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Abstract

An accounting information system assists managers in making critical decisions by enhancing the firm's operational performance and long-term investment methods. Business uses accounting information system to collect, store, manage, process, retrieve and report data so it can be used by accountants, consultants, business analysts, managers, chief financial officers, auditors, regulators and tax agencies, among others. Hence, the study sought to examine the influence of accounting information systems on decision-making in audit firms in the USA. The study adopted the descriptive research design. The study included employees from Grant Thornton LLP. The collection of data was collected through stratified random sampling. The study used questionnaires to collect the data. The study used descriptive and inferential statistics to collect the data. The inferential statistics helped the study to examine the relationship between variables. The study findings showed that the accounting information system is positively and significantly related to decision-making ($\beta=.901$, $p=0.009$). It is concluded that a sound accounting information system needs to be simple and attain cost benefits balance, timeliness, accuracy, quality and conciseness. An information system is a formal process for collecting data, processing the data into information and distributing that information to users. The purpose of an accounting information system is to collect, store, and process financial and accounting data and produce informational reports that managers or other interested parties can use to make business decisions. The study recommended that audit firms consider and put proper measures to ensure that the accounting information system effectively influences decision-making. The firm should employ more well-informed workers about bookkeeping and establish a systematic strategy of executing the accounting systems to eliminate any difficulty. It is also recommended that accountants, consultants, business analysts, managers, chief financial officers, auditors, regulators and tax agencies rely on accounting information systems when making decisions.

Keywords: Accounting information system, decision making, Grant Thornton LLP, USA

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1.0 Background of the Study

An accounting information system plays a crucial role in determining the firm's performance and effectiveness, mainly when it is of high quality, which is essential in making proper decisions (Bag, Gupta, Kumar & Sivarajah, 2021). An accounting information system assists managers in making critical decisions by enhancing the firm's operational performance and long-term investment methods. Surveillance, projecting, and monitoring performance is a vital section of managerial accounting. It guarantees that the accurate results match the budgets and projections described at the beginning (Gardi, Abdalla Hamza, Sabir, Mahmood Aziz, Sorguli, Abdullah & Al-Kake, 2021). Hertati, Safkaur and Simanjuntak (2020) noted that in the current years, an accounting information system had been utilized in many companies worldwide. Accounting is associated with offering information to assist decision-makers in making good decisions. To improve the trustworthiness and utility of the information, the decision-making process, developed ideas, principles, standards, and lawful requirements are keenly adhered to equate physical facts into money values and makes sure that all sorts of record are incorporated and prepared regularly (Mowen, Hansen & Heitger, 2022).

Each firm tries to maintain a correct record of its financial deals in the accounting books, like the firm's financial position may be established at any given period (Yu, Lin & Tang, 2018). Accounting is a language of business and has the fundamental tool for recording, identifying and summarizing in a practical way financial terms, events, and financial transactions and the subsequent interpretation to the users of financial statements. The method entails posting information from numerous source reports and retrieving the trial balance from the ledger accounts to a final account that is ultimately published after a detailed independent evaluation by the external auditors (Wouters & Verdaasdonk, 2019). Making the correct decisions relies on the possession of proper, correct and updated accounting details that are provided and presented reasonably (Nielsen, 2018). A sound accounting system has many advantages in giving the management financial and another information basis for handling decision issues from their operations. The information given by financial reports, cash flow, variance evaluation, managerial costing in planning, preparing decision-making and regulation are invaluable to attaining the goals of the different interest groups.

Creditors and suppliers require an accounting information system to assess a firm's financial stability and evaluate the threats associated with making loans and approving credit reports (Al-Waeli, Hanoon, Ageeb & Idan, 2020). Government agencies are mandated to oversee the financial activities of various firms for taxation and regulation. Financial institutions and other creditors need an accounting information system on a firm's ability to meet financial obligations. The government agencies, such as the statistical department, gather the required accounting information system, like information for the detail of sales activity, profit investments, stocks, dividends paid, and the proportions of profits absorbed by taxation (Choiriah & Sudibyo, 2020). Horvat and Mojzer (2019) reported that managers need an accounting information system that will help them in their decision-making and regulations activities, for instance, information required on the estimated selling price, cost, demand competitive position and profitability of different goods that the firm produces. Investors need accounting details on the value of their investment and its income. Workers need an accounting information system on the firm's position to pay

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salary. The accounting information system is anchored on regulations and laws controlling the handling of financial details found in the firm's financial statements (Ježovita, 2020).

2.0 Literature Review

Chaturvedi and Sharma (2021) researched the impact of accounting information systems on a firm's decision-making. The research was conducted at Hindustan Unilever in India. The research goals were to investigate the consumers of accounting information systems, the qualities of good accountancy information which affects reliable decision making and the association between accountancy information and decision making of Hindustan Unilever. Associated studies on quality management and a firm's financial performance were assessed. The cross-sectional research style was adopted since it was one of the significant appropriate provided the nature of the purposes and minimal time readily available to perform the study. A qualitative and quantitative study model was utilized and evaluated utilizing qualitative designs to indicate what existed at Hindustan Unilever. A sample of 40 participants were picked utilizing the basic random sampling method along with purposive sampling that assisted the researcher to pick participants of various groups. A population of 80 people was picked in which a sample of 40 participants was chosen. Primary information was gathered utilizing questionnaires prepared from the goals of the research ranked making use of the 4-point Likert scale and secondary data was gathered from the secondary data sources was presented. The study discovered that numerous people in accounting division, distributors, government departments, workers and their union representatives, managers require accounting information system. The results showed that proper accounting information system ought to be accurate, must attain costs benefits balance and timeliness is needed. The research concluded that the information given by the accounting professional indicates the impact of risk and uncertainty and the scale of most likely decision-making findings. It was suggested that Hindustan Unilever should utilize accounting information system systems properly to confirm the precision of accounting information system given by the accountants and a precedent data source should design the bookkeeping requirements according to the systems of management. Further researches need to be carried out on the impact of accounting information system on the performance of a firm.

Huang, Mei and Li (2020) check out the effect of the quality of accounting information system on the decisions of business people in the Western Province of China. The emphasis is on how the internal decisions made in this business are influenced by accounting information system that is characterized by excellent quality (relevance, reliability, comparability and uniformity). The research utilized a questionnaire tool that aimed at the owners of the business within the Western Province. Pearson's correlation coefficient was utilized to offer a clear picture of the association between the variables. It was accompanied by multiple regression evaluation to examine the direction and relevance of the association between the variables and to check the hypotheses. The results show a substantial favorable effect of relevance, comparability and uniformity of accounting information system on decisions made by business owners in the Western Province. On top of that, a statistically insignificant association was discovered in regard to the effect of reliability of accounting information system on business peoples' decisions. The China agency for Certified Public Accountants needs to educate business people on why the quality of accounting information system is necessary on their decisions. It needs to make sure that each accountant in

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this venture are registered in its database and has the appropriate credentials for exercising the accounting career.

Perdana (2018) performed research on the influence of accounting information system on decision making in any firm cannot be overemphasized. The research investigates how accounting information system has affected the choices of investors. Information was gathered using 250 questionnaires dispersed to participants and study style was embraced. Two theories were formulated and evaluated and the demographic data of the participants was evaluated utilizing simple percentage; the hypotheses were evaluated utilizing t-test statistic at a substantial level of 5%. The study concludes that there is a substantial association in between accounting information system and decision making of the customers of financial reports. It was suggested that organizations need to use professional accounting professional to offer important information and maintain accurate record of their accounts.

Chandio, Haider, Ahmed, Ali and Ameen (2019) investigated the influence of accounting information system on decision making in Al-Shafi Group of Companies in Pakistan; for the research the researcher made use of primary source of information; which was gathered from 80 workers with closed and open-ended questionnaire; additionally, interviews were conducted with directors. Descriptive study style is utilized and entire population was gotten from purposively chosen division which had direct connection with the bookkeeping associated tasks. T-Examination was utilized to take a look at the impact of accounting information system on decision making. Primary outcomes of the study reveal that accounting information system has substantial effect on decision making in Al-Shafi Group of Companies. As findings AIS is a crucial tool in decision making process for those Al-Shafi Group of Companies in present's baffled globe. To fix financial statements challenges relation is recommended to invest on regular short-term training along with on information technology tools to improve their performance and total efficiency.

Villa, Sharairi, Navarrete and Sancho (2021) studied the impact of accounting information system on decision making process, with a specific reference to the Flux Technologies in Yerevan, Armenia. The study was propelled towards recognizing the operations in Flux Technologies with focus on decision making process. The troubles, prospects and impacts of the program were also investigated. The purpose of the research is to show to numerous sectors the proper method to embark on effective accountancy information. Fifty questionnaires were dispersed of which forty were filled and return making use of stratified random sampling. Additionally associated literature works with the effect of accounting information system were studied. Some employees of Flux Technologies were interviewed, and secondary data were gotten from various publications. The data gathered were later evaluated and interpreted. From the research, it was found that accounting information system is a key factor of management policy, for greater performance, effectiveness and enhanced efficiency, though it includes a huge financial responsibility. Numerous firms should attempt and embark on accounting information system on decision making for better operating of their firms.

A study by Ali and Oudat (2021) gave a review of advancements and expertise on accounting information system and the impact which it has on decision-making, demands that management has for information and how they are noted presently, to view accounting information system as

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one of the essential instructions of improve the efficiency on decision making of direction of economic units (entities) and consumers of accounting information system. With descriptive analytical analysis the relevance of quality bookkeeping information and its effect on decision-making by its consumers will be presented. It is concluded that the information is an important resource for the growth of successful and effective firm. The information given by bookkeeping is really essential for its customers, due to the fact that it will influence in making decision in a particular firm. The information has to satisfy the qualitative qualities, so it should be precise, valid and helpful to make sure that consumers have trust in its quality and authenticity. Correct data will reflect in a dependable financial reporting and these will cause strengthening the financial rank of the firm, it will determine risks and will handle them in a timely manner, will make it possible for the attraction of investments, then decisions will be taken on the basis of good accounting information system.

Osadchy, Akhmetshin, Amirova, Bochkareva, Gazizyanova and Yumashev (2018) explored the research of the effect of accounting information system on decision making process of firms. The relevance, time liners, accuracy, conciseness, and clarity of the information and modes of discussions of the consumers were checked out. It is the goal of the researcher to show clearly the invaluable significance of all this accounting instruments and strategies in the decision-making process firm to greatly equip consumers of the task ahead. The researchers believe could assist in evaluating our economy. Moreover, within the period of the study, the researcher found that appropriate and sufficient accounting information system was being created and used considerably in firm examined like Redbull, additionally apply accounting information system in decision making. The study concludes that the issues of the economy lie in other places apart from poor creation and implementation of accounting information system in decision making process in firms. According to the results, the researcher advised for further study into other factors that might be bringing disorder into different economies.

According to Ballou, Heitger and Stoel (2018) study in the area of accounting, financial information is of great importance, indicating that accounting information system plays a key part in the financial book-keeping/registration system generally, but additionally in the economic information system particularly for decision making necessary for firms. Even though accounting information system is available for a vast range of individuals and stakeholders (supervisors, workers, distributors, consumers, financial creditors, government and its organizations, the public, the media, and so on), the investors are regarded as the advantaged consumers of accounting information system. Four primary qualitative features have to be achieved for the bookkeeping information to be of greater importance in the management system: understandability, importance, reliability and compatibility of information. Any kind of financial transaction processing includes gathering, classifying, adding and evaluating the data.

Monteiro, Cepêda, Silva, Leite and Camacho (2021) argued that the rise of the idea of sustainability indicates a critical shift in market thinking, thus pushing firms to review the technique in conducting their decision-making processes. The major purpose is to examine the role of accounting information system on decision-making from the perspective of certified accounting professionals. Particularly, it intends to analyze the association between the firms' size, the importance of Financial Information (FI) and Management Control Information (MCI), and the

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firm's economic performance. Supporting evidence is provided by evaluation of an online survey of professionally qualified accounting professionals working in Portugal. We utilized structural formula modeling in the evaluation of causal relations between various constructs. The findings reveal the size of the firms and their performances are directly associated, so it is the bigger firms that have the best financial performance. Nonetheless, to increase the firm's performance, it has been proven that using FI in decision-making is not adequate, so making use of MCI is decisive for a great financial performance. The research indicates the significance of creating valuable FI and MCI to help in decision-making and contribute to the financial sustainability.

3.0 Research Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive research design. The study included employees from Grant Thornton LLP. The collection of data was collected through stratified random sampling. The study used questionnaires to collect the data. The study used descriptive and inferential statistics to collect the data. The inferential statistics helped the study to examine the relationship between variables.

4.0 Research Discussion

The research discussion includes the presentation of correlation analysis and regression analysis.

4.1 Correlation Analysis

The results presented in Table 1 describe the correlation analysis

Table 1: Correlation Analysis

		Decision Making	Accounting information system
Decision Making	Pearson Correlation	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
Accounting information system	Pearson Correlation	.601 **	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.000

The correlation results from Table 1 indicate that the accounting information system is positively and significantly associated with decision making ($r=.601$, $p=.000$). This concurs with Villa, Sharairi, Navarrete and Sancho (2021), who reported that numerous firms should attempt and embark on accounting information system on decision making for better operating of their firms.

4.2 Regression Analysis

The section consisted of model fitness, analysis of variance and regression of coefficient. The results presented in Table 2 show the model fitness

Table 2: Model Fitness

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.214 a	0.362	0.301	0.000458

The results from Table 2 show that accounting information system was found to be satisfactory in explaining the decision making among the audit firms in USA. This was supported by the coefficient of determination, also known as the R square of 0.362. This implied that accounting information system explain 36.2% of the variations in the decision making of audit firms in USA.

Table 3: Analysis of Variance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	15.76	1	15.76	143.14	.000b
	Residual	21.25	193	0.1101		
	Total	37.01	194			

The results in Table 3 show that the overall model was statistically significant. The results indicated that decision making is good predictor in defining the accounting information system among the firms in USA. This was supported by an F statistic of 143.14 and the reported p-value of 0.000 which was less than the conventional probability significance level of 0.05.

Table 4: Regression of Coefficient

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	0.645	0.057		11.25	0.004
Accounting information system	0.901	0.1505	0.847	5.985	0.009

The results presented in Table 4 shows that accounting information system is positively and significantly related to decision making ($\beta=.901$, $p=0.009$). This was supported by a calculated t-statistic of 5.985 that is larger than the critical t-statistic of 1.96. The results indicated that when the efficiency in the accounting information system increases by one unit, the decision making among the audit firms in USA, will increase by 0.901 units while other factors that influence the decision making are held constant. Ali and Oudat (2021) articulated that correct data will reflect in a dependable financial reporting and these will cause strengthening the financial position of the

firm, it will determine risks and will handle them in a timely manner, it will make it possible for the attraction of investments, then decisions will be taken on the basis of good accounting information system.

5.0 Conclusion

It is concluded that accounting information system is positively and significantly related to decision making. A sound accounting information system needs to be simple and attain cost benefits balance, timeliness, accuracy, quality and conciseness. The accounting information system is critical in corroborating economic decisions, providing the possibility of a correct depiction of financial phenomena and processes. Users of accounting information system act, run and make decisions continuously by utilizing and understanding the accounting information system given by financial reports. The financial reports published by firms are targeted at giving data to ensure markets' effectiveness and the optimal allocation of economic resources. Different firms should therefore try and embark on an accounting information system for decision-making for the effective running of their firm.

6.0 Recommendations

The audit firms should consider and put proper measures to ensure that the accounting information system effectively influences decision-making. The firm should employ more well-informed workers about bookkeeping and establish a systematic strategy of executing the accounting systems to eliminate any difficulty. The management of audit firms in the USA needs to understand the qualities of sound accounting information system and how it affects effective decision-making. Businesses should employ accounting information systems to collect, store, manage, process, retrieve and report. It is recommended that accountants, consultants, business analysts, managers, chief financial officers, auditors, regulators and tax agencies should rely on accounting information systems when making decisions.

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