

# For-Profit Research:

Reference Work in an Art Gallery

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Gagosian Gallery

Libraries in the Context of Capitalism

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# Gagosian Gallery – Some Context

- Est. 1980
  - Started in LA and expanded all over the globe
- 17 galleries worldwide, with the flagship on the upper east side of New York City
- In addition to selling art, the gallery:
  - represents or works closely with artists and artists estates
  - Curates exhibitions
  - Publishes exhibition catalogues



# Acquisitions

- Purchase materials (mainly books):
  - related to the exhibition schedule of the gallery
  - for artworks that have been brought in on consignment
- Focus on larger institutions, generally
- Supplement the gallery's collection with that of other institutions

# General Reference

- Provide reference assistance to all members of staff:
  - Directors
  - Salespeople
  - Publications department
  - Researchers
- Tasks consists of anything from finding a book to tracking down the correct dates or titles of artworks

# More Extensive Research

- Create research documentation to be sent to clients
  - For-profit culture affects:
    - Turn around time
    - Contending with past decisions
      - Ex: Anonymization of names
    - Confidentiality

# Deviations from the Gallery Routine

- Exhibition curators
- Publications Department
  - Scholarly essays
  - Catalogue Raisonnés



# Closing Thoughts and Sources

- The gallery library is different from your typical information institution, as its end goal is to facilitate the sale of art
- The gallery librarian must still provide quality service — Our job hasn't changed, just the needs of our patrons

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- Sources:

- Gagosian Gallery website: [www.gagosiangallery.com](http://www.gagosiangallery.com)