Voicing History: Digital Projects and Oral History Initiatives at the Littman Library, NJIT

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VALE Annual Conference
New Brunswick, NJ
January 4th, 2019
Digital Archive of Newark Architecture

History of the College of Architecture & Design
History of the Digital Archive of Newark Architecture

- Archive was conceived in 2007 as an initiative to document the built environment of Newark: materials on architecture, city planning, transportation, and public art.
- Received several small grants to establish a digitization lab
- Conducted research, collaborated with various local institutions (NYPL, Newark Museum, Newark City Archive)
  - Designed a website http://archlib.njit.edu/collections/dana/ in Site Studio
- 2015 – 2017 received several grants to further develop the project
  - Using content management system Omeka designed a database http://dana.njit.edu that allows for searching by several parameters, provides access to materials in a variety of formats and hyperlinks them, displays locations on a single interactive map
  - 2017- 2018 Added new content and functions such as crowdsourcing, online exhibitions, student work, and videos, expanded bibliography of available resources and photographed the current state of city’s landmarks
  - Incorporated DANA into curriculum
  - 2018- present Developed mobile apps with location awareness (Android and iOS)
  - Designed interactive map and tours
Additional Resources

NJIT:
- Barbara and Leonard Littman Library
- Finding Information on Newark Architecture (Research Guide)
- Littman Library Image Database (NJIT only)

Web Resources on New Jersey:
- City of Newark (including Newark Master Plans)
- New Jersey Digital Highway
- New Jersey Historical Society
- New Jersey State Archives
- New Jersey Digital Newspapers Project
- Old Newark
- Newark City Data
- Newark Archives Project
- Newark Experience (Rutgers University)
- New Jersey Future
- Newarkology
- New Jersey Municipal and County Ordinances (Rutgers University Law Library)
- The Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee
- Newark Schools at GreatSchools.org
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Canal Society of New Jersey
- North Jersey History & Genealogy Center (Morristown & Morris Township Library)
- Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District (LPCCD)
- Newark 350th Anniversary (2016)
- newarkpoems.org
Search Items

- Browse All
- Browse by Tag
- Search Items

Search for Keywords

Search By Collection
Select Below

Search By Type
Select Below

Search By Tags

Search by Exhibit
Select Below

Geographic Address

Geographic Radius (miles)
10

Search for items
Find An Item on the Map

Seated Lincoln
Wars of America
Essex County Courthouse
La Grange Apartment Building
Cook Tomb, Mount Pleasant Cemetery
North Reformed Church
First Presbyterian Church
South Park Presbyterian Church,
## Backend for Adding Content

### Browse Items (911 total)

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<thead>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date Added</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Hyperlink</td>
<td>Nov 26, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Better New Jersey (Video)</td>
<td>Moving Image</td>
<td>Nov 18, 2018</td>
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<td>Making Aviation Safer For America H537 (Video)</td>
<td>Moving Image</td>
<td>Nov 18, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse Dewar Fire Engines (Video)</td>
<td>Moving Image</td>
<td>Nov 18, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sightseeing in Newark, N.J. (Video, Part 2)</td>
<td>Dunnachie, John H</td>
<td>Moving Image</td>
<td>Nov 18, 2018</td>
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<td>Moving Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Brg) N side Warren St looking W from SE of Golden St</td>
<td>Moving Image</td>
<td>Nov 14, 2018</td>
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Improved Search Functions and Expanded Bibliography
NJIT Campus Exhibition

Buildings at NJIT
Exhibition Created by students under D. Reay’s Instruction
Buildings and Architecture

The Essex County Hospital For the Insane was constructed in 1884 on South Orange Avenue in Newark. Dr. Livingston S. Hinckley was elected superintendent at its inception. It is a four-story building with seventeen wards. The cure rate was 25% and the death rate was 5%. 800 patients were housed at the asylum throughout its history.
Danielle Reay teaching DANA to students in a Digital Humanities Class
Mobile App with Location Awareness
Newark Orphan Asylum

The New Jersey Institute of Technology's Eberhardt Hall, formerly the Newark Orphan Asylum, is a Elizabethan Gothic Revival building created by John Welch in 1857. Considered very modern for its time, the original building included amenities such as steam heat, hot and cold running water, gas lighting and even a fire extinguishing system. It has 6 floors and 34,000 sq. ft. currently occupied by Alumni and several administrative offices.
<a href="https://cdm17229.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17229coll6/id/1/rec/1" target="_blank">(Berg) SE cor Warren & High Sts from NW cor</a>
Future plans:

- Continue research and add content
- Collaborate with other institutions (Newark City Archive, Newark Public Library) and private collectors
- Add relevant student work, create more tours and exhibitions
- Continue to integrate DANA into curricula of CoAD and other programs
- Work on an exhibition and on a colloquium focused on Newark built environment
- Conduct promotional events and classes for local community
History of the College of Architecture & Design
History of CoAD Project

- Conducted research, analyzed available materials, explored various options
- Identified standards and best practices
- Decided on the archive’s content, structure, format, and metadata
- Coordinated activities with the college administration and faculty
- Digitized materials in a variety of formats
- Explored oral history practices, acquired equipment, discussed legal issues
- Prepared release forms and selected interview questions
- Engaged students to work on the project
- Contacted potential interviewees

Next:
- Conduct interviews, record and transcribe data
- Add more content: harvest data from the web, collaborate with other departments and institutions, continue digitization.
- Work in collaboration with the college and VHL on collecting data and migrating archival materials into IR
- Develop a plan for digital preservation
- Prepare documentation for submitting and uploading materials
Database Content in various formats

- Documents on all schools, programs, affiliated centers, research projects, programs abroad, and the Littman Library
- Syllabi
- Documentation of various events (lecture series, concerts, conferences, colloquia, celebrations, award ceremonies, etc.)
- Annual reports
- Students portfolios
- Individual faculty pages
- Interviews with faculty and alumni
- PhD Thesis
Future plans

- Conduct research to identify materials, contact former faculty and alumni
- Continue digitization of materials (text, photos, graphic work)
- Train interviewers, conduct interviews, and transcribe recordings
- Continue to develop metadata
- Upload files, hyperlink materials
- Collaborate with VHL on incorporating materials into IR
- Prepare depositing agreement, privacy statement, terms of use, and procedures for uploading
- Manage Copyrights
- Consider crowdsourcing to increase submissions