Supporting document to Background Paper "The Capitals" www.theiirc.org/resources-2/framework-development/background-papers

CONTENTS:

- The capitals and their usage in the literature
- Natural Capital
- Social and Human Capitals
- Intellectual, Financial and Manufactured Capitals

The capitals and their usage in the literature

Initially broad Google Scholar Searches¹ were conducted on each of the six IIRC capitals in order to identify the extent of citation and inferred acceptance of the terms. The results are detailed in the table below along with details of the most cited sources for each term. The results show that 'Human capital' and 'Social capital' are used widely. 'Intellectual capital', 'Financial capital' and 'Natural capital' are less common, but nonetheless have some prominence whilst 'Manufactured Capital' remains a relatively less common term in the literature reviewed. As a result the search was extended for the term 'manufacturing capital' which was found to be a slightly more frequently used term.

In part, the relatively limited reference to financial capital and manufactured capital may be because they are well understood, taken for granted terms and therefore not subject to the same degree of debate. Alternatively other phrases are used to describe financial capital, including wealth, money, etc. In this respect, the search results are a reflection of the level of debate of each term rather than a fair reflection of their usage in practice.

Table 1 Google Scholar Searches (September 2012)

Term (IIRC capitals)	Results	Most Citations noted
Human Capital	943,000	19,838: Becker & Tomes 1994
Social Capital	543,000	8,720 : Putnam 1995
		(then Nahapiet & Ghoshal, 7,109 above)
Intellectual Capital	36,300	7,109 : Nahapiet & Ghoshal 1998
Financial Capital	35,000	1,169: Cooper, Gimeno-Gascon & Woo 1994
Natural Capital	22,300	7,606: Costanza et al 1997
Manufactured Capital	1,810	374: Arrow et al 2004
Manufacturing Capital	2,600	2,046: Berman, Bound & Griliches 1994

Conditions for the searches made included using: 'Advanced Search', 'Articles excluding Patents', 'At least Summaries', 'Since 1990'. "Quote Marks" were used for search terms.

In terms of manufactured capital, the exception maybe debate on manufactured capital that doesn't belong to you.

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A search was also conducted using the Google Corpus website/tool, which consists of all books in English, scanned as a part of the Google digitisation project, for the occurrence of the terms in literature over time³.

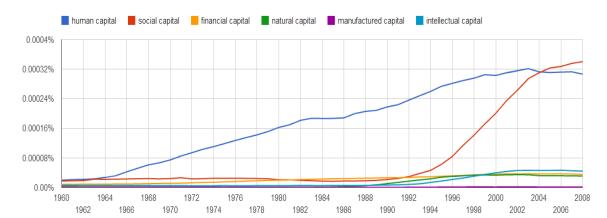


Figure 1: Reference to the capitals in Google Corpus 1960-2008 using NGram viewer

The results are displayed in Figure 1 and again indicate that the terms 'social capital' and 'human capital' have appeared significantly more often in the literature than the other capitals. 'Human capital' has steadily risen in usage since around the 1960s, leveling off in the late 1990s. Use of the term 'social capital' quickly increased in the 1990s to match similar usage levels as 'human capital' by the early 2000s.

Figure 2 depicts the other four capitals alone so their relationship can be seen more clearly.

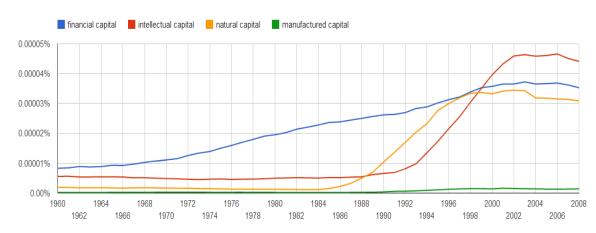


Figure 2: Reference to financial, intellectual, natural and manufactured capital in Google Corpus 1960-2008 using NGram viewer

While the Google project only runs until 2008, and therefore does not include literature published in the years since then, it does serve to highlight the foundation of the various capitals in literature over time.

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As can be seen, the term 'financial capital' has gradually risen in use since the 1960s, while 'Intellectual capital' has grown in use much more recently. 'Natural capital' started to appear in literature from the late 1980s, growing in use until the late 1990s, and then tailing off up until the 2008 cut off. 'Manufactured capital' has consistently remained as a much less common term than the other capitals.

Natural Capital

Method of literature review

To get a general overview of literature used a general search engine (Google) to initially search on term "natural capital" (using quotation marks to ensure an exact search on term), and then furthermore on search string 'natural capital definition'.

Results which included natural capital term as part of a specific group/entity were ignored (although this is not always clear-cut, with a number of groups both using the term as part of their title, and providing perspectives on a definition), as well as general references in press articles. Furthermore references from online general reference sources were not considered (e.g. Wikipedia, dictionaries, business directories- although a number of these did offer useful definitions). For both search strings, the first 10 pages (100 results) of relevant unique results were considered. (Incidentally, the second search string (natural capital definition) yielded some preferable results to direct at specific definitions of the term- filtering out company names/ general mentions in press articles.)

To supplement the review carried out on Google- an additional search which targeted academic literature was carried out to identify definitions of the term natural capital. Utilising the University of Strathclyde's 'SUPrimo' search engine- which considers a wide range of academic journals, books, electronic sources etc- the term "natural capital" was searched. Sources were selected from the search which focused on the general themes of natural capital. From this search, 10 academic resources were looked at specifically.

Sources

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- Society of Biology, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the British Ecological Society, (accessed 31/10/12), Natural Capital Initiative, www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/glossary
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• Ulgiati S. et al. (2011) Shared wealth or nobody's land? The worth of natural capital and ecosystem services, Ecological Economics, Volume 70, Issue 4, Pages 778-787

Social and Human Capitals

Method of literature review

Method	What has been looked at and why
Subject specific dictionaries & online encyclopedias	Supplied by La Trobe University librarian
Google and Google Scholar general search engine search, Wikipedia	Scope spread of literature available and breadth of debate
Reports into Human capital & Social capital by government taskforces	Provides diverse views on H.C and S.C value, practice and emerging issues
Sources considered in human capital & social capital academic literature reviews (Google scholar searches into 'Human capital literature review' and 'social capital literature review')	Identification of seminal publications and established areas of debate
IIRC Discussion Paper sources	Source of IIRC capital definitions
Subject specific dictionaries & online encyclopedias	Supplied by La Trobe University librarian

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Intellectual, Financial and Manufactured Capitals

Method of literature review

The first 50 search results were saved and examined for each Search term.

Google Scholar does not seem to rank the papers listed by Citations exactly, although the most highly cited papers tend to turn up on the first page or two of results.

Financial Capital

- The literature referring to "Financial capital" is a wide ranging and diverse one. There were at least 30 Journals referred to in the first 50 articles on Google Scholar Search. There were 9 references to the *Journal of Business Venturing* and 7 Books referred to. Only a small number of Journals were cited twice. There were no particularly prominent Authors although a small number were featured in both the Intellectual Capital and Financial Capital lists.
- The most prominent disciplines in the Google Search results were associated with the broad topics of Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Urban Planning & Demography.
- There was only one citation to a prominent Accounting Journal and that was to AO&S where the cited article was looking at issues of power and control in financing health care through a lens sourced from Bourdieu. This is perhaps not so directly relevant to the Capitals Project.
- At a very Macro historical level the book Technological revolutions and financial capital by Carlotta Perez looks at the linkages between developments in these two fields.
- At a more Micro level much of the literature on "Financial Capital" derives from fields and Journals which focus on issues surrounding business start-up, business funding and entrepreneurship. In this context much of the discussion would be around the raising of capital and the internal management of capital to fund firm growth.

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- The Journal of Business Venturing is the major journal in the field of Entrepreneurship. An examination of articles published in this Journal in 2012 suggests no obvious starting point for an analysis relevant to the Capitals project.
- However two articles which may offer some comparative international insights into the nature of Entrepreneurship research are: International entrepreneurship research in emerging economies: A critical review and research agenda, Journal of Business Venturing, Volume 27, Issue 2, March 2012, Pages 266-290, Andreea N. Kiss, Wade M. Danis, S. Tamer Cavusgil, Formal institutions, culture, and venture capital activity: A cross-country analysis, Journal of Business Venturing, Volume 27, Issue 1, January 2012, Pages 95-11, Yong Li, Shaker A. Zahra
- The more relevant search terms for an accounting perspective on this topic are "Financial Reporting" which on Google Books generates more than 1,540,000 results, and "Financial Accounting" which generates 1,950,000 search results.
- An academic search in a library database generates a results list of over 18,000 peer reviewed Journal articles for "Financial Reporting" and over 14,000 peer reviewed Journal articles for "Financial Accounting".
- A search on a library database for "Financial Accounting" and "Literature Review"
 Peer Reviewed Articles, Post 2008 derived 387 results.

Sources

- Formal institutions, culture, and venture capital activity: A cross-country analysis, Journal of Business Venturing, Volume 27, Issue 1, January 2012, Pages 95-11, Yong Li, Shaker A. Zahra
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 Andreas Hagberg; Inga-Lill Johansson; Kristina Jonäll; Jan Marton; Qualitative Research in Accounting & Management, 2011, Vol.8(4), p.382-424
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- Corporate social responsibility, firm value and financial performance in Brazil,
 Vicente Lima Crisóstomo; Fátima de Souza Freire; Felipe Cortes de
 Vasconcellos; Social Responsibility Journal, 2011, Vol.7(2), p.295-309
- Towards reformulation of the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) focusing on idiosyncratic risk and roll's meta-analysis: methodological approach. (Report) Lusk, Edward J.; Halperin, Michael; Bern, Manuel; Journal of Financial Management & Analysis, Jan-June, 2008, Vol.21(1), p.1(23)

Revised Search on "Financial Reporting" and meta-analysis

Meta-analytic review of disclosure level and cost of equity capital, Mohsen Souissi
 ; Hichem Khlif; International Journal of Accounting and Information Management,
 2012, Vol.20(1), p.49-62

Revised Search on "Financial Reporting" and "Literature Review"

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- An historical review of quality in financial reporting in Australia, Esther Cheung;
 Elaine Evans; Sue Wright; Pacific Accounting Review, 2010, Vol.22(2), p.147-169
- Integrated financial reporting: from international experiences to perspectives at national level. (Report) Mustata, Razvan V.; Matis, Dumitru; Bonaci, Carmen Giorgiana
- Review of Business Research, March, 2012, Vol.12(2), p.145(6)
- The development and state of research on social and environmental reporting in global comparison, Fifka, Matthias; Journal für Betriebswirtschaft, 2012, Vol.62(1), pp.45-84

Manufactured Capital

- Manufactured Capital appears to be a fairly discipline specific term with Ecological Economics accounting for at least 15 of the first 50 Search results. There were no other specific Journals with more than a couple of results. Many of the Journals included words such as Ecology, Environment or Sustainability in their title. Additionally there was a smaller subset of Economics related Journal articles listed.
- There appear to be no Accounting Journals in the first 50 results for Manufactured Capital. By way of contrast Manufacturing Capital is an Economics discipline specific term with no Journal having more than 4 articles. That Journal was the American Economic Review, arguably the premier Journal in the broad field of Economics. In all there were more than 30 Journals cited in the first 50 results. Almost none of these Journals strayed far from the discipline of Economics, broadly defined. There appear to be no Accounting Journals in the first 50 results for Manufacturing Capital.
- Manufactured capital refers to material goods and infrastructure owned, leased or controlled by an organisation that contribute to production or service provision, but do not become embodied in its output. Examples include: tools, technology, machines, buildings and all forms of infrastructure. Why it is important to organisations?:
 - Manufactured capital is important for the sustainable development of an organisation in two ways. Firstly, the efficient use of manufactured capital enables an organisation to be flexible, responsive to market or societal needs, innovative and faster in getting its products and services to market. Secondly, manufactured capital and technology can reduce resource use and focus more on human creativity, thus enhancing both efficiency and sustainable development. (Project Sigma)

Sources

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- (And a lay discussion of issues surrounding the paper 'Are We Consuming Too Much?' at www.conservationmagazine.org/2008/07/are-we-consuming-too-much)

Intellectual Capital

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- The key Journal revealed by this search was the Journal of Intellectual Capital, which contributed 18 of the 50 results. An additional 7 results were for books. More of the cited articles in other Journals came from a range of Journals in the fields of Management and Strategic Planning. The two Accounting Journals cited were AAAJ and AOS.
- A cursory examination of Authors shows some of the key authors to be: N Bontis,
 J Guthrie, M Subramaniam, J Mouritsen, L Edvinsson

Sources

- The Journal of Intellectual Capital is the key discipline Journal. The Journal commenced publication in 2000. In Issue 2: Richard Petty, James Guthrie, (2000) "Intellectual capital literature review: Measurement, reporting and management", Journal of Intellectual Capital, Vol. 1 Iss: 2, pp.155 176 (This includes a brief timeline of Intellectual Capital research through the 1980's and 1990's as it developed out of earlier Accounting concepts of Goodwill and Intangibles. This article has been highly cited in the intervening years.)
- In 2012 the following article appeared to bookend the Intellectual Capital literature: James Guthrie, Federica Ricceri, John Dumay, *Reflections and projections: A decade of Intellectual Capital Accounting Research*, The British Accounting Review, Volume 44, Issue 2, June 2012, Pages 68–82 (This article surveys 423 articles from the 2 specialist Intellectual Capital Journals and from 8 generalist Accounting Journals.)
- The issue of intellectual capital was reviewed from the perspective of SMEs involved in R&D by the European Commission's High Level Expert Group on RICARDIS (Reporting Intellectual Capital to Augment Research, Development and Innovation in SMEs), 2006. (Ref. EUR 22095EN see http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/download en/2006-2977 web1.pdf)
- Another recent Literature review is: NE Tawy, T Tollington, 2012, Intellectual
 Capital Literature Review, Journal of Learning and Intellectual Capital,
 International Journal of Learning and Intellectual Capital, v 9 n3, p241-259
 (Surveys all articles in the Journal of Intellectual Capital to 2006.)
- A more critical perspective on issues surrounding the definition and utility of the
 accounting conception of Intellectual Capital can be found in: Gowthorpe,
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 recognition, measurement and control in a boundary theoretical context, Critical
 Perspectives on Accounting, 2009, Vol.20(7), pp.823-834
- The second key Intellectual Capital Journal identified by Guthrie, Ricceri and Dumay 2012 is the *Journal of Human Resource Costing and Accounting* (JHRCA).
- The issue of intellectual capital was reviewed from the perspective of SMEs involved in R&D by the European Commission's High Level Expert Group on RICARDIS (Reporting Intellectual Capital to Augment Research, Development and Innovation in SMEs), 2006. (Ref. EUR 22095EN see http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/download_en/2006-2977_web1.pdf)
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