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From Ledger to Artificial Intelligence: Tracing the Evolution of Accounting in the Age of Technology

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Abstrak

Metode akuntansi tradisional, seperti buku besar manual, mulai ditinggalkan di era teknologi. Studi ini mencoba menggali lebih dalam perbaikan ini dan menjelaskan bagaimana teknologi telah meningkatkan pengambilan keputusan dalam akuntansi. Studi ini menggunakan metodologi PRISMA 2020, menganalisis 235 artikel dari Scopus dan Google Scholar yang diterbitkan antara tahun 2020 dan 2024, untuk menyelidiki dampak transformatif teknologi terhadap pengambilan keputusan akuntansi. Pemeriksaan mendetail terhadap 64 artikel mengungkapkan adanya pergeseran besar menuju digitalisasi, teknologi otomasi, kecerdasan buatan (AI), dan blockchain dalam sektor akuntansi. Kemajuan teknologi pemrosesan informasi mendorong digitalisasi, mengubah akuntansi keuangan menjadi sistem yang terhubung dan digital. Otomatisasi Proses Robot (RPA) dan otomatisasi yang didukung AI merupakan komponen penting yang mengoptimalkan operasi dengan meminimalkan pekerjaan manusia dan meningkatkan efektivitas organisasi. Strategi yang jelas sangat penting untuk mengoptimalkan adopsi teknologi karena hubungan simbiosis antara otomatisasi akuntansi dan AI. Mengotomatiskan penagihan dan entri jurnal secara real-time mengurangi beban kerja, mendorong perluasan organisasi. Menggabungkan teknologi blockchain dengan kecerdasan buatan menjamin transparansi dan keamanan dengan memanfaatkan catatan yang tidak dapat diubah, mengotomatisasi operasi, dan meningkatkan efisiensi transaksi keuangan. Kualitas audit berbasis AI meningkatkan akurasi dengan meminimalkan kesalahan. Konvergensi teknologi ini menunjukkan perubahan signifikan dalam industri akuntansi, meningkatkan efisiensi, meminimalkan tenaga kerja manual, dan mendorong kesuksesan perusahaan. Profesional akuntansi harus beradaptasi dan menegosiasikan perubahan ini untuk memastikan relevansi dan kekuatan sektor ini.

Kata Kunci: Digitalisasi Akuntansi, Akuntansi Modern, Automasi Akuntansi

Abstract

Traditional accounting methods, such as manual ledgers, are being phased out in the technological age. This study tries to delve deeper into these improvements and elucidate how technology has enhanced accounting decision-making. This study employs the PRISMA 2020 methodology, analyzing 235 articles from Scopus and Google Scholar published between 2020 and 2024, to investigate the transformative impact of technology on accounting decision-making. A detailed examination of 64 articles reveals a pronounced shift towards digitalization, automation technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain within the accounting sector. The advancement of information processing technology is driving digitalization, transforming financial accounting into a connected and digitized system. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and AI-powered automation are essential components that optimize operations by minimizing human work and improving organizational

effectiveness. Clear strategies are essential to optimize technology adoption due to the symbiotic relationship between accounting automation and AI. Automating billing and journal entries in real-time reduces workloads, promoting organizational expansion. Combining blockchain technology with artificial intelligence guarantees transparency and security by utilizing an unalterable record, automating operations, and enhancing the efficiency of financial transactions. AI-driven audit quality improves accuracy by minimizing mistakes. This technology convergence indicates a significant change in the accounting industry, enhancing efficiency, minimizing manual labour, and encouraging corporate success. Accounting professionals must adapt to and negotiate these changes to ensure the continued relevance and strength of the sector.

Keywords: Digitalization Accounting, Modern Accounting, Automation Accounting.

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INTRODUCTION

Technology has emerged as an essential part of our lives in the ever-changing modern world. It dramatically affects various businesses, including accounting, a field often perceived as stagnant and unchanging. This study explores the shift of accounting operations from outdated ledger-based systems to advanced database-based systems. The rapid technological improvement has caused this significant transformation. Cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and databases have revolutionized the accounting profession, enhancing its accuracy, efficiency, and insightfulness. Technological developments have reduced human error, automated mundane tasks, accelerated financial management, and allowed accountants to focus on more strategic responsibilities.

Accounting software has remained a continually popular category. 503 comprehensive evaluations were released in this area in the previous year, and the accounting software category receives an average of 2,689 pageviews every week as seen on figure 1. Due to significant buyer interest, accounting software is among our top 20 categories for new reviews in the past year, with thousands of detailed evaluations published so far (Huisache, 2020).

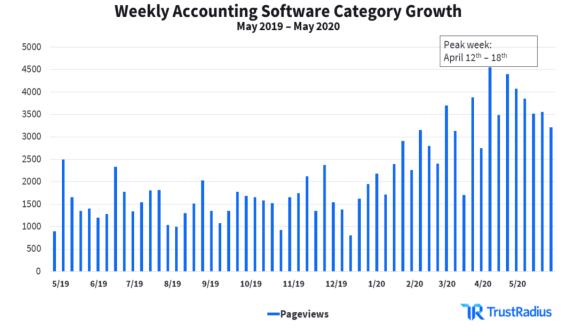


Figure 1. Accounting Software Growth (Huisache, 2020)

Koley & Kumar (2021) Examine the effects of computerized and manual accounting processes on Microfinance institutions in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand, India from 2020 to 2021. Research shows that computerized accounting systems have a greater impact on banks' stated profitability than manual accounting systems. Computerized systems notably save time for employees and improve overall efficiency. The report suggests implementing computerized accounting systems in Microfinance institutions in India to enhance profitability and operational efficiency. Ndubuisin et al. (2017) also evaluate the effects of computerized accounting systems compared to manual accounting methods in Nigerian micro-finance banks between 2006 and 2015. The research results suggest that computerized accounting systems have a greater favorable impact on the profitability of banks compared to manual systems. The study suggests that Microfinance institutions should implement computerized accounting methods to improve their profitability.

This study aims to examine these advancements in more depth and clarify how technology has improved accounting decision-making. The text explores how technology has improved financial forecasting and strategic planning, as well as made data processing more efficient. This provides a comprehensive understanding of current accounting methods and their evolution over time. This study also seeks to understand the broader implications of this technological change. The text examines the influence of this transition on firms, accountants, and the financial system as a whole. The text explores the challenges and opportunities the digital revolution presents, providing valuable information for professionals and scholars. This essay emphasizes the crucial role technology will play in the future of accounting. The text

explores potential future developments by analyzing how emerging technology may continue to revolutionize the sector. It aims to enhance the ongoing discussion about the relationship between technology and accounting by stimulating further research and discussion on this significant topic.

METHODOLOGY

The research approach adopted for this study toward accomplishing the objectives set forth is PRISMA 2020 (Page et al., 2021). This process serves as a substitute for the previous one, PRISMA 2009. One major distinction is the revised framework. The current version consists of two distinct sections that can be utilized if deemed suitable: identification research employing an alternative method and a preliminary investigation. Figure 2 has been modified to suit this inquiry, graphically presenting the procedural sequence of this process.

Figure 2. Research Flow using PRISMA 2020

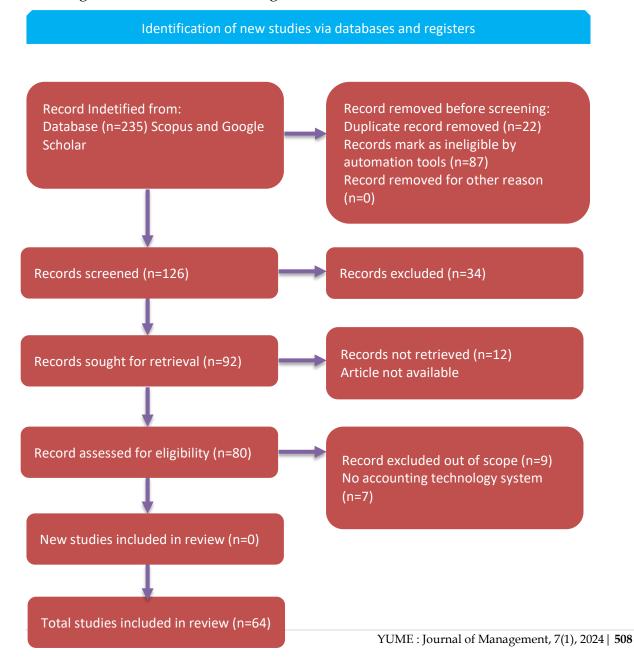


Table 1. Total studies included.

No.	Author/Year	Title	Database
1	(Lv, 2021)	Computer Information Processing	Google Scholar
		Technology in Financial Accounting	
		Information System	
2	(Zheng, 2022)	Construction Research of Accounting	Google Scholar
		Information System Based on Data	
		Visualization Technology	
3	(Yin, 2023a)	Design and Implementation of Financial	Google Scholar
		Accounting System Based on Cloud	
		Computing Technology(Liu & Jia, 2024)	
4	(Liu & Jia,	Design of Chain Store Accounting	Google Scholar
	2024)	Information System Based on Blockchain	
	(6, 2022.)	Technology	0 1 0 1 1
5	(Sun, 2022a)	Design of Information System for	Google Scholar
		Accounting File Management Based on	
	(T. 2022)	Computer Technology	0 1 0 1 1
6	(Luo, 2022)	Design of Intelligent Accounting Education	Google Scholar
		System Based on Data Processing	
	(O. D.:	Technology	C1 - C -11
7	(Q. Dai,	Designing an Accounting Information	Google Scholar
	2022a)	Management System Using Big Data and	
	/ A TA7 0	Cloud Technology	Coordo Cabalan
8	(A. Wang &	Development of Enterprise Management	Google Scholar
	Chu, 2023)	Accounting Information System Based on	
9	(Sari at al	Big Data Technology How information technology and financial	Coogle Scholar
9	(Sari et al., 2021)	accounting system impact information	Google Scholar
	2021)	quality of governmental financial statement	
10	(Lim, 2013)	Impact of Information Technology on	Google Scholar
10	(EIIII, 2013)	Accounting Systems	Google Scholar
11	(Hardika,	Increasing Managerial Performance through	Google Scholar
	2020)	The Use of Information Technology and	Google Seriolar
	_6_6)	Decentralization Characteristics of the	
		Management Accounting System	
12	(Chowdhury,	Integration of Artificial Intelligence	Google Scholar
	2023a)	Technology in Management Accounting	
	,	Information System: An Empirical Study	
13	(Yang, 2020)	On the Credibility Guarantee Mechanism of	Google Scholar
	· · · /	Accounting Information System	U
14	(X. Dai,	Optimization of Accounting Management	Google Scholar
	2021a)	Information System Under the Background	S
	,	of Block Chain Technology	

15	(Mingming,	Research on the Application of Blockchain	Google Scholar
	2020a)	Technology in Accounting Information	
		System	
16	(Suarta et al.,	Technology and Information System	Google Scholar
	2022)	Expertise Demand for Accounting	
		Professionals: A Requirements Analysis of	
		Job Advertisements	
17	(Astuti &	The Effect of Digital Technology and Agility	Google Scholar
	Augustine,	On Company Performance with	
	2022)	Management Accounting System as	
	,	Mediation	
18	(Taufik, 2022)	The Effect of Using Information	Google Scholar
		Technology, User Involvement, and	
		Support from Top Management on	
		Performance of Accounting Information	
		System	
19	(Qatawneh,	The influence of data mining on accounting	Google Scholar
	2022a)	information system performance: A	
		mediating role of information technology	
		infrastructure	
20	(Chen &	The Empowerment and Subversion of	Google Scholar
	Long, 2023)	Information Technology to Accounting	
	,	Information System	
21	(Vărzaru et	Assessing Users' Behavior on the Adoption	Scopus
	al., 2022)	of Digital Technologies in Management and	
		Accounting Information Systems	
22	(Ionescu,	Big Data Algorithms and Artificial	Scopus
	2022)	Intelligence Technologies in Cloud-based	
		Accounting Information Systems	
23	(Cazazian,	Blockchain Technology Adoption in	Scopus
	2022)	Artificial Intelligence-based Digital	
		Financial Services, Accounting Information	
		Systems, and Audit Quality Control	
24	(Al-Okaily et	Blockchain technology and its applications	Scopus
	al., 2023)	in digital accounting systems: insights from	
		Jordanian context	
25	(Nguyen,	Blockchain technology and sustainable	Scopus
	2023)	performance: moderated-mediating model	
		with management accounting system and	
		digital transformation	
26	(Khoruzhy et	Cloud Technologies in the Accounting	Scopus
	al., 2023)	Information System of Interorganizational	
		Cooperation	
27	(S. Li, 2022)	Construction of Accounting Technology	Scopus
	·	Block Analysis System Under the	_
		Background of Big Data Cloud Computing	
28			Coopus
28	(H. Wang et	Construction of Enterprise Asset	Scopus
28	(H. Wang et al., 2024)	Construction of Enterprise Asset Management Accounting System Based on	Scopus

29	(Yin, 2023b)	Design and Implementation of Financial	Scopus
	, , ,	Accounting System Based on Cloud	1
		Computing Technology	
30	(Sun, 2022b)	Design of Information System for	Scopus
	(======================================	Accounting File Management Based on	o o o p
		Computer Technology	
31	(Q. Dai,	Designing an Accounting Information	Scopus
01	2022b)	Management System Using Big Data and	веория
	20220)	Cloud Technology	
32	(Chowdhury,	Integration of Artificial Intelligence	Scopus
32	`		Scopus
	2023b)	Technology in Management Accounting	
22	()(; 2021)	Information System: An Empirical Study	
33	(Xie, 2021)	Management Accounting Innovation	Scopus
		System Based on Artificial Intelligence	
		Technology	
34	(X. Dai,	Optimization of Accounting Management	Scopus
	2021b)	Information System Under the Background	
		of Block Chain Technology	
35	(Mingming,	Research on the application of blockchain	Scopus
	2020b)	technology in accounting information	
		system	
36	(B. Li, 2023)	Research on the Application of Computer	Scopus
		Intelligent ERP Technology in Corporate	
		Financial Accounting Fund Audit System	
37	(Yoshikuni et	Role of Emerging Technologies in	Scopus
	al., 2023)	Accounting Information Systems for	
		Achieving Strategic Flexibility through	
		Decision-Making Performance: An	
		Exploratory Study Based on North	
		American and South American Firms	
38	(Meiryani et	The Effect of Information Technology	Scopus
	al., 2021b)	Development on The Quality of Accounting	1
	, ,	Information Systems	
39	(Abdullah et	The impact of information technology on	Scopus
	al., 2023)	accounting systems towards SME	r
	.,,	performance in Malaysia	
40	(Qatawneh,	The Influence of Data Mining on	Scopus
	2022b)	Accounting Information System	scopus
	,	Performance: A Mediating Role of	
		Information Technology Infrastructure	
41	(Baka la	The Place of Artificial Intelligence in	Scopus
41	(Bako &	Accounting Field and the Future of	ocopus
	Tanko, 2022)	_	
42	(Uuissalaa	Accounting Profession	Canara
42	(Huisache,	Accounting Software Statistics and Trends	Scopus
42	2020)	Dankaring Future Cliffer (D. C. 1	C
43	(Sumarna,	Reshaping Future Skills of Professional	Scopus
4.4	2020)	Accountants	
44	(Karmańska, 2023)	Coding Skills in the Automation of	Scopus
		Accounting Processes	

45	(Coman et al.,	Digitization of Accounting: The Premise of	Scopus
	2022)	the Paradigm Shift of Role of the	
		Professional Accountant	
46	(Kovalenko et	Artificial intelligence in the accounting	Scopus
	al., 2021)	profession	
47	(Noviani &	The Evolution of Accounting Software:	Scopus
	Muda, 2022)	Review of Blockchain Technology in Audit	
48	(Shevchenko	Improving Methods of Accounting for	Scopus
	et al., 2021)	Working Time in the Context of	-
	·	Digitalization	
49	(Shevchenko	Improving Methods of Accounting for	Scopus
	et al., 2021)	Working Time in the Context of	_
		Digitalization	
50	(Teru et al.,	The Impact of E - Accounting in Modern	Scopus
	2019)	Businesses	-
51	(Nikolova,	The Accounting Education: Is a Paradigm	Scopus
	2023)	Shift Needed?	•
52	(Bellucci et	Blockchain in accounting practice and	Scopus
	al., 2022)	research: systematic literature review	1
53	(Alghafiqi &	Impact of Artificial Intelligence Technology	Scopus
	Munajat,	on Accounting Profession	1
	2022)	Ŭ	
54		Impact of Information Tachnology in	Cannia
34	(Hesam, 2017)	Impact of Information Technology in Evplution of Traditional Accounting to	Scopus
		Modern Accounting	
55	(Azman et al.,	Artificial Intelligence in Automated	Cannia
33	2021)	Bookkeeping: A Value-added Function for	Scopus
	2021)	Small and Medium Enterprises	
56	(Ware, 2015)	Computerised Accounting System an	Scopus
30	(Ware, 2013)	Effective Means of Keeping Accounting	Scopus
		Records in Ghanaian Banks: a Case Study of	
		the Ga Rural Bank	
57	(Nasution,	Digital Accounting Application in Oil Palm	Canna
37	2022)	Plantation in Indonesia	Scopus
58	(L. N. Wang,		Sconie
30	,	Impact of information technology on	Scopus
59	(Tilahun	accounting Determinants of Computarized Accounting	Canna
39	(Tilahun,	Determinants of Computerized Accounting	Scopus
	2019)	Information System Adoption by Hospital	
60	(Thomas at al	in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Cannua
60	(Zhong et al.,	Research on Enterprise Financial	Scopus
	2022)	Accounting Information Security Model	
61	(Claratile 1	Based on Big Data	Canada -
61	(Chanthinok	The Development of Digital Accounting	Scopus
	& Sangboon,	System on Cloud Computing	
	2021)		
62	(Koley &	Comparative Analysis of Computerized	Scopus
62		Comparative Analysis of Computerized Accounting System and Manual Accounting System in Ranchi at Jharkhand	Scopus

63	(Ndubuisin et	Comparative Analysis of Computerized	Scopus
	al., 2017)	Accounting System and Manual Accounting	
		System of Quoted Microfinance Banks	
		(MFBs) in Nigeria	
64	(Sapkota,	Computerized Accounting Information	Scopus
	2022)	System in Nepalese SMEs	

Figure 3. Article bibliometric on scopus database

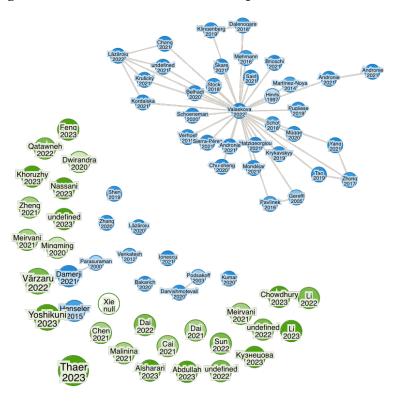
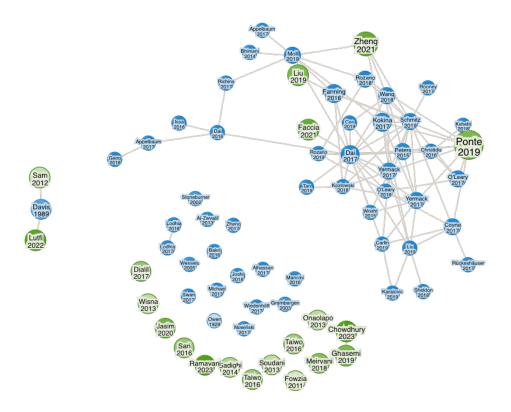


Figure 4. Article bibliometric on Google Scholar database



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

An in-depth review of 64 articles released from 2020 to 2024 showed that the accounting industry is shifting towards digitalization, automation technologies, artificial intelligence, and blockchain.

Digitalization on Accounting

Users are more likely to adopt digital technology in decision-making since artificial intelligence (AI) plays a big role in handling monotonous chores. (Vărzaru et al., 2022). Traditional accounting methods typically fail to meet the information requirements of business management. Digitalization concentrates on utilizing computer information processing technologies to improve financial accounting processes. Business data can be extracted, organized, and loaded into the data warehouse by using pre-defined data warehouse models and technologies such as SQL Server. The system automatically creates accounting vouchers according to predefined standards, enabling accounting staff to concentrate on classification and summarization processes. This simplifies the entire accounting process, from data collection to output, greatly decreasing the workload for accountants. Digital signatures streamline the process of authorizing approval, allowing for a networked and digital financial system. The adoption of network finance has increased company processing speed by 27.5% and enhanced production and procurement plan accuracy from 30% to above 90%. (Lv, 2021). Organizations are working to utilize information technology by adopting the concepts of "digital transformation" and "digitalization of business," which are extensively debated in various communication platforms. Digital transformation can improve both the accounting profession and organizations. Technologies present challenges for accountants, which result in new perspectives and the enhancement of essential skills, promoting creativity and opening up new possibilities. Professionals are increasingly recognizing the advantages of updating and advancing accounting process models, as seen by the growing prominence of the word "digitisation." (Fredo et al., 2023)

Automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies on Accounting

Robotic Process Automation has become widely utilized over the past two decades and is a valuable tool for various company administration jobs. Robotic Process Automation is a system that automates standardized and rule-based tasks through the use of scripts. Robots can be utilized to transfer data between systems, such invoicing and payrolls. Utilizing software robots to automate operations is simple to set up and can be deployed to automate manual tasks. They are capable of tasks including transferring data between applications, comparing data across different systems, and performing advanced operations. (Gotthardt et al., 2020). AI-based accounting automation technology allows for the speedy and accurate automation of accounting tasks, reducing the need for a large workforce. Many technologies adopted by SMEs failed not because of the technology itself, but because of underestimating the influence of other interconnected aspects. There is a favorable relationship between accounting automation and AI adoption. Stakeholders should prioritize how artificial intelligence may enhance the automation process by establishing a clear vision and strategy to increase technology adoption. The study discovered that timesaving has a significant and beneficial impact on the adoption of accounting automation and AI. This discovery provides technology providers with insight into the decision-making process of enterprises when it comes to adopting new technologies.

An example of this technology in action is the automated bookkeeping system. Implementing invoice automation and journal entry automation significantly eased the everyday responsibilities of most employees and decreased their workloads. The implementation of real-time invoicing and journal entry processes has significantly impacted the company's growth. The automated bookkeeping system has a beneficial impact on the functioning of SMEs and helps them overcome problems. The solution aids small and medium-sized enterprises in boosting their growth rate and maintaining efficient in-house record-keeping (Azman et al., 2021). In small and medium-sized organizations, accounting department roles are often not categorized into traditional accounting categories. Financial fraud may occur due to disorganization within the finance team, as granting access to accounting and cash flow to all team members could enable narcissistic criminals to benefit. Artificial intelligence allows computers to perform various accounting tasks, reducing the accounting staff's role to inputting and validating instructions. The system automatically generates bills and does a trial billing at the conclusion of the term (Bako & Tanko, 2022).

AI technology has the potential to transform management accounting by improving processes and enhancing decision-making. Using this technology has benefits since AI simplifies everyday activities, greatly decreasing the need for manual work in data entry, reconciliation, and reporting. Automating these activities allows accountants to concentrate on more strategic parts of their profession. AI-driven automation reduces human errors common in manual operations. Precise data input and calculations result in more dependable financial records. AI algorithms scrutinize financial data accurately. They offer crucial insights that assist in making strategic decisions. Data-driven recommendations improve overall business performance. (Chowdhury, 2023a).

Blockchain on Accounting

According to (Cazazian, 2022), There are three contexts for this implementation: blockchain's synergy with AI, smart contracts and automation, and AI-driven audit quality. Blockchain offers openness and security through its decentralized and tamperproof ledger. It guarantees that transactions are permanently stored throughout a network of nodes without the possibility of being altered. Conversely, artificial intelligence excels in data-driven capabilities. Machine learning algorithms process extensive datasets, identify patterns, and generate predictions. The synergy is found in the complementing characteristics of the two elements. The dependability of blockchain improves the reliability of AI-generated insights, while the analytical capability of AI boosts the utility of blockchain data. Smart contracts on a blockchain automatically carry out predetermined actions according to set parameters. They remove the necessity of intermediaries. Smart contracts can manage functions such as loan approvals, payments, and supply chain transactions in financial operations. Efficiency improves by eliminating manual involvement. A supply chain smart contract could initiate payment to a supplier upon the delivery and verification of products. Auditing entails examining financial documents to ensure correctness and adherence to regulations. Artificial intelligence has the potential to completely transform this process. AI algorithms identify anomalies, inconsistencies, or suspicious trends by examining blockchain data. These observations improve the quality of the audit. AI's accuracy in spotting fraudulent transactions and guaranteeing regulatory compliance minimizes the chances of oversight. Overall, combining blockchain and AI shows great potential for improving financial services and audit procedures. It optimizes procedures, improves decision-making, and strengthens confidence in the digital era.

CONCLUSION

The thorough analysis of 64 articles from 2020 to 2024 highlights the major changes happening in the accounting sector, such as the increasing focus on digitalisation, automation technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain. Each topic has unique ramifications for accounting processes, as shown by the combination of scholarly contributions. Digitalisation is a significant factor transforming the accounting field, propelled by developments in computer information processing technologies. Digital transformation and the "digitalisation of business" represent a paradigm shift that improves financial accounting operations, rather than just a technology evolution. It simplifies the process of gathering, organising, and summarising data, reducing the workload for accountants and promoting a connected and digitised financial system. The acknowledgement of the benefits of modernising accounting process models reflects an increasing focus on digitisation in the accounting field. Automation technologies and artificial intelligence are becoming important aspects of the changing accounting field. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is a valuable tool for automating rule-based operations, such as data transfer, invoicing, and payroll. AI-powered accounting automation technology enhances these endeavours by providing fast and precise task automation, decreasing the reliance on a sizable workforce. The relationship between accounting automation and AI adoption highlights the significance of having a well-defined vision and strategy to improve technology adoption. Automated bookkeeping solutions, such as real-time invoicing and journal entry processes, offer practical benefits like decreased workloads and enhanced organisational growth. Blockchain technology revolutionises accounting by synergizing with AI, smart contracts, and automation. The decentralised and tamperproof ledger of blockchain ensures transparency and security, which improves the trustworthiness of AI-generated insights. Smart contracts on blockchain platforms automate certain processes, removing intermediaries and improving efficiency in financial transactions. Furthermore, AI-powered audit quality utilises AI's analytical capabilities to examine blockchain data, enhancing audit precision and minimising the risk of errors. The integration of blockchain with AI has great potential for enhancing financial services, streamlining audit processes, and fostering trust in the digital age. The interaction of digitalisation, automation, AI, and blockchain represents a significant change in the accounting business. Organisations are moving towards greater efficiency, less manual effort, better decision-making, and superior commercial success as they adjust to technology changes. The academic literature reviewed in this study confirms the importance for accounting professionals and stakeholders to adapt and navigate the technological advancements in order to maintain the relevance and strength of the accounting field in the digital era.

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