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1. Introduction

Background

The increased digitalisation of the business processes has transformed the accounting and financial reporting significantly (Shakil et al., 2022). Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are also being utilised by organisations to automate complex financial processes, enhance the accuracy of data, and enhance the effectiveness of reporting. The AI-based tools include machine learning, natural language processing, and robotic process automation, which help accountants to process an enormous amount of financial data in a short duration of time and generate real-time insights to make decisions. Automation of financial reporting has the potential to reduce the rate of manual mistakes, increase the level of regulatory compliance, and ensure more accounting professionals gain more strategic positions (Hajjar, 2024). However, along with these advantages, there are also issues with the implementation of AI in financial reporting, such as data protection, its combination with the existing systems, and the necessary skills. In such a way, this has rendered it a major study object in modern accounting to understand the applications, benefits, and disadvantages of AI in the automation of financial reporting.

Rationale

Digital transformation of the accounting profession is accelerating, which has established an expanding interest in examining how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to automate financial reporting procedures. In the recent industry reports, it is stated that 58 percent of the finance functions were already employing AI technologies in 2024, which is a major growth to the past years (Gartner, 2024). In addition, it is argued that approximately 72 percent of organisations are either piloting AI or selectively using AI in their financial reporting, and 99 percent are projected to implement AI over the next three years (KPMG, 2025). Besides that, about 83% of accounting companies have adopted AI technologies to automate their daily operations, which proves the increased use of intelligent automation in financial operations (ZipDo, 2025). In spite of these processes, the levels of AI adoption and its application in terms of financial reporting efficiency, accuracy, and compliance are not sufficiently examined (Al-Omush, Almasarwah, and Al-Wreikat, 2025). Thus, a systematic review will be required to combine the already existing results, assess the use of AI currently, and outline the key challenges and opportunities associated with the enhancement of automated financial reporting systems in accounting.

Research Aim

This study aims to review the application of artificial intelligence systematically across the automation of financial reporting procedures within the accounting field.

Research Objectives

1. To investigate how Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are used to automate the financial reporting processes in the accounting profession.
2. To examine the main advantages and efficiency gains realised with the help of AI in financial reporting systems.
3. To determine the key obstacles and limitations that are related to the application of AI-based automation in financial reporting.
4. To provide strategic suggestions that can be used to enhance the effective adoption and implementation of AI in the automated financial reporting processes.

Research Question

1. What uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are being implemented to automate accounting and financial reporting processes?
2. What are the major advantages and efficiency gains experienced with the integration of AI in financial reporting systems?
3. What are the difficulties and constraints of using AI-based financial reporting automation in organisations?
4. Which strategic suggestions can be offered to enhance the successful adoption and implementation of AI in automated financial reporting processes?

2. Literature review

Machine learning, robotic process automation, and cutting-edge data analytics are considered AI technologies that help accounting systems to process financial data more efficiently and draw useful insights that an organisation may use in decision-making. Consequently, the use of AI in accounting and financial reporting has gained relevance in the modern accounting literature as an area of research (Sreseli and Kadagishvili, 2023; Sriram, 2022). Conventional accounting systems are usually based on manual data entry and human judgment that exposes the system to a higher risk of errors and anomalies in financial records. According to Al Najjar et al. (2024), AI-based systems are able to automatically identify anomalies and inconsistencies in financial data that can help organisations to detect accounting errors more efficiently. Equally, Mwachikoka (2024) discovers that AI applications in financial reporting systems enhance a great deal of accuracy and reliability of financial statements by automating data checking and validation processes.

Bou Reslan and Jabbour Al Maalouf (2024) state that AI technologies assist in automating the ordinary accounting operations and thus increase the efficiency of operations and facilitate the speed of financial reporting. In the same way, Odonkor et al. (2024) state that the accounting systems powered by AI could facilitate the process of conventional accounting and minimise the number of working hours dedicated to the manual financial reporting issues. Consequently, accountants can concentrate more on the strategic analysis of finance as well as decision-making processes instead of the administration of the day-to-day activities.

One more theme that was found in the literature is the usage of AI as a tool of financial analysis and decision support. In the contemporary organisation, financial information is needed that is precise and within the right time to aid in strategic planning and risk management. The AI technologies allow the accounting systems to examine huge amounts of financial data and determine the patterns that might be used to aid in financial forecasting and performance analysis. According to Shi (2025), AI-based financial statement analysis tools can enhance the interpretation of financial information by locating trends and relationships with financial information. On the same note, Li (2025) states that AI technologies may increase financial forecasting and risk evaluation through analysing past financial data and providing predictive information.

Although there are benefits of adopting AI, a number of studies have indicated the difficulties that relate to the adoption of AI in accounting systems. According to Talal (2024), potential challenges that organisations could face when using AI technologies include high implementation costs,

limitations of technological infrastructure, and data security concerns. In addition, to successfully implement AI in accounting, as noted by Alruwaili and Mgamal (2025), the professionals must possess high digital and analytical skills. Overall, the existing literature can be viewed as the pointer to the fact that AI has a high potential of transforming the accounting practice and improving the degree of accuracy, efficiency, and analytic power of financial reporting systems.

3. Methodology

The given study will pursue the qualitative research design with a systematic literature review (SLR) methodology that will examine the possibilities of applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to automate financial reporting in the accounting field. The SLR approach will be regarded as the suitable one since it allows having the structured, transparent, and repeatable process of identifying, evaluating, and synthesising the available scholarly evidence, thus, presupposing the use of methodological rigour and reducing bias (Tomczyk, Bruggemann and Vrontis, 2024; Singh et al., 2024). Consistent with established SLR practices, the research will adopt a well laid-out review protocol that will allow mapping the existing literature in a systematic manner and will produce meaningful understanding of the AI application in financial reporting.

To be transparent and consistent, the study will be conducted based on the guidelines provided by Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), which offer a systematic approach to identifying the literature, screening, eligibility, and inclusion (Singh et al., 2024). The secondary data sources that will be used in the research will be mainly the peer-reviewed journal articles which are accessed through the academic databases including Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science. Their wide scope of coverage of high-quality scholarly publications in the various fields will result in their use (Singh et al., 2024). The systematic strategy of key word search will be applied by use of the following terms, namely: "Artificial Intelligence in accounting," "AI in financial reporting," "automation in accounting and AI applications in financial statement analysis to align with the research objectives (Kleminski, Kazienko and Kajdanowicz, 2020).

According to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) based screening process involves key stages of identification, screening, eligibility and inclusion (Singh et al., 2024). For conducting the SLR, about 100 studies will be identified at the first search, where the title and abstract screening will be applied to filter the content according to relevancy. After that, full-text appraisal will be carried out to screen the eligibility on the basis of specified parameters. After this intensive screening step, some 20 high-quality and relevant studies will be included in the final systematic review to provide a narrow but in-depth analysis (Singh et al., 2024). This artificial screening procedure will increase the credibility and authenticity of the results.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria will be used in order to provide the quality of the chosen literature. The studies will be peer-reviewed, published in English and in full, and directly connected with the use of AI in accounting, financial reporting, or financial analysis. Moreover, the studies will be chosen depending on credible academic materials that have valid links or DOI identifiers to make them worth trusting (Shaheen et al., 2023). The publications published before 2021, non-English publications, unfinished articles, and non-scholarly materials like blogs or opinion-seeking ones will not be included to preserve the integrity of the study.

After selecting data, thematic analysis will be performed to reveal some of the main themes which will be used to analyse the data and compare them, namely, the use of AI in accounting, increased efficiency and accuracy, and implementation challenges. This research method will make it possible to synthesize the results systematically and use them to formulate meaningful conclusions (de la Torre-Lopez, Ramirez, and Romero, 2023). Since the only data that will be used in the study are those of publicly available secondary data, ethics will be upheld to ensure that the research meets the standards of academic research.

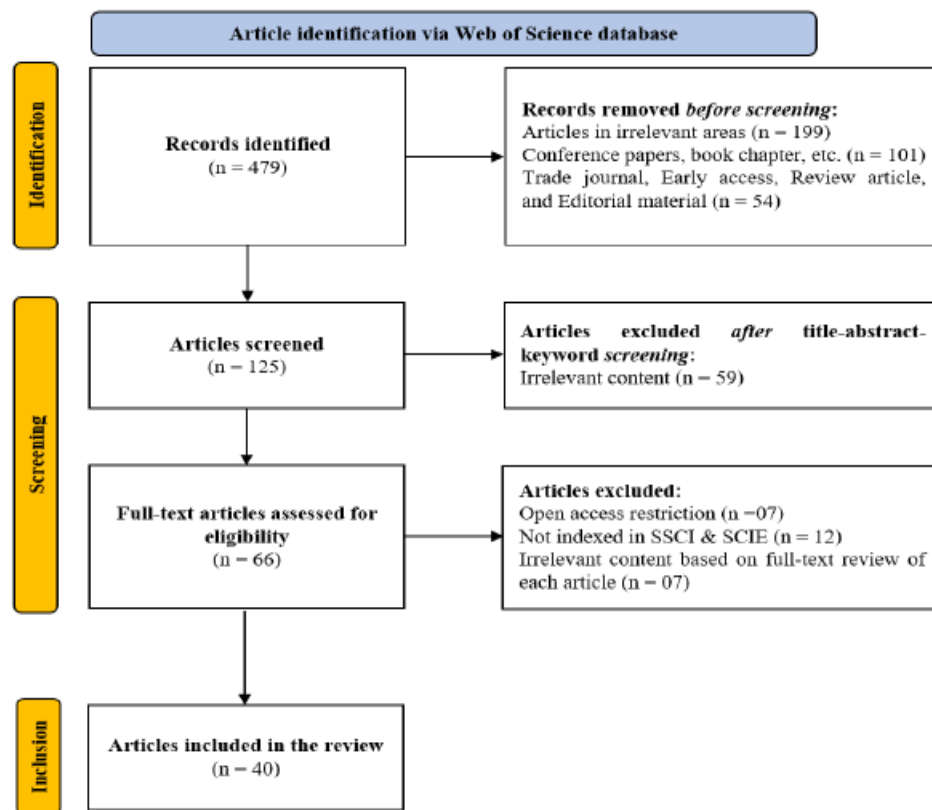


Figure 1: PRISMA-Based Article Selection Method

(Source: Singh et al., 2024)

4. Expected findings

The research is likely to uncover that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has a major role in enhancing the efficacy and accuracy of financial reporting within accounting. According to the analysis of recent academic sources, it is expected that AI technologies like machine learning, robotic process automation, and data analytics will be noted among the most significant tools that facilitate the automatization of repetitive accounting procedures, the minimization of manual errors, and the improvement of the quality of financial reporting in general. It is also anticipated that the findings will identify that AI-based accounting systems can help organisations to work with volumes of financial information faster.

Moreover, I expect that the study will reveal that financial reporting accuracy and transparency can be enhanced by the implementation of AI, as it allows checking and verifying data in financial records and detecting anomalies in the financial records. Nonetheless, the study can also reveal some of the challenges that are connected to the AI implementation, such as expensive technological investments, the security of data, the lack of digital skills among accounting professionals, and the possible ethical concerns regarding the transparency and accountability of the algorithms.

Altogether, the anticipated results will indicate that despite the significant advantages of AI in terms of automating financial reporting procedures, organisations need to overcome technological, organisational, and skill-related issues and introduce AI-based accounting systems into practice successfully.

5. Limitations

The research can be limited in a variety of ways because it involved the use of secondary data and a systematic literature review method. As the study will examine other existing research works, the results will be based on the presence, quality, and extent of the literature available. Not all relevant studies would be available since their access or full-text would be restricted. Also, the review will be limited to English-language publications that were published in the last two years (2021-2026), which might omit some useful research published in different languages or at an earlier time. To address these constraints, the research will give priority to peer-reviewed journal articles published by credible sources with DOI links to guarantee the reliability and relevance of the chosen literature.

6. Timeframe

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
Gantt Chart	43 days	Wed 4/1/26	Fri 5/29/26	
1. Topic selection, defining research aim, objectives, and research questions	5 days	Wed 4/1/26	Tue 4/7/26	
2. Conducting a literature search and reviewing relevant studies from credible sources	8 days	Wed 4/8/26	Fri 4/17/26	1
3. Developing methodology, identifying inclusion and exclusion criteria, and selecting relevant articles	6 days	Mon 4/20/26	Mon 4/27/26	2
4. Data extraction and thematic analysis of selected studies	8 days	Tue 4/28/26	Thu 5/7/26	3
5. Writing the research sections, including literature review, methodology, and expected findings	8 days	Fri 5/8/26	Tue 5/19/26	4
6. Editing, proofreading, and finalising the research proposal	8 days	Wed 5/20/26	Fri 5/29/26	5

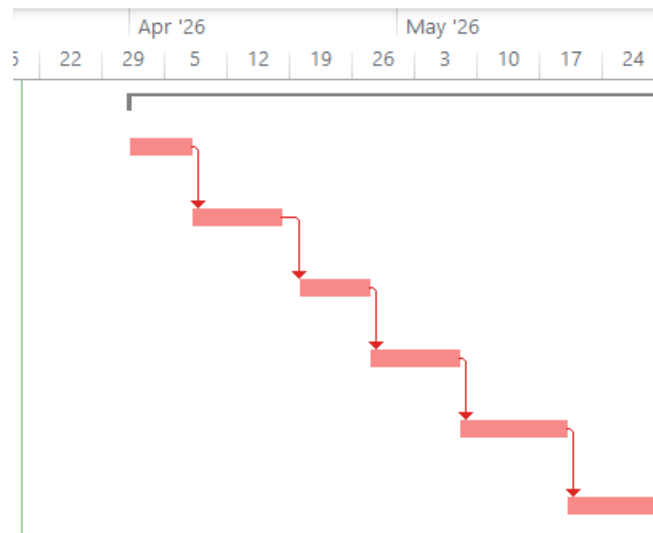


Figure 1: Timeline
(Self-made)

7. Conclusion

Finally, the proposed research proposal will focus on discussing the application of Artificial Intelligence in automating financial reporting procedures in the field of accounting by conducting a systematic literature review. The paper will examine the current scholarly sources to gain an insight into applications, advantages, and difficulties of using AI in accounting. The research will offer data on how AI technologies can be used to improve the efficiency and accuracy of financial reporting by synthesising the findings of credible sources published within the past 5 years (2021-26). The systematic review method will allow gaining a full picture of the latest trends and upcoming opportunities of AI-based accounting systems, despite the potential limitations of the research that might be associated with data access and the scope.

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