



THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION ON ACCOUNTING PRACTICES IN NIGERIA

Isaac Azubuike OGBUJI

Department of Finance, University of Lagos, Akoka

Email: chibuike3014@gmail.com

&

Sunday Emeke ONWUEMELE

Department of Finance, University of Lagos, Akoka

Abstract

The rapid advancement of technology and automation has significantly transformed accounting practices across the globe, and Nigeria is no exception. This study investigates the impact of technological innovations and automated systems on accounting processes in Nigeria, with particular attention to efficiency, accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and professional roles. The research explores how tools such as accounting software, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and robotic process automation (RPA) have redefined traditional accounting functions, reduced manual workload while enhancing real-time reporting and decision-making. It further examines the extent to which Nigerian firms have adopted these technologies. The advent of technology and automation has significantly transformed accounting practices globally, with Nigeria being no exception. This study examines the impact of these advancements on accounting practices in Nigeria, highlighting their implications for efficiency, accuracy, and professional competency within the sector. Data for the study are drawn from secondary sources, including academic journals, industry reports, and policy documents, complemented by primary insights from practicing accountants in Nigeria. Findings indicate that technology and automation have improved financial reporting quality, streamlined audit processes, and minimized errors. This research contributes to the discourse on the future of accounting in developing economies, highlighting the need for continuous professional education, policy support, and investment in technological infrastructure. It concludes that while technology and automation present challenges, they ultimately offer greater opportunities for efficiency, transparency, and strategic value in Nigerian accounting practices.

Keywords: FinTech, Automation, Accounting Practices, Financial Reporting, Technology

1.0 Introduction

Accounting practices in a modern world is a transformative journey from the traditional period (manual system) to the current period of automation. The modern accounting profession involves the use of ICT to improve its application in accounting practices and auditing processes (Nwakoby, Raymond & Okoye, 2023). As technology is evolving rapidly, accounting is also required to follow suit Accounting practice is the medium of financial reporting that serves both internal and external interests. Management accounting is considered internal because it is prepared by the management of the

¹Corresponding author:
chibuike3014@gmail.com

company for the use of management and other interested parties such as the Board to review the performance of the company (Boundless, 2023).

The current automation programme is the second large innovative shift for the accounting industry. Automation of accounting practices is the recording, processing, storing and communicating financial records with the help of digital tools and systems.

Today, manual accounting systems and processes have been replaced with digital innovation to improve business processes for effectiveness and efficiency in performance (Nwakoby, Raymond & Okoye, 2022). Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): According to a 2023 report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), about 45% of SMEs in Nigeria have adopted some form of accounting software. Popular tools include QuickBooks, Sage, Finacle and Wave Accounting. Large Corporations: Nearly 90% of large enterprises have automated their accounting processes, leveraging ERP systems such as SAP, Oracle Financials, and Microsoft Dynamics.

Automation is the process of transforming manual information into a digital (i.e. computer- readable) format, which organizes the information into bits. The outcome is the sign of an object, image, sound, document or signal (usually an analog signal) by generating a series of numbers that describe a discrete set of points or samples (Nwakoby et al., 2015). Automation has brought great improvement to the way accounting practices are carried out. It has brought relief to those areas where manual systems were earlier in place, such as the generation of invoices, billing of clients, reconciliation of accounts, and communication with clients. The focus of this paper is to evaluate the effect of automation on accounting practices in Nigeria (Shagari, Abdullah & Saat, 2017). Hence, the paper seeks to: examine the impact of automation on accounting practice compliance, audit performance efficiency, tax service performance and financial advisory service in Nigeria.

2.0 Empirical and Theoretical Review

Recent literature frames technology (AI/ML, cloud, IoT), FinTech (digital payments, platform banking, embedded finance), and digital reporting tools (blockchain, XBRL, automated disclosure systems) as jointly reshaping how firms prepare, present, and assure financial information. Studies document both efficiency and quality gains and new risks for accuracy, auditability, and governance.

Digital transformation reshapes financial reporting processes

Digital tools (ERP, cloud accounting, automated ledgers, RPA) change how transactions are captured, processed and reported — improving timeliness, data integration and analytic capability while shifting accountants' roles toward judgment, interpretation and assurance over automated outputs. Several recent reviews and empirical studies document improvements in reporting speed and data availability after technology adoption.

Automation and AI change tasks and required skills

AI, machine learning and robotic process automation (RPA) automate routine bookkeeping, reconciliations and parts of audit sampling; studies of the Nigerian context show adoption in banking and larger firms and indicate accountants are increasingly expected to upskill in data analytics, IT controls and interpretation of algorithmic outputs. Authors highlight the transformational (not purely substitutive) effect on the profession.

FinTech's influence on reporting quality and financial inclusion

FinTech innovations (digital payments, API banking, blockchain-based recordkeeping, e-invoicing) create alternative data sources, speed transaction flows and where well-integrated can improve traceability, reduce earnings management opportunities and raise reporting quality. Several papers link FinTech tools to enhanced transparency, though results depend on governance and implementation.

Cloud computing and ERP as enablers of modern accounting systems

Cloud accounting and integrated ERP systems enable centralized ledgers, remote access and real-time reporting. Nigerian-focused studies report productivity gains and improved internal controls when cloud solutions are adopted, but emphasize dependence on reliable internet, scalable infrastructure and appropriate vendor controls.

Accounting Practices

Before the advent of automation, accounting practices were predominantly manual in keeping, recording, processing and reporting financial records (Oladejo, 2014). The manual accounting system was the pure form adopted to store, process, and manage data. The manual accounting system involves physical customer meetings and generation of billing manually. In the present time, the manual system slows down the process and remains uncompetitive as no customer wants to wait to be served by a manual system when he can be served within a twinkle of an eye in another digitized company.

2.1 Review of Concepts

Automation of Accounting System in Nigeria

Automating accounting systems are a growing one as technology evolves. Automation of accounting practices refers to the recording, transmission, processing, and output of financial data in an electronic format. The financial industry has been rejuvenated by computers and accounting software. Automation includes the introduction of e-Business, cloud computing, enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and digital technology advancements. Technology advancement has enhanced the accountant's ability to interpret and report data faster, more efficiently and more effectively than ever before (Huang & Vasarhelyi, 2023; Rozario & Vasarhelyi, 2022; Zhang et al., 2023). Irrespective of the discipline, whether audit, accounting, tax or advisory service, all will be affected by these innovations (Smith, Petkov & Lahijani, 2019; Bonyuet, 2020). Nigeria, like any other country, is affected by automation hence audit firms and companies adopt automation to conduct auditing and accounting practices.

Technology

Technology refers to the application of scientific knowledge, tools, and processes to solve problems and improve efficiency in various fields of human endeavor. In accounting, technology encompasses the use of hardware, software, and digital platforms to record, process, and present financial information. Examples include accounting information systems (AIS), enterprise resource planning (ERP), artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and blockchain technology. Technology transforms accounting from a manual, paper-based practice into a real-time, automated, and data-driven profession that enhances accuracy, timeliness, and decision-making.

Automation

Automation is the process of using machines, software, and algorithms to perform tasks with minimal or no human intervention. In accounting, automation involves the use of tools such as robotic process automation (RPA), artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning to execute repetitive tasks such as data entry, reconciliations, payroll, invoicing, and financial reporting. The purpose of automation is to reduce errors, save time, and allow accountants to focus on higher-value activities such as analysis, forecasting, and strategic advisory services

Technology and Automation in Accounting

The integration of technology and automation in accounting practices has reshaped the profession globally and in Nigeria. Digital innovations such as accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks, Sage, SAP, and Xero), cloud-based platforms, and data analytics tools have streamlined financial reporting processes. Automation tools have significantly reduced human errors,

improved compliance with regulatory requirements, and enhanced fraud detection mechanisms. Furthermore, blockchain technology is increasingly being explored for ensuring transparency and immutability of financial records.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Theory of Disruptive Innovation

It was first used by Clayton Christensen in 1995 in his article in Harvard Business Review. According to him, it is the process by which a smaller company, usually with scarce resources, can challenge a reputable business from the bottom of the market and gradually move up the market. The theory postulates that certain technologies are disruptive, that is, instead of sustaining existing product categories through incremental or radical improvements, they interrupt the normal trajectory of an industry, thus causing disorder in the marketplace. According to this theory, some technological innovations can cause distortion in established economic structure while creating new ones, rendering extant businesses and professions obsolete while making place for novel alternatives (Schumpeter, 1942). The theory is relevant to this study looking at the changes introduced to business processes as a result of technological advancement around the world.

Resource-Based View (RBV) Proponents: Jay Barney (1991)

The RBV emphasizes that an organization's resources, including technology, provide a competitive advantage if they are valuable, rare, inimitable, and organized (Barney, 1991). Accounting firms in Nigeria leveraging advanced technologies can improve efficiency, accuracy, and client satisfaction, giving them a competitive edge. This theory aids in understanding how automation and technology can serve as strategic resources to enhance accounting practices.

Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), developed by Davis (1989), explains how users come to accept and use new technology. The model emphasizes Perceived Usefulness (PU) and Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) as critical determinants of technology adoption. For Nigerian accountants, if automated accounting systems are perceived as easy to use and capable of enhancing performance, their adoption will likely increase, leading to improved accounting practices. Davis, F. D. (1989). *Perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, and user acceptance of information technology*. MIS Quarterly, 13(3), 319-340.

Diffusion of Innovation (DOI) Theory

Rogers' Diffusion of Innovation theory (1962, 2003) explains how innovations spread across individuals, organizations, and societies. The theory identifies key factors such as relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability that determine the rate of adoption. In Nigeria, accountants who perceive automation as advantageous and compatible with existing practices are more likely to embrace it. Peer influence, industry competition, and regulatory encouragement further accelerate adoption. Rogers, E. M. (2003). *Diffusion of Innovations* (5th ed.). Free Press.

Contingency Theory

Contingency Theory emphasizes that organizational effectiveness depends on the fit between organizational structure, processes, and the external environment (Donaldson, 2001). For accounting firms in Nigeria, adopting automation is contingent on factors such as firm size, cost of technology, staff expertise, and regulatory demands. Larger firms may find automation more beneficial due to economies of scale, while smaller firms may face adoption challenges due to cost constraints. Donaldson, L. (2001). *The Contingency Theory of Organizations*. Sage Publications.

2.3 Empirical Studies

Oladejo and Yinus (2020) carried out a study on effective means for financial reporting quality in Nigerian Deposit Money Banks through electronic accounting practices. The study’s findings revealed that adoption of e-accounting was influenced by bank size, cost of ICT deployment, perceived ease of use, and perceived benefit, hence e-accounting practice improved the accounting procedure and timeliness of financial report generation and quality of financial report delivered to banks. Ogundajo, Akintoye and Olayinka (2019), in their study on taxing informal sector and revenue generation, revealed a significant contribution of revenue by the informal sector through tax assessment, collection technique, tax compliance level, informal sector financial acquisition, and economic activities of the informal sector. This was achieved through digitalization of tax offices across Nigeria to have records of all taxpayers and their location. Sekyere and Frimpong (2017), in their study on determinants of computerized accounting systems on an accurate financial report in listed banks on the Ghana stock exchange, revealed that accurate financial reporting was made possible by a computerized accounting system introduced by the bank. The study showed a strong positive correlation (84%) between computerized accounting systems and financial reporting.

Bygren (2016), in their study on the digitalization impact on accounting firms’ business models, indicated that digitalization had a direct impact on the strategic organization of companies’ business. Some of the results include that digitalization will give automated accounting tools, shared knowledge and communication channels to accounting companies. It affords employees different knowledge and more expertise skills than analogue businesses.

Nwakoby et al. (2015) in their study on Information Communication Technology: A panacea for accounting practice in Nigeria found that ICT application influenced efficiency of accounting practices in Nigeria and that ICT application was responsible for timely, efficient, and effective service delivery of accounting practices in Nigeria. This was in tandem with the findings of Al-Refaee (2012) which showed a positive relationship between e-commerce and the design of accounting information systems.

2.4 Conceptual Model

The independent variable of this study is Automation, and the dependent variable is Accounting Practices which is measured by Audit practice efficiency (APE), Tax services performance (TSP), Financial advisory performance (FAP)

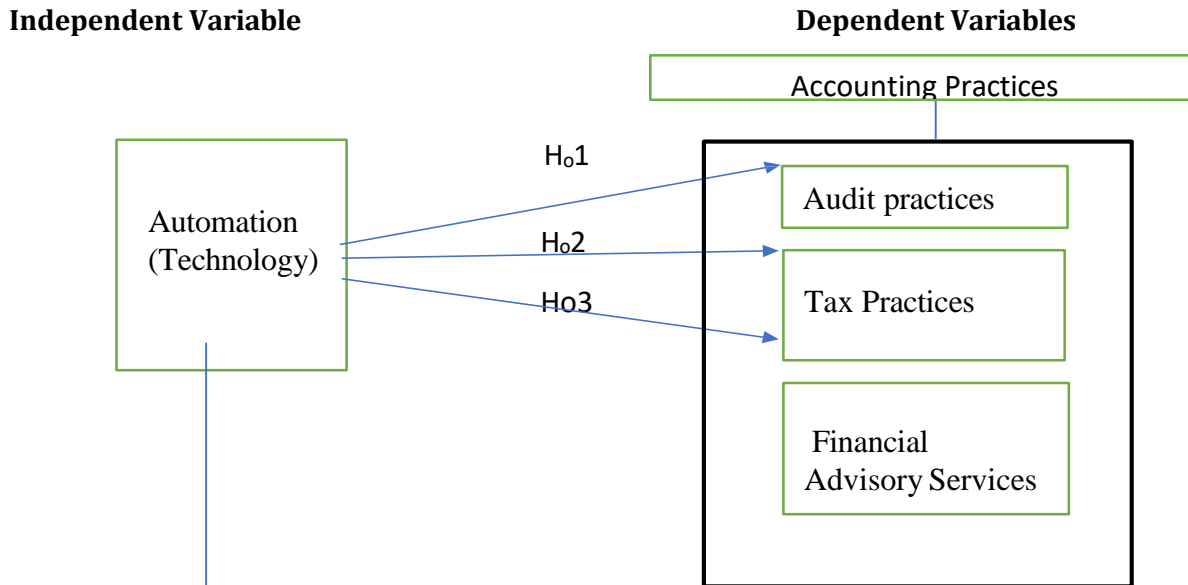


Figure1: Conceptual Model
 Source: Authors’ Design (2024)

3.0 Material and Methods

The research design adopted for this study is the survey design. A questionnaire consisting of 18 questions covering the independent and the 3 dependent variables was constructed. The questionnaire was administered to professional preparers and users of accounting information using the Google Form. Simple linear regression was used to analyze the data. The design was used to examine the effect of Automation on Accounting Practices. ANOVA was adopted to test the relationship among the variables with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0.

3.1 Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: Technology and automation have no significant impact on the efficiency of accounting practices in Nigeria.

H₁₁: Technology and automation significantly improve the efficiency of accounting practices in Nigeria.

H₀₂: The adoption of financial technology (FinTech) tools does not significantly influence the accuracy of financial reporting in Nigerian accounting practices.

H₁₂: The adoption of financial technology (FinTech) tools significantly enhances the accuracy of financial reporting in Nigerian accounting practices.

H₀₃: The integration of automation into accounting systems has no significant effect on fraud detection and internal control in Nigeria.

H₁₃: The integration of automation into accounting systems significantly improves fraud detection and strengthens internal control in Nigeria.

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between the use of modern accounting software and the timeliness of financial information delivery in Nigeria.

H₁₄: There is a significant relationship between the use of modern accounting software and the timeliness of financial information delivery in Nigeria.

3.2 Method of data collection

The study employed the instrument of structured questionnaires in for collecting data from the target respondents. 180 questionnaires were distributed to the target respondents. 103 questionnaires were collected while only 100 questionnaires were analyzed in the study.

3.3 Sources of Data and Study Sample

The data used for the study were primary data sourced from the target respondents in a field survey made up of graduate practicing accountants and professional accountants. The study population is all manufacturing firms in Nigeria while the study sample is all the 151 quoted firms on the floor of the Nigerian exchange group (NGX).

3.4 Model Specification

The model description below shows the relationship between Automation and Accounting Practices.:

$$Y = f(X)$$

Where;

Y = Accounting Practices

X= Automation

Audit practice efficiency (APE), Tax services performance (TSP), Financial advisory performance (FAP)

$$APE = \alpha_1 + \beta_1DIG_i + \mu_i \dots \dots \dots \text{eqn 1}$$

$$TSP = \alpha_2 + \beta_2DIG_i + \mu_i \dots \dots \dots \text{eqn 2}$$

$$FAP = \alpha_3 + \beta_3DIG_i + \mu_i \dots \dots \dots \text{eqn 3}$$

$$APC = \alpha_4 + \beta_4DIG_i + \mu_i \dots \dots \dots \text{eqn 4}$$

Where;

AUT = Automation

APC = Accounting practice compliance.

TSP = Tax Services Performance

APE = Audit Performance Efficiency

FAP = Financial advisory Performance

α_1-4 = Constants

Error term = μ

4.0 Results

Automation

Table 1 below presents the result of the questionnaire after analysis on the general aspect of automation. Table 1 shows that most of the respondents agreed that automation has improved the work of an accountant.

Table 1 - Questionnaire items on impact of automation on accounting practice compliance

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA %	A %	N %	D %	SD %	Total
1	Audit firms in Nigeria do more of paperless documentation	16 18.6	24 27.9	9 10.5	29 33.7	8 9.3	86 100
2	Audit/Accounting/Tax/Assurance management practice is becoming exposed to the agility and intelligent application of artificial intelligence, data analytics, and optical character recognition	25 28.7	47 54.0	8 9.2	7 8.1	0 0	87 100
3	Many Audit/Accounting/Tax/Assurance practicing firms in Nigeria are becoming more conversant with cloud-based platforms	20 22.9	41 47.1	12 13.8	13 14.9	1 1.2	87 100
4	As required by the following Standards: IFRS9 (Financial instruments); IFRS 15 (Revenue from contracts with customers); IFRS 16 (Leases), and IFRS 17 (Insurance) that companies should work with appropriate data and align their finance, risk, and business data through implementation of well defined digital processes. Audit & Advisory practice in Nigeria is up to speed in ensuring compliance.	21 24.1	40 45.9	13 14.9	12 13.8	1 1.2	87 100
5	Financial/Audit/Tax service firms are increasingly under pressure to build trust. Digital audit is one way to provide them with greater insights and perspective on what to do	29 33.7	52 60.5	4 4.7	1 1.2	0 0	86 100
6	Accounting, Tax, and Advisory firms in Nigeria carries out continuous training of its employees in digital acquisition skills	24 27.6	44 50.6	8 9.2	10 11.5	1 1.2	87 100

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

This is because 46.5% agreed to the fact that audit firms do more paperless documentation in Nigeria. 10% were undecided. Also, an overwhelming 82.7% agreed to the fact that audit/accounting and tax firms are now exposed to usage

of artificial intelligence. Moreover, audit, taxation and assurance have adopted the use of cloud accounting, continuous training in which each of them was scored 70% and 78.2% respectively by the respondents.

Table 2: Questionnaire items on impact of automation on tax service performance in Nigeria

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA %	A %	N %	D %	SD %	Total
1	Tax consulting firms in Nigeria have challenges in coping with digital technology which has been a major catalyst for growth of business sources, such as payment solutions, financial intermediation, e- commerce, media and advertising	25 28.7	45 51.7	5 5.8	12 13.8	0 0	87% 100
2	Automation has helped in resolving the client’s incomplete records and rendition of returns to Internal and Inland revenue services.	29 33.3	37 42.5	11 12.6	9 10.3	1 1.2	87% 100
3	Automation has impacted positively on service delivery of Internal Revenue Service & Federal Inland Revenue Service.	30 34.9	45 52.3	5 5.8	6 6.98	0 0	86% 100
4	Automation has helped to increase the tax net being able to cover more taxpayers.	27 31.0	44 50.6	8 9.2	8 9.2	0 0	87% 100

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 2 below presents respondents’ response on the impact of automation on tax consulting. It shows that most of the respondents agreed that automation positively affects tax consulting as they agreed that automation resolves clients’ incomplete records, helps in service delivery of state internal revenue and increases tax net revenue by 75.8%, 87.2% and 81.6% respectively. This agrees with Ogunbajo, Akintoye, and Olayinka (2022) in their study on taxing the informal sector and revenue generation. However, the majority believed that tax consulting still has challenges coping with technology Effect of automation on audit services is as shown in Table 3 below. Respondents agreed that automation has made audit services to be more effective with remote audit procedure and shift focus from true and fair view to risk based approach. 56.3% and 74.7% respectively of the respondents agreed to the above. This agrees with the study of Bonyuet (2020) on overview and impact of blockchain on auditing which was described as an assurance required from clients

Table 3: Questionnaire items on the impact of automation on Audit performance efficiency

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA %	A %	N %	D %	SD %	Total
1	Audit services are more effective with remote audit procedures.	17 19.5	32 36.8	17 19.5	19 21.8	2 2.3	87% 100
2	Automation has shift the focus of auditing from true and fair view to risk-based approach	27 31.0	38 43.7	13 14.9	8 9.2	1 1.2	87% 100
3	Audit firms have control implementation challenges during conversion from manual to automation	27 31.0	41 47.1	13 14.9	6 6.9	0 0	87% 100
4	Auditors have challenges of data interrogation to enhance audit quality and delivery in a highly automated business environment of clients.	24 27.6	46 52.9	7 8.1	10 11.5	0 0	87% 100

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 4: Questionnaire items on impact of automation on financial adversary performance

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA %	A %	N %	D %	SD %	Total
1	Automation has improved service delivery to clients in financial service sector in Nigeria	42	41	3	1	0	87%
		48.3	47.1	3.5	1.2	0	
2	Automation positively impacts the control and risk management (reduction in fraud) in the Financial and Advisory service sector in Nigeria.	29	42	9	6	1	87%
		33.3	48.3	10.4	6.9	1.2	
3	Automation has reduced clients' complaints compared to the analogue period	31	47	5	3	1	87%
		35.6	54.0	5.8	3.5	1.2	
4	Automation has helped in setting up business continuity and disaster recovery system through e-cloud and backup system	39	40	4	4	0	87%
		44.8	45.9	4.6	4.6	0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Tables 3 & 4 below presents respondents' responses on the impact of automation on financial advisory services. From the Table below, it shows that automation has positively impacted on financial and advisory services. This is because most of the respondents agreed that automation has improved service delivery, reduced risk, reduced clients' complaints and disaster recovery. This agrees with findings in the study of Oladejo and Yinus (2020) which revealed that digital accounting practice helped accounting systems and that timeliness of report generation and financial reporting quality were improved. The study of Matthies (2020) also supported respondents' view which revealed that the cost saving potential on the one hand and the amortization of implementation costs on the other hand help the assessment of cost-based evaluation of automation projects.

4.2 Interpretation and Analysis of Findings

Having analyzed the data collected using SPSS version 23, the following are the results of regression and ANOVA having separated the effect of automation on various aspects of accounting practices:

Accounting Practice Compliance and Automation:

Aggregate results show that 50.8% of the variance in accounting practice was explained by the introduction of automation (table 8a) ($R^2 = 0.58$, $p < 0.05$). By implication, 42% of changes in accounting practice were caused by outside automation. The p-value of 0.000 is less than significance level of 0.05, hence null hypothesis was rejected, and alternate hypothesis was accepted. It was concluded that the effect of automation on accounting practice is statistically significant. This also agrees with the fact that the independent variable reliably predicts the dependent variable.

Table 5a: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.717 ^a	.514	.508	.48472

a. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Source: SPSS computation

Table 5b: ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression 21.135	1		89.953	.000 ^b
	Residual 19.971	85	.235		
	Total 41.106	86			

a. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **accounting practice**

b. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Source: SPSS Computation

Table 5c: Coefficients

	Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.437	.367		1.191	.237
	AggIndependent	.851	.090	.717	9.484	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **accounting practice compliance**
Source: SPSS computation

Tax Service Performance and Automation

As shown in the model summary in Table 6a, it was discovered that 36.9% of variance in tax service performance was explained by the model ($R^2 = 0.37$, $p < 0.05$). By implication, 36.9% of changes in tax service performance were caused by automation while 63.1% were outside automation. The p-value of 0.000 was less than the significance level of 0.05; null hypothesis was rejected while alternate hypothesis was accepted. It is concluded that the effect of automation on tax service performance is statistically significant. This also attests to the fact that the independent variable reliably predicts the dependent variable.

6a Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.614 ^a	.376	.369	.549

a. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Source: SPSS Computation

Table 6b: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	15.474	1	15.474	51.316	.000 ^b
	Residual	25.632	85	.302		
	Total	41.106	86			

a. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **Tax service performance**

b. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Table 6c: Coefficients

	Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.260	.371		3.400	.001
	Independent var	.651	.091	.614	7.164	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **Tax service performance**

Audit Performance Efficiency and Automation:

It was discovered that 38.3% of variance in Audit Practice efficiency was explained by the model. ($R^2 = 0.38$, $p < 0.05$) (See Table 5a below). By implication, 38.3% of changes in audit practice efficiency were caused by automation while 61.7% were outside automation. The p-value of 0.000 is less than the significance level of 0.05; we therefore reject the null

hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. It is concluded that the effect of automation on audit practice efficiency is statistically significant. This also attests to the fact that the independent variable reliably predicts the dependent variable. Details of the above are shown in Tables 5a, 5b and 5c.

Table 5a : Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.625 ^a	.390	.383	.54291

Source: SPSS Computation.

a. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Table 5b : ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	16.052	1	16.052	54.458	.000 ^b
	Residual	25.054	85	.295		
	Total	41.106	86			

Source: SPSS Computation.

b. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Table 5c : Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.479	.331		4.471	.000
	Independent var	.621	.084	.625	7.380	.000

Source: SPSS Computation

Financial advisory performance and Automation:

Results of findings and computation showed that 45.8% of variance in financial advisory performance was explained by the model ($R^2 = 0.458, p < 0.05$) as in Table 7a. By implication, one unit change in automation brings about 45.8% of changes in financial advisory performance were explained by automation while 54.2% were outside automation. The p- value of 0.000 is less than significance level, the null hypothesis was rejected, and alternate hypothesis was accepted. It was concluded that the effect of automation on financial advisory performance is statistically significant. This agrees to the fact that the independent variable reliably predicts the dependent variable.

Table 7a : Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.682 ^a	.465	.458	.50888

a. Predictors: (Constant), Independent variable AUTOMATION

Source: SPSS computation

Table 7b: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	19.094	1	19.094	73.735	.000 ^b
	Residual	22.012	85	.259		
	Total	41.106	86			

a. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **Financial advisory performance**

b. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION
Source: SPSS computation

Table 7c: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
		1	(Constant)	.623		
	Independentvar3	.767	.089	.682	8.587	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **Financial advisory performance**

Accounting Practice Compliance and Automation

Aggregate results show that 50.8% of the variance in accounting practice was explained by the introduction of automation (table 8a) ($R^2 = 0.58$, $p < 0.05$). By implication, 42% of changes in accounting practice were caused by outside automation. The p-value of 0.000 is less than significance level of 0.05, hence null hypothesis was rejected, and alternate hypothesis was accepted. It was concluded that the effect of automation on accounting practice is statistically significant. This also agrees with the fact that the independent variable reliably predicts the dependent variable.

Table 8a: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.717 ^a	.514	.508	.48472

b. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Source: SPSS computation

Table 8b: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	21.135	1	21.135	89.953	.000 ^b
	Residual	19.971	85	.235		
	Total	41.106	86			

c. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **accounting practice**

d. Predictors: (Constant), Independent var AUTOMATION

Source: SPSS Computation

Table 8c: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.437	.367		1.191	.237
	AggIndependent	.851	.090	.717	9.484	.000

b. Dependent Variable: Dependent var **accounting practice**

Source: SPSS computation

5.0 Discussion and Contributions

Automation and Accounting Practice Compliance

The results revealed that automation explained 50.8% of the variance in accounting practice compliance, showing a strong and statistically significant impact. This indicates that digitized systems such as ERP software, cloud accounting, and AI-driven reporting have substantially enhanced compliance with international standards (e.g., IFRS 9, 15, 16, and 17) and improved the ability of firms to align finance, risk, and business data. These findings corroborate those of Oladejo and Yinus (2020), who observed that e-accounting improved financial reporting quality in Nigerian banks, and Sekyere and Frimpong (2017), who found that computerized accounting systems strengthened accuracy in Ghanaian banks.

Automation and Tax Service Performance

The analysis showed that 36.9% of variance in tax service performance was explained by automation. Respondents agreed that digital tools improved record accuracy, broadened the tax net, and enhanced service delivery for agencies like the FIRS. This supports the work of Ogundajo, Akintoye, and Olayinka (2019), who noted that digitalization of tax administration increased compliance and broadened revenue generation. However, challenges remain, as many tax consultants struggle to keep pace with emerging technologies, aligning with Bygren’s (2016) conclusion that digitalization requires continuous organizational adaptation.

Automation and Audit Performance Efficiency

Findings indicate that 38.3% of the variance in audit performance efficiency was attributable to automation, confirming that automation facilitates remote auditing and shifts the focus from traditional “true and fair view” audits to risk-based approaches. Nevertheless, respondents reported implementation and data interrogation challenges, particularly during transitions from manual to automated systems. This is consistent with Bonyuet’s (2020) study on blockchain, which highlighted both the efficiency benefits and assurance challenges of technology-driven auditing.

Automation and Financial Advisory Performance

The study further demonstrated that automation has significantly improved service delivery, reduced client complaints, enhanced fraud detection, and facilitated disaster recovery through cloud-based systems. These results align with Matthies (2020), who emphasized that automation reduces operational costs while improving client satisfaction, and with Nwakoby et al. (2015), who found that ICT application improved efficiency and timeliness in Nigerian accounting services.

Results from findings showed that accounting practices compliance vis a vis Automation in Nigeria are still coming up. Most audit practices in Nigeria still rely heavily on manual processes while undertaking audit procedures. A low 46.5% of respondents attested to the slow emergence of paperless documentation processes within audit firms. Respondents also showed good knowledge of areas of interest like artificial intelligence, cloud computing, use of accounting software and data analytical skills. The findings of study revealed that:

- i. Automation has significant impact on accounting practice in Nigeria
- ii. Automation has significant impact on tax services performance in Nigeria.

- iii. Automation has significant impact on audit practice efficiency in Nigeria.
- iv. Automation has significant impact on financial advisory performance in Nigeria.

The study therefore recommends that more training and sensitization should be conducted for accounting practitioners to keep them abreast of current technological advancement and invest more on automated accounting software. in order to take advantage of new technology across the world to improve their services of their clients.

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