



Transplanting Cultural Capital and Community Cultural Wealth from the Education Field to the LIS Field

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Imagine . . .

You grew up in the U.S. Graduated high school. Fell in love. Got married. Moved to Japan, your spouse's home country.

Your cultural capital? Very low. You speak minimal Japanese, have a thick American accent, don't know much about Japanese music, theater, art, philosophy, etc. It's going to be hard to move up the social ladder, even if you put in a lot of work.

Now Imagine...

You and your spouse have a child. They grow up learning to speak fluent Japanese and English. They have Japanese friends, attend a Japanese school. They learn about Japanese customs and culture from school, their friends, and society.

Your child's cultural capital? High. Their understanding of Japanese culture makes it easier for them to get accepted into a Japanese university, where they graduate and land a good job. They also have a good social network of peers who can and want to support them.

Conclusion:

Cultural capital is passed down from parents to children, gained through socialization, and acquired through education. Much of this process happens in childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.

Cultural Capital Checklist

<https://tinyurl.com/loex24-cc>



History of Cultural Capital Theory

- *Pierre Bourdieu capitals:*
 - *economic – money and assets*
 - *social – network and capability to benefit from relationships*
 - *cultural – familiarity with high culture*
- *Gained traction in sociology and education*

What is “Cultural Capital?”

- Cultural capital – knowledge and behaviors passed down from parents to children, or acquired through education, relating to high culture (Bennett et al., 2009).
- Forms of cultural capital:
 - Objectified – material objects that signify status and culture
 - Institutionalized – recognition from an institution
 - Embodied – knowledge and behaviors learned through education and socialization

History of Cultural Capital Theory in LIS

- Libraries often have a mission to provide resources and services that can equip patrons for improvement/success in society.
- If cultural capital is a means to social improvement/success, how can/should libraries serve this goal?
- Focus in LIS literature has relied largely on objectified cultural capital.

Reed, E., & Johnson, B. (2023). Overview of cultural capital theory's current impact and potential utility in academic libraries. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 49(6), 102782. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2023.102782>



History: Cultural Capital Theory and Info Lit

- Very few studies examining connections between cultural capital and information literacy
 - Connections between info lit and specific cultural capital variables: SES, parent education levels, first-generation status, leisure reading.
- IL could be considered academic cultural capital (Folk, 2019)
- Several studies examine cultural capital and digital competency
 - PISA data (Bodovski et al., 2017; Tan, 2020; Tramonte & Willms, 2010)

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CCT and Information Literacy

- Study examined Cultural Capital & Information Literacy
 - “Searching as Strategic Exploration” frame
- Relationship between Cultural Capital & IL is mixed
 - No significant relationship between Cultural Capital & IL in general
 - Some relationships between specific aspects of Cultural Capital and IL:
 - Literature-based cultural capital
 - Parent/Guardian cultural capital

Johnson, B., & Reed, E. (2023). The impact of cultural capital on searching as strategic exploration in incoming first-year students. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 49(6), 102807. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2023.102807>



Our CCT and IL Study cont.

- Significant relationship between literature-based Cultural Capital & IL:
 - Read 2 or more types of literature for pleasure
 - Have used libraries in the past
 - Use the internet to stay informed on various topics several times a week
 - Family owns more than 20 books in the home

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Our CCT and IL Study cont.

- Significant relationship between parent/guardian Cultural Capital & IL:
 - At least 1 parent earned at least an Associates Degree
 - At least 1 parent works in a white-collar job

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Our CCT and IL Study Findings

- *Students with higher levels of cultural capital may be more aware of, or better prepared to use, advanced search strategies and tools to find information*
- *Students with little to no cultural capital can make significant gains in their information literacy if they are able to acquire certain types of cultural capital.*

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What does this mean for libraries?

- Small library interventions could have big benefits for students
 - Students from populations with traditionally low levels of cultural capital (i.e. first-generation students) may see most benefits
 - Activities that encourage library use
 - Activities that promote reading and/or engagement with information

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What is Community Cultural Wealth?

- Tara Yosso (2005)
- Disrupts middle-class white culture as the “standard”
- Elevates Communities of Color

Yosso, T. J. (2005). Whose culture has capital? A critical race theory discussion of community cultural wealth. *Race Ethnicity and Education*, 8(1), 69–91.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1361332052000341006>



Community Cultural Wealth Capitals

Aspirational

“the ability to maintain hopes and dreams for the future, even in the face of real and perceived barriers”

Linguistic

“the intellectual and social skills attained through communication experiences in more than one language and/or style”

Familial

“cultural knowledges nurtured among familia (kin) that carry a sense of community history, memory and cultural intuition”

Social

“networks of people and community resources”

Navigational

“skills of maneuvering through social institutions”

Resistant

“knowledges and skills fostered through oppositional behavior that challenges inequality”

<https://tinyurl.com/loex24-ccw1>

Aspirational

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<https://tinyurl.com/loex24-ccw2>

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“the ability to maintain hopes and dreams for the future, even in the face of real and perceived barriers”

Linguistic

“the intellectual and social skills attained through communication experiences in more than one language and/or style”

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Proceeding

<https://tinyurl.com/loex24-ccw-proceeding>



Questions?

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