



# مجلة التجارة والتمويل

# /https://caf.journals.ekb.eg

# كلية التجارة – جامعة طنطا

العدد: الثالث

## سبتمبر 2023

الجزء الاول

## **Technology Acceptance in the Auditing Education: Evidence from the MENA Region**

### Sara Hussein AbdelFattah Sabry

Assistant Professor of Accounting and Auditing Egypt Japan University for Science and Technology Sara.hussein@ejust.edu.eg

#### Abstract –

There is increasing recognition worldwide of the disruptive nature of technology and its use by auditors, which has brought new opportunities and challenges to accounting and auditing education worldwide. Many business schools have responded to these challenges by incorporating Information Technology (IT) in their respective programs and curriculums. Despite these recent changes, little research was done to comprehend students' perceptions and attitude toward IT. In the current research, students' performance was conceptualized through individual and task dimensions in a technology acceptance context. A survey instrument was utilized for this purpose and analyzed using PLS-SEM. Research results demonstrate two facets: students' perceived ease of use and perceived intention to use are affected by the fit between the software capabilities and the task students will perform. Finally, perceived ease of use was translated into superior student performance. The research broadens auditing education beyond traditional reaching ideology and highlights how students in the Arab countries perceive technology acceptance into the auditing curriculum and how their performance is impacted by the extent to which the software capabilities fit auditing curriculum outcomes.

# Index Terms: ACL, auditing education, performance, technology acceptance, technology fit

### I. INTRODUCTION

We live in an era full of technological advancements, and the demand for technical skills in auditing is unabated for the foreseeable future (Tang et al., 2017). The traditional audit is labor-dependent, time and effort-consuming. Similarly, the rapid IT development and accounting information systems are becoming more sophisticated and complex, spreading in most organizations worldwide. It became impossible for auditors to continue performing their tasks efficiently without relying on IT. Similarly, workplaces are moving towards more and more digitization, thus leading to the prevalence of IT-enabled business systems (Alamin et al., 2020).

Regarding the accounting and auditing professions, several researchers have reported that for students to have a successful career launch, it is necessary to possess specific skills that are not adequately addressed during their educational journey (Borthick & Schneider, 2018; Brink & Reichert, 2020; Hood, 2015; Jordan & Samuels, 2020; Kuruppu, 2012; Kuruppu, 2017; Madsen, 2020). Despite these technological advancements, which provide opportunities to prepare future accountants and auditors for 21<sup>st</sup>-century careers, 31 percent of new graduate hires in public accounting firms are non-accounting graduates (AICPA, 2019). That reality contributed to the increasing need for accounting positions with advanced technological skills (Damerji & Salimi, 2021), which led to hiring computer programmers and software engineers with non-accounting backgrounds responding to the need for technologically adept graduates.

On the other hand, regulatory bodies and accounting firms are encouraging business schools to integrate audit software into the auditing curriculum considering these developments. Many business schools have responded to this challenge by incorporating IT in their respective programs and curriculums. Despite these recent changes, little is done to comprehend students' perceptions and attitude toward IT, specifically Computer Assisted Auditing Tools and Techniques (CAATs)<sup>1</sup> (Alamin et al., 2020; Kuruppu, 2017). Furthermore, recent research suggested that accepting technology in the auditing profession faces many difficulties, especially when the tools are complex and require specific technical backgrounds (Pedrosa et al., 2012). Similarly and despite the increasing prevalence of CAATs, there is a scarcity of students entering the audit workforce with the required audit software skills (Kuruppu, 2012). Extant literature has investigated the adoption/use of information systems in different contexts (Kwahk et al., 2018; Venkatesh & Davis, 2003).

Responding to recent research calls, Gelinas et al. (2001), Hood (2015), Kuruppu (2012), Kuruppu (2017), Nieschwietz et al. (2002), Yan et al. (2016), and Weidenmier and Herron (2004), universities are urged to support narrowing the existing gap between what is being taught in classrooms and what the profession requires and needs. Advancements in the auditing curriculum and teaching methodologies are notably less than the changes in dynamic IT environment. Although technology has been incorporated into teaching to some extent, it has not significantly impacted teaching methodology or content (Pincus et al., 2017). Therefore, accounting and auditing education research will continue to be essential since that area of research addresses the real needs of the profession. Finally, the rising importance of CAATs in the auditing profession is behind the motivation to reach how CAATs affect the future internal auditors' behaviors toward technology acceptance. Therefore, this research examines the impact of two technological fits on technology acceptance and their respective impact on students' performance.

The current research context is set in four countries from the MENA region: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the United Arab of Emirates. The research objective is achieved by administering a survey

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CAATs are defined as any use of technology to assist in completing an audit (Li et al., 2018). (PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716 52 (ONLINE): ISSN 2682-4825

instrument to examine the students' task technology fit and individual technology fit on technology acceptance and eventually on their performance. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: section 2 reviews extant literature related to two areas, technology acceptance in the auditing profession and technology acceptance in accounting education, section 3 details the research hypotheses development, section 4 presents research methodology and context, section 5 presents the results and main findings, and finally, discussion and research contribution are presented in section 6.

II. BACKGROUND

### A. Technology Acceptance in the Auditing Profession

IT use, and reliance has increased exponentially over the past years. In auditing firms, IT was initiated systematically throughout many years, starting electronically, followed by developing software to assist in decision-making, such as analytical procedures, going concern decisions, and client acceptance (Dowling & Leech, 2007). Artificial intelligence and machine learning are recently used in fraud detection and prevention (PricewaterHouseCoopers, 2019). Generally, IT is associated with better audit quality, productivity, and enhanced knowledge-sharing capabilities (Ahmi et al., 2014; Vera-mun et al., 2006). Also, internal auditors rely extensively on IT by adopting Generalized Audit Software (GAS). GAS is used in data extraction, data manipulation, and data analytics (Protiviti Inc., 2008), and internal auditors use robotics as a process automation tool to perform their tasks (Le Clair, 2017).

The successful use of IT is affixed to the employees' commitment to such a process, which requires reinventing the IT function in the organization. Such changes are necessary but far-reaching as they require talent, infrastructure, and multiple years to accomplish (Andersson & Tuddenham, 2014). At the same time, the reliance on IT

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

is becoming increasingly less voluntary (Bhattacherjee et al., 2018). In the auditing environment, substantial pressure is facing audit firms to be as efficient as possible in such a dynamic, complex, and competitive environment. Thus, technology-based audit techniques are perceived as a haven for auditors that is an effective tool to expedite and maximize audit efforts significantly (Janvrin et al., 2008). There are a variety of technologies available to the auditor ranging from continuous audit management programs such as Approva and AutoAudit to other CAATs in the form of GAS such as Audit Command Language (ACL) and Interactive Data & Extraction & Analysis (IDEA) (Kuruppu, 2012; Kuruppu, 2017; Nieschwietz et al., 2002). Many auditing tasks are widely performed using IT tools such as CAATs in performing analytical procedures, fraud detection procedures, data queries, and sampling (Ahmi et al., 2016; Nieschwietz et al., 2002; Pedrosa et al., 2012; Richardson & Louwers, 2010).

Leaders throughout the accounting profession highlighted their three "biggest nightmares:" (1) changes inducing new technology disruption that devalues extended core services- standing, (2) finding new employees with the correct mix of skills and capabilities as well as retraining existing employees and equipping them with new skills, and (3) following with the high and dynamic pace of technological changes (Hood, 2015). The workforce input is the universities' output proliferating but in vain. Technology is already shifting the skills required from senior audit team members to entry-level positions (PricewaterHouseCoopers, 2015). On the other hand, with the dominance of some tools, such as CAATs, in the audit workforce, a rarity of graduates entering the workforce with the required audit software skills is recognized (Kuruppu, 2017). Recent reports showed that 68% and 87% in the US and UK face hiring challenges due to the skills gap (Hagel, 2015). Thus, revisiting our curricula and classroom pedagogy is necessary to equip the future workforce with the right set of skills.

#### **B.** Technology Acceptance in the Auditing Education

A quantum leap in IT is concurrent with changes in software developments which should be parallel with changes in auditing education. It is time to prepare the next generation of business majors for the significant data era that we are living in and discuss how business programmers be prepared to contribute to such a task (Wang et al., 2016). The expansion of computer science into other specializations and majors to create data scientists with the ability to create valuable knowledge and value from big data is necessary (Kuruppu, 2017). Business schools need to take the initiatives to update the auditing curriculum to encompass auditing software through elearning, self-contained courses, and instructor-led courses (Clark & Mayer, 2016). Similarly, technological advancement induces quick changes in financial information, primarily in how assurance is provided on such information. Thus, future auditors need to grasp that leap in the profession and be able to adopt new technologies (Ozlanski et al., 2020). These advancements create not only new tools of immense value for performing the usual tasks but also create new tasks and processes (Brink & Reichert, 2020).

The accounting education system is the sanctum for the earliest selection and transformation processes that attract and transform accounting students into professionals. This transformation occurs during formal training, classwork, and other experiences leading to possessing new traits and transforming old ones (Madsen, 2020). Moreover, the best candidates for such an overwhelming task are undergraduate students who can endure such an initial impact in this era. Based on that conclusion, they are the ideal apprentices of IT tools and techniques (Richardson & Louwers, 2010). Those tools enable students to become aware of how auditors utilize them, especially the practical know-how in the contemporary auditing environment, thus equipping students with more marketable skills to potential employers (Kuruppu, 2012). As such, incorporating such IT tools into the (PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716 55 (ONLINE): ISSN 2682-4825

المجلة العلمية التجارة والتمويل

curriculum reinforces students' understanding of many auditing concepts and prepares them for future endeavors where they will use technology daily (Nieschwietz et al., 2002). Prior attempts to incorporate IT into the auditing curriculum reported that such tools, namely ACL, supplemented students' understanding of risk and audit procedures (Gelinas et al., 2001). In comparison, others reported that two-thirds of the students using such tools felt that the experience contributed to their learning process. It helped them comprehend the audit procedures concepts and how they are performed (Weidenmier & Herron, 2004).

Many theories have been developed over the past decades to understand better how individuals accept technology use. For instance, in 1989 technology acceptance model was developed by Davis, followed in 1990 by the Technological- Organizational-Environmental (TOE) framework developed by Tornatzky and Fleischer, and in 2003 the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT) was developed by Venkatesh, Morris, Davis, and Davis. Those theories seek to explain and predict system acceptance and use (Yu & Yu, 2010). The theory of interest in the current research is TAM (Chan et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2009; Larsen et al., 2009; Pennington & Kelton, 2006). The current research attempts to extend the TAM model to move toward technology-related aspects and task expertise to expand our understanding of the acceptance and use of technology in the auditing education context.

### III. HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

In (Figure 1), the research proposed that students' technology acceptance is influenced by task and individual technology fit. The two dimensions of technology acceptance affect students' performance: perceived ease of use and perceived intention to use.

### Technology Acceptance Model

TAM was suggested by (Davis et al., 1989); it explains the determinants of computer acceptance in general and traces the influence of external factors on attitudes, intentions, and internal beliefs. The primary internal beliefs for technology acceptance behaviors involve perceived intention to use and perceived ease of use. Perceived intention to use is the degree to which an individual believes that using a particular system would improve his/her task performance. While perceived ease of use is the degree to which an individual believes that using a particular system would be free of effort (Davis et al., 1989; Pennington & Kelton, 2006). Referring to prior research, Kim et al. (2009) investigated several factors influencing internal auditors' technology acceptance. The results revealed a significant impact of both organizational and individual factors on internal auditors' perceived ease of use and perceived intention to use technology. Where perceived intention to use stimulates extrinsic motivation, increasing technology use (Chan et al., 2016). Another addition to TAM provided evidence that qualitative overload mediates the relation between perceived ease of use and perceived intention to use (Pennington & Kelton, 2006). In a complementary stream of thoughts, Larsen et al. (2009). Perceived ease of use is an indicator of the effort an individual exerts to perform a particular task, and perceived intention to use is a display of how an individual believes that using technology enhances performance. Thus, the following first and second hypotheses are formulated as follows:

# H1: Perceived ease of use is positively associated with higher performance for undergraduate students.

# H2: Perceived intention to use is positively associated with higher performance for undergraduate students.

### Task Technology Fit

Task Technology Fit (TTF) refers to the extent to which the complexity of the task being undertaken matches the decisional

guidance provided by the technology. Goodhue and Thompson argue that the degree of task-technology **I**t, de**I**ned as a matter of how the capabilities of the information systems match the tasks that the user must perform, is a significant factor in explaining job performance levels (Goodhue & Thomson, 1995; Kokina & Blanchette, 2019). Prior accounting research shows that users of information systems utilize more functionality in the available technology when they perceive the system corresponds with the needs of accomplishing their tasks. Consequently, the more a technology meets speci**I**c work task characteristics, the more the students will accept technology. Hence, the third and fourth hypotheses are formulated as follows:

# H3: Task Technology fit is positively associated with perceived ease of use in undergraduate students.

# H4: Task Technology fit is positively associated with perceived intention to use in undergraduate students.

### Individual Technology Fit

Individual Technology Fit (ITF) is defined by Parkes (2013) as the extent to which the technology **u**ts the individual's task expertise. It is argued that early career hires are likely to perceive additional information provided by technology use as applicable. Similarly, perceived usefulness is positively associated with performance. It is argued that individuals' interactions with information systems are often interlinked with their individual-technology adaptation performances. Students' effective technology use depends on considerations associated with individual technology fit (Yu & Yu, 2010). More individual technology fit presents higher ease of use. Also, having more experience with a specific technological tool is associated with perceived intention to use it. Since more experienced individuals using a specific tool can better realize the tool's usefulness (Wu & Chen, 2017). When those technological functions match task requirements and individual capabilities, individuals are expected to perceive

technology easier to use and intend to use. Thus, the fifth and sixth research hypotheses can be formulated as follows:

H5: Individual Technology fit is positively associated with perceived ease of use in undergraduate students.

H6: Individual Technology fit is positively associated with perceived intention to use in undergraduate students.

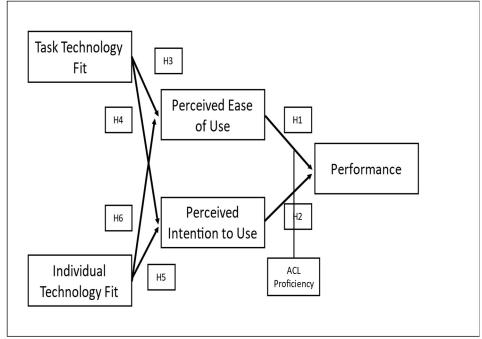


Figure 1: Research model

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND CONTEXT

### A. Instrument development and validation

In developing the instrument of the research and examining the research hypotheses, the survey items are adopted from prior accounting research. Consistent with prior research in the same field, a five-point Likert scale is used anchored by 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) (Ahmi et al., 2016; Alamin et al., 2020; Ozlanski et al., 2020). The target population was business school students in MENA region universities, and their primary studies are in the English (PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716 59 (ONLINE): ISSN 2682-4825

language. Thus, there was no need to translate the survey to Arabic. Five auditing academics pretested the survey items to reach the final version, which consisted of 15 items (see Appendix A).

#### **B.** sample and context

The research's main objective is to identify the factors influencing students' technology acceptance in auditing education, the extent of alignment between the technology used and the task required to perform, also the extent of alignment between individual traits and technology used on their performance. This research design is based on a post-competition survey (Kim et al., 2009; Kuruppu, 2012; Kuruppu, 2017). The competition<sup>2</sup> was conducted in 8 countries all over the MENA region with 83 teams of three from 23 different business schools (Table 1), mainly 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>-year students. Each student was given access to ACL software and instructed to complete ACL 101 and ACL 102 to qualify for the competition in two months. After completing each ACL level, students were subject to an online quiz provided by ACL, and a certificate of completion was granted. In that respect, CAATs are recognized as a tantalizing set of techniques that enable audits to be conducted cost-effectively and (Kuruppu, 2012) promptly. They are recognized as indispensable to the auditor's toolbox of technical skills capable of making audits more effective and efficient (Kuruppu, 2012). ACL was chosen as this CAATs package is accompanied by more textbooks and helping tutorials than any other audit software package. Moreover, ACL is presently used by the Big-4 audit firms and is considered the market leader in audit software ;Kuruppu, 2012) Pennington & Kelton 2006; Richardson & Louwers, 2010; Weidenmier .(Herron, 2004 &

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, four out of the eight countries could not conduct the competition. Each team was handed 10

 $^{\rm 2}$  The competition was hosted by the International Computer Auditing Education Association (ICAEA) during t

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

cases to solve using ACL software during the competition in 4 hours. After the competition, the participants were contacted via email and asked to complete the survey, which consisted of 15 items. Emails were sent to participants explaining the survey purpose and asking for informed consent about their willingness to participate in the study, followed by a survey link to a sample of 102 students. The final responses received were 92 responses meeting the minimum requirement when using PLS-SEM, which is 52 observations, to achieve a statistical power of 80% at a significance level of .05, where the maximum number of independent variables is two (Hair et al., 2013).

Demographically, the average age for the students was 22 years; 57.6% were males, while 42.4% were females. Geographically, 25% of the sample is from Jordan, 26.1% is from Iraq, 32.6% is from Egypt, and 16.3% is from UAE. 53.3% of the students had both accounting and auditing backgrounds, while 46.7% had only an accounting background.<sup>3</sup>.

		Table 1					
Participating Countries							
		¥					
Country	Number of teams	No.	of	No. of Students	No.	of	
		Universities			Responses		
Egypt	11	6		33	30		
Jordan	9	3		27	23		
Iraq	6	2		18	24		
UAE	6	2		18	15		
Total	32	13		96	92		

#### C. Reliability and Validity

As for a normality check<sup>4</sup>Based on the Shapiro-Wilk test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) test, the p-values were less than .05<sup>5</sup>. As for the skewness and kurtosis values, ranging from -.975 and +1.348, which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Those numbers are contributed to the fact that most business schools in the MENA region start the specialization subjects in the third or the fourth year (auditing), corresponding with the result that 53.3 of the sample are in the third or fourth year while 46.7% are in their second year

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Although normality is not one of the assumptions for using PLS-SEM, as recommended in (Hair et al., 2013), it is preferred to test for normality to gain insight into the data being tested.
 <sup>5</sup> Based on (Sarstedt & Mooi, 2014)

is within the threshold of  $\pm 1.96^6$ . Also, a visual inspection of the Q-Q plot and histograms for the constructs showed that the data was not seriously deviated from normality. As for reliability, it was tested using Cronbach's Alpha coefficients (.795 to .869) which exceeds the required threshold  $>.7^7$ . Items loading and average variance extract were used to assess the model's convergent reliability. Two items: TTF 4 and ITF 2 were removed from the model; both had loadings of .612 and .534, respectively  $< .7^8$ . As for average variance extract, all items were above the cut-off point of .50<sup>9</sup>, ranging from.619 to .882, indicating that each construct explains more than half of the variance of its indicator (see Appendix B, Table A). Regarding the discriminant validity, Fornell-Larcker Criterion was used. The square root of the average variance extract was greater than the correlation coefficients of each construct (see Appendix B, Table B); the model's constructs share more variance with its associated indicators than with any other constructs under investigation (Hair et al., 2013). In all, the model has acceptable convergent validity as well as acceptable discriminant validity (see Appendix B, Table C).

IV. HYPOTHESES TESTING RESU	JLTS
-----------------------------	------

	Table Path Coeffici				Table R square V	
Variables	Path Coefficients	t-values	p-values	Variable s	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>
ITF -> PI	.160	.166	.334			
ITF -> PU	.135	1.884	.060	PU	.605	.596
TTF -> PI	.459	3.131	.002			
TTF -> PU	.704	10.010	.000	PI	.306	.290
PU->PR	.572	4.221	.000			
PI -> PR	.197	1.539	.153	PR	.523	.512
*p-value < .0	)5					

PLS version 3 was used to test the research hypotheses based on bootstrapping with 5000 resamples (Hair et al., 2013). Referring to

<sup>6</sup> Based on (Doane & Seward, 2011)

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

(ONLINE): ISSN 2682-4825

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Based on (Sarstedt & Mooi, 2014)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Based on (Hair et al., 2013)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Based on (Hair et al., 2013)

#### العدد الثالث سبتمبر ٢٠٢٣

(Table 3), the overall model explains a considerable portion of the variance in student performance 52.1%. Three path coefficients reveal a significant relation at .05 level (TTF and PI, TTF and PU, and PU and PR), while the other three path coefficients revealed insignificant relations at .05 level (ITF and PI, ITF and PU, and PI and PR). Further investigation shows that technology task fit explains .704 of the variance in perceived ease of use which in turn explains .572 of the variation in students' performance (see Appendix C, Figure 2), which is compared favorably with prior research findings (Chan et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2009)<sup>10</sup> From the above findings, it is concluded that the higher perceived ease of use of technology, the superior the performance of an individual. Thus, the first hypothesis is supported at a p-value = .000. Also, it is concluded that the greater the fit between the task characteristics and the technology used, the higher perceived ease of use and intention to use. Thus, the third and fourth hypotheses are supported at p-value = .000 and .002, respectively. On the other hand, results revealed an insignificant impact of perceived intention to use on an individual's performance. Thus, the second hypothesis is not supported. Also, results revealed an insignificant impact of the extent of fit between the individual expertise and technology use and the perceived ease of use and perceived intention to use. Therefore, the fifth and sixth hypotheses are not supported.

The student's age, gender, accounting, and auditing background, ACL proficiency<sup>11</sup> and were included in the model as control variables. Overall, results show an insignificant impact of the control variables on the research model, except that ACL proficiency was found to impact students' performance (.003) significantly. Regarding age and gender, the impact is premised on the limited variance in student age (19- 22), while the sample of 42% females indicates that gender is less influential for technology acceptance. The lack of support for the accounting and auditing background may contribute to students' educational background consistent across business schools in the four countries included in the research. A further analysis to explore the significant

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Chan et al. (2016) reported a path coefficient of .239 and an indirect effect of .470, while Kim et al. (2009) reported a path coefficient of .34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> ACL proficiency refer to the level of ACL the students completed.

impact of ACL proficiency on performance shows that ACL proficiency significantly impacts students' perceived ease of use (.019).

In contrast, it insignificantly impacts students' perceived intention to use (.616). Those results are clarified by the importance and benefits of using ACL in conducting an audit. However, it provides a comprehensive and broad spectrum of data analysis tools and functionality that requires some time to familiarize with Weidenmier) &Herron, 2004).

#### V. DISCUSSION

The current business environment exhibits strong and compelling challenges, and opportunities for future auditors manifested in dynamic technological advancements and technical skills. Accounting and auditing educators need to be aware of such changes that the workforce lacks and seeks. After decades of calls, educators finally recognize the need for imminent change evident in prior accounting education research streams. The current research continues in this same line of thought, investigating technology acceptance and its impact on student performance through the alignment between the task students performed and the technology used on the one hand and the other, through the alignment between the student expertise in a specific task and the technology used. The current research results provided insights on how students accept using technology and how it can affect their performance. Results revealed that performance is significantly impacted by how students perceive the ease of using the technology and their perceived intention to use it. Students' acceptance is tied to the fit between the technology and the task they are performing. The lack of support for individual technology fit is interesting but explicable. The sample under investigation comprised undergraduate students in business schools with considerable accounting and auditing backgrounds but limited access to technological tools such as ACL. Concerning the results, it is expected that students do not have enough expertise with such tasks and enough expertise in using such tools. Thus, misfit between students' limited task expertise and technology is expected and justified. For future research, a better understanding of the leading role of technology and

#### العدد الثالث سبتمبر ٢٠٢

how it can be embraced and promoted in the accounting and auditing curriculum. Also, future research could explore other factors that affect technology acceptance as it is essential to adapt to such changes continually. Finally, accounting educators must embrace technology and encourage students to embrace such changes and become lifelong learners. To achieve the full benefit of technology, it is crucial to carefully design the curriculum to align with the technology adopted to complement the educational process.

	Table 2			
	<b>Research Variables</b>			
Code	Items	Source		
TTF	ACL is of for the requirements of my learningUsing ACL offs with my educational practice.	(Larsen et al., 2009 Parkes, 2013; Yu & Yu 2010)		
	It is easy to understand which tool to use in ACL.			
	ACL is suitable for helping me complete online courses.			
ITF	I can independently and consciously complete courses in ACL	(Goodhue & Thomson, 1995; Parkes, 2013)		
	I actively participate in various types of courses in ACL			
PU	My interaction with ACL is clear and understandable.	(Davis et al., 1989; Kim et al., 2009; Wu &		
	Interacting with ACL does not require a lot of my mental effort.	Chen, 2017)		
	I Ind ACL to be easy to use.			
	I and it easy to get ACL to do what I want it to do.			
PI	Assuming I have access to ACL, I intend to use it.	(Kim et al., 2009; Wu & Chen, 2017)		
	Given that I have access to ACL, I predict that I would use it			
e PR	Using ACL improves our ability to identify more exceptions	(Li, Dai, Gershberg, & Vasarhelyi, 2018;		
	Using ACL improves our audit enciency	Parkes, 2013; Yu & Yu,		
	Using ACL improves our audit enectiveness	2010)		
	Using ACL reduces the likelihood of unintended errors in our business operations			
	TTF ITF PU PI	Research Variables           Code         Items           TTF         ACL is m for the requirements of my learning           Using ACL mts with my educational practice.           It is easy to understand which tool to use in ACL.           ACL is suitable for helping me complete online courses.           ITF         I can independently and consciously complete courses in ACL           I actively participate in various types of courses in ACL           PU         My interaction with ACL is clear and understandable.           Interacting with ACL does not require a lot of my mental effort.           I mnd ACL to be easy to use.           I mnd it easy to get ACL to do what I want it to do.           PI         Assuming I have access to ACL, I intend to use it.           Given that I have access to ACL, I predict that I would use it           PR         Using ACL improves our audit emciency           Using ACL improves our audit emciency		

#### Appendix A

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

العدد الثالث سبتمبر ٢٠٢٣

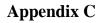
المجلة العلمية التجارة والتمويل

_					Appe	endix B				
					Tabl	e A				
	Loadin	g before	removin	g the iter	ms	Loading afte	r removir	ng one ite	m	
	ITF	TTF	PI	PE	PR	ITF	TTF	PI	PE	PR
ITF 1	0.963					0.963				
ITF 2	0.534					Removed				
PI 1			0.957					0.957		
PI 2			0.921					0.922		
PR 1					0.773					0.773
PR 2					0.737					0.737
PR 3					0.813					0.813
PR 4					0.822					0.822
PU 2				0.767					0.767	
PU 3				0.934					0.934	
PU 4				0.841					0.842	
PU 1				0.847					0.846	
TTF 3		0.884					0.864			
TTF 4		0.612				Removed				
TTF 1		0.798					0.846			
TTF 2		0.757					0.813			

		Table B				
	Fornell- Larcker Criterion					
	ITF	PI	PU	PR	TTF	
ITF	0.961					
PI	0.381	0.939				
PR	0.469	0.693	0.849			
PU	0.444	0.595	0.711	0.787		
TTF	0.477	0.537	0.768	0.695	0.841	

Table C
Reliability Analysis

Reliability Analysis							
	Cronbach's rho_4		Composite	Average	Variance		
	Alpha		Reliability	Extracted			
ITF	0.874	0.880	0.924	0.89	00		
PI	0.869	0.920	0.938	0.88	32		
PU	0.870	0.880	0.912	0.72	22		
PR	0.802	0.819	0.867	0.61	9		
TTF	0.795	0.806	0.879	0.70	)8		



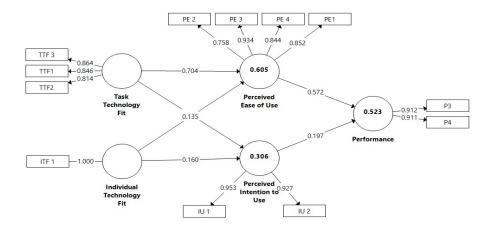


Figure 1: Model R<sup>2</sup>

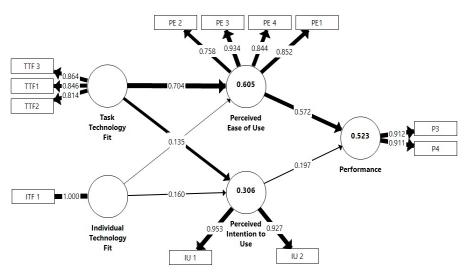


Figure 2: Model Highlighted Path

#### References

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants(AICPA), A. I. of C. P. A. (2019). 2019 Trends in Supply of Accounting graduatres and the demand for public accounting recruits. Retrieved from at: https://www.aicpa.org/interestareas/accountingeducation/%0Ane wsandpublications/aicpa-trends-report.html
- Ahmi, A., Saidin, S. Z., & Abdullah, A. (2014). IT adoption by internal auditors in public sector**u**: A conceptual study. *Procedia - Social* and Behavioral Sciences, 164(August), 591–599. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.11.151
- Ahmi, A., Saidin, S. Z., Abdullah, A., Ahmad, A. C., & Ismail, N. A. (2016). State of Information Technology Adoption by Internal Audit Department in Malaysian Public Sector. *International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues*, 6(S7), 103–108.
- Alamin, A. A., Wilkin, C. L., & Yeoh, W. (2020). The Impact of Self-Efficacy on Accountants' Behavioral Intention to Adopt and Use Accounting Information Systems. *Journal of Information Systems*, 34(3), 31–46. https://doi.org/10.2308/isys-52617
- Andersson, H., & Tuddenham, P. (2014). *Reinventing IT to support digitization. McKimsey & Company.*
- Bhattacherjee, A., Davis, C. J., Connolly, A. J., Hikmet, N., Bhattacherjee, A., Davis, C. J., ... Hikmet, N. (2018). User response to mandatory IT use**D**: a coping theory perspective. *European Journal of Information Systems*, 27(4), 395–414. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41303-017-0047-0
- Borthick, A. F., & Schneider, G. P. (2018). Minimizing Cognitive Load in Representing Processes in a Business Process Diagram**E**: Capturing the Process and Making Inferences About It. *Issues in Accounting Education*, 33(1), 75–88. https://doi.org/10.2308/iace-51901
- Brink, A. G., & Reichert, B. E. (2020). Research Initiatives in Accounting Education: Serving and Enhancing the Profession. *Issues in Accounting Education*, 35(4), 25–33. https://doi.org/10.2308/ISSUES-2020-018

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

68

(ONLINE): ISSN 2682-4825

- Chan, S. H., Song, Q., & Rivera, L. H. (2016). Using an educational computer program to enhance student performance in financial accounting. *Journal of Accounting Education*, *36*(June), 43–64. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaccedu.2016.05.001
- Clark, R. C., & Mayer, R. E. (2016). *e-Learning and the Science of Instruction: Proven Guidelines for Consumers and Designers of Multimedia Learning*, (4th Editio).
- Damerji, H., & Salimi, A. (2021). Mediating effect of use perceptions on technology readiness and adoption of artificial intelligence in accounting. *Accounting Education*, 30(2), 107–130. https://doi.org/10.1080/09639284.2021.1872035
- Davis, F. D., Bagozzi, R. P., & Warshaw, P. R. (1989). User Acceptance of Computer Technology: A Comparison of Two Theoretical Models. *Management Science*, 35(8), 982–1003.
- Doane, D. ., & Seward, L. . (2011). Measuring Skewness. *Journal of Statistics Education*, *19*(2), 1–18.
- Dowling, C., & Leech, S. (2007). Audit Support Systems and Decision Aids
   Current Practice and Opportunities for Future Research. International Journal of Accounting Information Systems, 8(June), 92–116.
- Gelinas, U. J., Levy, E. S., & Thibodeau, J. C. (2001). A teaching case to integrate computer-assisted auditing techniques into the auditing course. *Issues in Accounting Education*, *16*(4), 603–635.
- Goodhue, D., & Thomson, R. (1995). Task-Technology Fit and Individual Performance. *MIS Quarterly*, 19(2), 213–236.
- Hagel, J. (2015). Are you a Scorekeeper or a Business Partner. *Journal* of Accountancy, 220(3), 22–23.
- Hair, J. F., Hult, G. T. M., Ringle, C. M., & Sarstedt, M. (2013). A Primer on Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM). Thousand Oaks: Sage.: Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Hood, D. (2015). Losing sleep: Leaders of the profession on its biggest nightmares. *Accounting Today*, 29(10), 1+.

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

- Janvrin, D., Bierstaker, J., & Lowe, D. J. (2008). An Examination of Audit Information Technology Use and Perceived Importance. *Accounting Horrizons*, 22(1), 1–21.
- Jordan, E. E., & Samuels, J. A. (2020). Research Initiatives in Accounting Education: Improving Learning Effectiveness. *Issues in* Accounting Education, 35(4), 9–24. https://doi.org/10.2308/ISSUES-2020-019
- Kim, H. J., Mannino, M., & Nieschwietz, R. J. (2009). Information technology acceptance in the internal audit profession: Impact of technology features and complexity. *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, 10(4), 214–228. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accinf.2009.09.001
- Kokina, J., & Blanchette, S. (2019). International Journal of Accounting Information Systems Early evidence of digital labor in accounting: Innovation with Robotic Process Automation. *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, 35(December), 100431. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accinf.2019.100431
- Kuruppu, N. (2012). A Stuctured Pedagogy for Integrating Generalized Audit Software into the Audditng Curriculum. *Business Education and Accreditation*, 4(1), 113–121.
- Kuruppu, N. (2017). An Examination of Students' Attitudes and Perceptions Towards Incorporating Computer Assisted Audit Techniques in an Undergraduate Auditing Course. *Global Journal of Business Research*, *11*(3), 55–71.
- Kwahk, K., Ahn, H., & Ryu, Y. U. (2018). International Journal of Information Management Understanding mandatory IS use behavior**1**: How outcome expectations a ff ect conative IS use. *International Journal of Information Management*, 38, 64–76.
- Larsen, T. J., Sørebø, A. M., & Sørebø, Ø. (2009). Computers in Human Behavior The role of task-technology fit as users ' motivation to continue information system use. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 25(3), 778–784. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2009.02.006

Le Clair, C. (2017). The RPA market will reach \$2.9 billion by 2021.

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716 70 (ONLINE): ISSN 2682-4825

Retrieved

from

https://www.forrester.com/report/The+RPA+Market+Will+Reach +29+Billion+By+2021/-/E-RES137229

- Li, H., Dai, J., Gershberg, T., & Vasarhelyi, M. A. (2018). International Journal of Accounting Information Systems Understanding usage and value of audit analytics for internal auditors∎: An organizational approach ☆, 28(December 2017), 59–76. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accinf.2017.12.005
- Madsen, P. E. (2020). Research Initiatives in Accounting Education: Transforming Today's Students into Accounting Professionals. *Issues in Accounting Education*, 35(4), 35–46. https://doi.org/10.2308/ISSUES-2020-016
- Nieschwietz, R., Pany, K., & Zhang, J. (2002). Auditing with technology**D**: using generalized audit software in the classroom. *Journal of Accounting Education*, 20(4), 307–329.
- Ozlanski, M. E., Negangard, E. M., & Fay, R. G. (2020). Kabbage: A Fresh Approach to Understanding Fundamental Auditing Concepts and the Effects of Disruptive Technology. *Issues in Accounting Education*, 35(2), 77–86. https://doi.org/10.2308/issues-16-076
- Parkes, A. (2013). The effect of task individual technology fi t on user attitude and performance<sup>II</sup>: An experimental investigation. *Decision Support Systems*, 54(2), 997–1009. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dss.2012.10.025
- Pedrosa, I., Agrícola, Q., Coimbra, B., & Costa, C. J. (2012). Financial Auditing and Surveys<sup>1</sup>: how are financial auditors using information technology<sup>2</sup>? An approach using Expert Interviews Categories and Subject Descriptors. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Information Systems and Design of Communication* (pp. 37–43).
- Pennington, R. R., & Kelton, A. S. (2006). The Effects of Qualitative Overload on Technology Acceptance. 2006, 20(2), 25–36.
- Pincus, K. V, Stout, D. E., Sorensen, J. E., Stocks, K. D., & Lawson, R. A. (2017). Forces for change in higher education and implications

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

for the accounting academy. *Journal of Accounting Education*, 40(September), 1–18.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaccedu.2017.06.001

- PricewaterHouseCoopers (PwC). (2015). *The evolution of auditors: How skillsets are changing*. Retrieved from t: %3Chttp://www.pwc.com/us/en/cfodirect/assets/ pdf/auditingevolution-technology-driven-skillsets.pdf%3E
- PricewaterHouseCoopers (PwC). (2019). Harnessing AI to pioneer new approaches to the audit. Retrieved from https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/about/stories-from-across-theworld/harnessing-the-power-of-ai-to-transform-the-detection-offraud-and-error.html
- Protiviti Inc. (2008). *Moving Internal Audit Back into Balance*. Retrieved from https://www.protiviti.com/sites/default/files/japan/insights/uspost soxsurvey3.pdf
- Richardson, R. C., & Louwers, T. J. (2010). Using Computerized Audit Software to Learn Statistical Sampling**D**: An Instructional Resource. *Issues in Accounting Education*, 25(3), 553–567. https://doi.org/10.2308/iace.2010.25.3.553
- Sarstedt, M., & Mooi, E. (2014). A Concise Guide to Market Research: The Process, Data, and Methods Using IBM SPSS Statistics (2nd editio). Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Tang, F., Norman, C. S., & Vendrzyk, V. P. (2017). Exploring perceptions of data analytics in the internal audit function. *Behaviour & Information Technology*, 36(11), 1125–1136. https://doi.org/10.1080/0144929X.2017.1355014
- Venkatesh, V., & Davis, F. D. (2003). User Acceptance of Information Technologya: Toward a Unified View. *MIS Quarterly*, 27(3), 424– 478. https://doi.org/10.2307/30036540
- Vera-mun, S. C., Ho, J. L., Chow, C. W., & Vera-mun, S. C. (2006). in Public Accounting Firms. AccountingHorizons, 20(2), 133–155.
- Wang, S., Wang, H., Wang, S., & Wang, H. A. I. (2016). Renewal of

(PRINT) :ISSN 1110-4716

Classics**D**: Database Technology for all Business Majors RENEWAL OF CLASSICS**D**: DATABASE TECHNOLOGY FOR. *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, *56*(3), 211–217. https://doi.org/10.1080/08874417.2016.1153898

- Weidenmier, M. L., and T. L. H. (2004). Selecting an audit software package for classroom use. *Journal of Information Systems*, 18(1), 95–110.
- Weidenmier, M. L., & Herron, T. L. (2004). Selecting an Audit Software Package for Classroom Use. *Journal of Information Systems*, 18(1), 95–110.
- Wu, B., & Chen, X. (2017). Computers in Human Behavior Continuance intention to use MOOCs<sup>I</sup>: Integrating the technology acceptance model (TAM) and task technology fit (TTF) model. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 67(February), 221–232. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2016.10.028
- Yan, Z., Wang, T., Chen, Y., & Zhang, H. (2016). Knowledge sharing in online health communities: A social exchange theory perspective. *Information & Management*, 53(5), 643–653. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.im.2016.02.001
- Yu, T., & Yu, T. (2010). Modelling the factors that affect individuals' utilisation of online learning systems: An empirical study combining the task technology fit model with the theory of planned behaviour. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 41(6), 1003–1017. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8535.2010.01054.x