkit**

The Housing Data Coalition is a collective of data analysts, computer programmers, and regular people who use public records to monitor how the government functions. They use open data sources and their own programming skills to develop tools for analysis. Some of those tools might help you in your own research: ([**https://www.housingdatanyc.org/#portfolio**](https://www.housingdatanyc.org/%23portfolio)**)**