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Summary Information

Repository: Brooklyn Public Library - Brooklyn Collection

Title: Brooklyn City and Telephone Directories

Date: 1786-2017

Extent: 74.0 Linear feet

Location: The digital directories can be accessed online via the Internet Archive. The microfilmed directories are stored in the Popular Library on the second floor balcony at Central Library. The original bound volumes are shelved outside the Brooklyn Collection Morgue, and the facsimile bound volumes are shelved in the Brooklyn Collection's browsing area.

Language: English

Abstract: A guide to the various Brooklyn city and telephone directories available digitally, on microfilm, and in hard copy at Brooklyn Public Library.

Preferred Citation: This collection should be cited as the Brooklyn City and Telephone Directories, Brooklyn Public Library – Brooklyn Collection. The researcher should also note the individual volume and page number being cited.
Scope and Contents

The Brooklyn City and Telephone Directories provide a wealth of information about individuals, businesses, occupations, advertising, and social class status, as well as practical neighborhood information such as street maps, public services, shopping and restaurant guides, maps of rapid transit systems, and more. The earliest city directories list names, addresses, and occupations of Brooklyn residents, while later directories include telephone numbers for individuals and businesses. The “elite” directories list names and addresses of Brooklyn’s wealthiest residents, and some include separate listings for wealthy residents of the town of Flatbush and Long Island.

Arrangement

The directories are held in three formats: digital, microfilm, and bound volumes. The collection is arranged in series by type and then format. Within each format, the arrangement is chronological.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Brooklyn Public Library - Brooklyn Collection, 2019

Access

Collection is located in the Brooklyn Collection at the Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza. The collection may only be used in the library and is not available through interlibrary loan. Requests to view the collection must be made at least 48 hours in advance of visit.

Use

While many items in the Brooklyn Collection are unrestricted, we do not own reproduction rights to all materials. Be aware of the several kinds of rights that might apply: copyright, licensing and trademarks. The researcher assumes all responsibility for copyright questions.
Related Materials

Kings County Historic Records Microfilm Collection

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Telephone directories

Geographic Name(s)

- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)

Subject(s)

- New York (N.Y.)--Directories
Collection Inventory

**Brooklyn and New York City Directories**

The Brooklyn city directories had various publishers and list names, addresses, and occupations of residents of Brooklyn. Most include a list of streets, city charter, public services and a map. Advertising appears in 1822. No directory was published in 1827-1828, 1911, or between 1914 and 1932. The 1933 and 1934 directories listed here are New York City directories that include Brooklyn.

**Digital**

1856-1858, 1862-1869, 1871, 1875, 1876, 1878-1880, 1883, 1884-1887, 1889, 1897, 1899, 1902-1904, 1906-1908

**Microfilm**

Brooklyn: 1796-1910, 1912-1914, 1933-34

The microfilmed Brooklyn directories are stored in the Popular Library on the second floor balcony at Central Library.

New York: 1786-1926, 1931, 1933-1934

The microfilmed New York City directories are alphabetically shelved with the other shelved microfilm outside the Brooklyn Collection morgue.

**Bound volumes (original)**
Brooklyn Elite Directories

1854-1866, 1881, 1883-1887, 1889-1892, 1894, 1895, 1897, 1900-1913

The original bound volumes are shelved outside the Brooklyn Collection Morgue. *Note: Only available if the microfilm and digital versions cannot suffice.*

Bound volumes (facsimile)


The facsimile bound volumes are shelved in the Brooklyn Collection's browsing area.

Brooklyn Elite Directories

These directories were published by George T. Lain, Lain & Healy, and George Upington and they list the names of Brooklyn's wealthiest householders classified by streets. They also include shopping guides and elite business directories. Flatbush and Long Island are listed separately in some volumes.

Microfilm

1878-1882, 1885-1890, 1897-1899, 1901, 1905-1908, 1913, 1914

The microfilmed directories are stored in the Popular Library on the second floor balcony at Central Library.

New York Telephone Directories, including Brooklyn White Pages

The New York Telephone Directories were published by the New York Telephone Company and they list Brooklyn telephone subscribers by surname. Most include information on business with the phone company, use of the directory, emergency calls, general information, local calls, out-of-town calls.
and rates. The 1924-1943 white pages are paired with Classified Yellow Pages books. They include advertisers’ listings arranged by business headings, a how-to-use guide, maps of rapid transit, and postal information.

Digital


Microfilm


The microfilmed directories are stored in the Popular Library on the second floor balcony at Central Library.

Bound volumes


The bound volumes are shelved outside the Brooklyn Collection Morgue. Note: Only available if the microfilm and digital versions cannot suffice.

Brooklyn Classified Telephone Directory (Yellow Pages)

The Brooklyn Classified Telephone Directories were published by the New York Telephone Company. They include alphabetized classified listings by subject. Most include advertising, maps of rapid transit lines, "Key to Street Numbers in Manhattan," U.S. Postal information, telephone equipment/services, calendar, and restaurant guide.
Guide to the Brooklyn City and Telephone Directories, BCMS.0064

Brooklyn Address Books ("criss-cross" directories)

Microfilm

1944-1977

The microfilmed directories are stored in the Popular Library on the second floor balcony at Central Library.

Bound volumes


The bound volumes are shelved outside the Brooklyn Collection Morgue. Note: Only available if the microfilm cannot suffice.

Brooklyn Address Books ("criss-cross" directories)

Microfilm


The microfilmed directories are stored in the Popular Library on the second floor balcony at Central Library. They were published by the New York Telephone Company and list Brooklyn and Queens subscribers together. Most include telephone information (instructions), toll rates, and lists of public pay stations.

Bound volumes

The bound criss-cross directories are shelved outside the Brooklyn Collection Morgue. They were published by Cole's.