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The Hidden Code of Bias and Power in the Infosphere Moving towards trans(formative) information literacies

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The Hidden Code of Bias and Power in the Infosphere
Moving towards trans(formative) information literacies.

**Problem**
Racially, historically, and socially grounded privilege and status is hidden in the computer code that governs access to information and the research process.

**Solution**
Information Literacy Instruction can equalize these invisible power constructs by developing a curriculum that grows awareness of the sociocultural phenomenon of computer code.

**Critical Race Theory and Critical Code Studies**
- Analyze code, how it functions in the infosphere
- Reveals an invisible power
- Privilege and bias which influences the research process

**The Information Seeking Process**
- At risk through willful ignorance of code
- Power and bias remain unchallenged
- The researcher is could be negligent
- New knowledge is susceptible to bias

**Instruction Librarians and Information Literacy (IL)**
- Librarians are agents of change to raise awareness
- Minimize threat in the research process

**Agents of Change**
- Librarians are culturally responsive and socio-literate
- Neutralize learning space from institutional threat
- Minimize student stigmas

**IL Learning Objectives**
- Explicit acknowledgement of bias and access
- Tangible examples in IL instruction
- Does not need to be the computer code itself
- Can be word choice and awareness
- Metadata and algorithms that control databases, search engines, and discovery platforms

**Narratives of Power in the Infosphere**
- Code regulates the information seeking experience
- Manipulates access to information and the information itself
- Each interaction is a new narrative of power and bias
- Some Information seekers are more vulnerable than others

**Student Learning**
- Students carry social stigmas with them into the classroom
- Institutional threats compromise academic achievement

**Code is a Human Creation**
- Code is a language
- Interacting with code is cultural phenomenon
- These narratives are susceptible to bias
- Each interaction creates a unique narrative that can be studied

**Critical Race Theory**
Race is a product of convenience and power, a construct of time, space, and social ideologies.

Racism and racial inequality
- "Means by which society allocate privilege and status." (Delgado, 2012, 21)
- Systemic social bias normalizes racial inequalities, renders racism mundane, and leaves power.

**Critical Code Studies**
- Studies human interaction with code as creator and user
- Examines bias in computer languages
- Analyzes code individually and in relationship with other code
- Historical/cultural privileges dictate access to information

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