Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, dan Manajemen (JAKMAN)
ISSN 2716-0807, Vol 7, No 3, 2026, 231-243 https://doi.org/10.35912/jakman.v7i3.6335

Financial Accounting Transformation in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities for the Accounting Profession

Ummu Kalsum[1*], Tenriwaru Tenriwaru[2], Edy Susanto[3]
Universitas Muslim Indonesia, Makassar, Indonesia[1,2,3]
ummukalsum.ak@umi.ac.id[1*], tenriwaru@umi.ac.id[2], edysusanto@umi.ac.id[3]

Article History
Received 17 February 2026
1st Revision 19 February 2026
2nd Revision 09 March 2026
3rd Revision 31 March 2026
Accepted on 17 April 2026

Abstract
Purpose: This study examines how digital transformation reshapes financial accounting practices and influences the role of the accounting profession in implementing *Standar Akuntansi Keuangan (SAK)* in the digital era.
Research Methodology: This study employs an exploratory qualitative approach using semi-structured interviews with eight informants, consisting of accounting educators and external auditors in Makassar, Indonesia. Participants were selected through purposive sampling based on their experience with digital accounting systems. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns related to role changes, challenges, and opportunities in SAK implementation.
Results: The findings indicate that digital transformation does not change the substantive principles of SAK but significantly alters the mechanisms through which these standards are implemented. Financial reporting processes are increasingly integrated within digital accounting systems that automate transaction recording and enable real-time financial reporting. Consequently, the role of accountants has shifted from traditional administrative record keepers to more analytical and strategic professionals responsible for evaluating accounting systems and ensuring compliance with accounting standards.
Conclusions: Digital transformation reflects an institutional adaptation process in which technological change reshapes accounting practices without replacing existing regulatory frameworks.
Limitations: This study is limited by its small sample size and regional focus.
Contributions: This study contributes to the literature by integrating institutional theory with digital accounting transformation and explaining how regulatory, normative, and cognitive factors influence SAK implementation.

Keywords: *Digital Transformation, Financial Accounting, Institutional Theory, Professional Accountant, SAK Implementation*

How to Cite: Kalsum, U., Tenriwaru, T., Susanto, E. (2026). Financial Accounting Transformation in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities for the Accounting Profession. *Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, dan Manajemen*, 7(3), 231-243.

1. Introduction

Digital transformation has significantly reshaped financial accounting practices through the integration of technologies such as cloud accounting, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), big data analytics, blockchain, and artificial intelligence. These technologies enable the automation of transaction processing, real-time financial reporting, and improved data accuracy, which enhance organizational efficiency and support better decision-making processes. Prior studies indicate that the adoption of digital accounting technologies improves the accessibility and reliability of financial information while enabling organizations to manage financial data in a more integrated manner (Gonçalves, Da Silva, & Ferreira, 2022; Hung, Hoa, Hoai, & Nguyen, 2023). As digital technologies continue to evolve, financial accounting practices increasingly rely on system-based processes rather than traditional manual procedures (Al-Hattami, 2025).

The growing adoption of digital accounting systems has transformed how financial information is recorded, processed, and reported (Irnawati & Rahayu, 2025). Traditional accounting processes that were previously performed manually are now conducted through integrated digital systems that automatically generate financial reports and support real-time data analysis (Hadi, Syafina, & Hasibuan, 2024). While digital technologies improve efficiency and reporting accuracy, they also introduce new complexities related to system configuration, data security, and technological dependency (Juniardi & Putra, 2024; Sargsyan, Gevorgyan, & Khachatryan, 2025). These developments indicate that digital transformation not only changes operational accounting procedures but also reshapes the broader ecosystem in which financial reporting is produced and evaluated (Fathirah, Mobilingo, & Alimuddin, 2025).

These technological developments have consequently altered the role of the accounting profession. Accountants are no longer limited to traditional administrative functions focused on recording transactions but are increasingly expected to perform analytical and strategic roles. Professional accountants are now required to interpret financial data, evaluate digital accounting systems, and provide decision-support information for organizational management (Nisaa, Bahrim, & Kustiwi, 2024). Previous research emphasizes that technological advancements have shifted the role of accountants toward more analytical and advisory functions that require higher levels of digital literacy and interdisciplinary competencies (Han, Sammour, Gao, & Yamoah, 2025; Rahayu & Hidayat, 2025). As financial reporting processes become increasingly technology-driven, the ability of accountants to understand both accounting standards and digital systems becomes essential in maintaining reporting quality.

From a theoretical perspective, these changes can be explained through institutional theory, which suggests that organizational practices evolve in response to institutional pressures within the surrounding environment (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983; Scott, 2013). Institutional theory identifies three primary pillars shaping organizational behavior: the regulative pillar, which refers to formal rules and regulatory frameworks; the normative pillar, which relates to professional norms, values, and educational systems; and the cognitive pillar, which reflects shared beliefs and professional understandings that guide behavior. In the context of accounting, SAK represent the regulative framework governing financial reporting practices. At the same time, accounting education and professional ethics form the normative dimension that shapes the competencies and responsibilities of accountants. The cognitive pillar reflects how accounting professionals interpret technological change and integrate digital tools into their professional practices. Digital transformation can therefore be understood as an institutional pressure that encourages the adaptation of accounting practices while maintaining the legitimacy of existing regulatory frameworks.

Despite the increasing attention given to digital transformation in accounting research, existing studies tend to focus on specific aspects of the phenomenon. Some studies emphasize the technical implications of digital accounting systems and their impact on operational efficiency and financial reporting processes, while others examine the challenges faced by accounting education in preparing graduates for digital professional environments. However, limited research has integrated these perspectives within an institutional theory framework to explain how the accounting profession adapts to digital transformation while maintaining compliance with SAK. This gap highlights the need for further research that examines digital transformation not only as a technological development but also as an institutional process that influences professional roles and practices in financial accounting.

Therefore, this study aims to examine how financial accounting practices are transforming in the digital era and how these changes influence the role of the accounting profession in maintaining compliance with SAK. First, this study investigates how digital transformation reshapes the professional roles of accountants in the implementation of SAK within technology-based accounting systems. Second, the study explores the key challenges faced by accounting professionals in adapting to digital accounting environments, particularly those related to technological competence, system complexity, and the reliability of digital financial information. Third, this research analyzes the opportunities that emerge from digital transformation, especially in enhancing the quality, transparency, and efficiency of financial reporting through the utilization of digital technologies.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Institutional Theory and Digital Transformation in Accounting

Institutional theory explains how organizational practices are shaped not only by economic efficiency but also by institutional pressures that arise from regulatory frameworks, professional norms, and shared cognitive understandings within a particular field (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983; Scott, 2013). These pressures influence how organizations adopt new practices in order to maintain legitimacy and align with expectations from stakeholders and regulatory institutions. Scott (2013) identifies three institutional pillars that structure organizational behavior: regulative, normative, and cognitive. The regulative pillar refers to formal rules and regulatory frameworks that guide organizational practices. In the context of financial accounting, SAK function as the primary regulative mechanism that governs financial reporting practices in Indonesia. The normative pillar relates to professional values, educational systems, and ethical standards that shape the competencies and responsibilities of accounting professionals. Meanwhile, the cognitive pillar reflects shared beliefs and professional interpretations that influence how accountants understand and respond to technological change.

Digital transformation can therefore be viewed as a form of institutional pressure that encourages organizations and accounting professionals to adapt their practices while maintaining compliance with existing regulatory frameworks. The adoption of digital technologies such as cloud accounting systems, enterprise resource planning platforms, and artificial intelligence alters the operational mechanisms through which accounting standards are implemented. However, the underlying principles of financial reporting standards remain unchanged. Although previous studies have examined the impact of digital technologies on accounting systems, many of them focus primarily on technological efficiency and system performance. Limited research has examined how institutional pressures influence the adaptation of accounting practices in response to digital transformation. Therefore, further research is needed to understand how institutional factors shape the transformation of accounting practices and professional roles in the digital era.

2.2 Digital Transformation in Financial Accounting

Digital transformation in financial accounting refers to the integration of digital technologies into processes of transaction recording, data processing, and financial reporting. Technologies such as cloud accounting, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence enable organizations to automate accounting procedures and generate financial information in real time (Gonçalves et al., 2022; Novida, 2025). These developments allow organizations to manage financial data more efficiently while improving the accessibility and transparency of financial information (Wijayanti & Airawaty, 2025). At the organizational level, digital transformation primarily affects accounting information systems used by firms to record and process financial transactions. Integrated platforms such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems allow financial data to be automatically consolidated across different organizational units. As a result, financial statements can be generated more quickly and with greater accuracy. However, the implementation of digital accounting systems also introduces new risks related to system configuration, data integrity, and cybersecurity (Juniardi & Putra, 2024).

At the professional level, digital transformation changes how accounting professionals interact with financial information systems. Accountants are increasingly required to understand digital accounting platforms, evaluate automated processes, and ensure that financial information generated by digital systems remains consistent with applicable accounting standards such as SAK. In the Indonesian context, where the implementation of SAK remains the primary regulatory framework for financial reporting, digital accounting systems must still operate within the boundaries of these standards. Despite the increasing adoption of digital accounting technologies, existing studies tend to focus primarily on the technological capabilities of accounting systems rather than their implications for professional practices. Consequently, further research is needed to examine how digital transformation influences the interaction between accounting systems, professional expertise, and regulatory frameworks in the implementation of financial accounting standards.

2.3 The Changing Role of the Accounting Profession in the Digital Era
Technological advancements have significantly reshaped the professional role of accountants in modern organizations. Traditionally, accountants were primarily responsible for recording financial transactions and preparing financial statements (Putra, Wati, & Husain, 2024). However, the increasing use of digital accounting systems has shifted the role of accountants toward more analytical and strategic functions. Accountants are now expected to interpret financial data, evaluate digital accounting systems, and provide decision-support information for management (Han et al., 2025). This transformation also reflects broader institutional dynamics within the accounting profession (Fauziyyah, 2022). From a normative perspective, professional accounting education and training institutions are increasingly required to integrate digital competencies into their curricula in order to prepare graduates for technology-driven accounting environments. At the cognitive level, accountants must also adapt their professional mindset by integrating technological understanding with traditional accounting expertise.

For auditors and other accounting professionals, digital transformation also expands the scope of professional responsibilities. Auditors must evaluate not only the accuracy of financial data but also the reliability of accounting systems and internal controls embedded in digital platforms. Consequently, the implementation of accounting standards such as SAK increasingly depends on the ability of professionals to assess both financial information and the technological systems that generate it. However, many previous studies examine the changing role of accountants primarily from a technological or educational perspective, without sufficiently explaining how these changes are shaped by broader institutional pressures. Therefore, further research is required to explore how the accounting profession adapts to digital transformation while maintaining institutional legitimacy and compliance with financial reporting standards.

2.4 Conceptual Framework
Based on the institutional theory perspective, digital transformation can be understood as an institutional pressure that influences the adaptation of accounting practices and professional roles. The regulative pillar is represented by SAK, which provide formal guidelines governing financial reporting practices. The normative pillar reflects professional norms and educational systems that shape the competencies and responsibilities of accountants. Meanwhile, the cognitive pillar represents the shared beliefs and professional interpretations that guide how accountants understand and respond to digital technologies. Within this framework, digital transformation affects financial accounting practices through the interaction between technological systems, institutional regulations, and professional competencies. Accounting professionals are required to adapt to technological developments while ensuring that financial reporting remains consistent with applicable standards. This study therefore conceptualizes digital transformation as an institutional force that reshapes accounting practices, professional roles, and the implementation of SAK within digital accounting systems.

3. Methodology
3.1 Research Design
This study employs an exploratory qualitative research design aimed at understanding how financial accounting practices are transformed in the digital era and how these changes influence the role of the accounting profession in implementing SAK. A qualitative approach was selected because it allows an in-depth exploration of participants' perceptions, experiences, and interpretations regarding the impact of digital transformation on professional accounting practices. The study is theoretically grounded in institutional theory, which emphasizes that organizational practices are shaped by institutional pressures arising from regulatory frameworks, professional norms, and shared cognitive understandings (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983; Scott, 2013).

In this research, institutional theory guided the analytical process by providing a framework for interpreting how digital transformation affects accounting practices and professional roles. Specifically, the regulative pillar was used to examine how SAKfunction as formal regulatory mechanisms guiding financial reporting practices. The normative pillar was used to analyze how professional education and professional standards shape the competencies required from accountants in a digital environment. Meanwhile, the cognitive pillar guided the analysis of how accounting professionals interpret and respond to technological changes in their daily professional practices. By applying these institutional dimensions, the study aims to explain how digital transformation interacts with institutional structures in shaping the evolution of financial accounting practices.

3.2 Research Setting and Participants

This study was conducted in Makassar, Indonesia, which was selected as the research setting due to its role as one of the major centers for higher education and professional accounting practice in Eastern Indonesia. Makassar hosts several universities offering accounting programs and a number of public accounting firms that utilize digital accounting systems in financial reporting and auditing practices. This context provides a relevant environment for examining how digital transformation influences accounting practices and the implementation of SAK.

Participants in this study were selected using purposive sampling based on their professional experience and relevance to the research objectives. Two groups of participants were involved. The first group consisted of accounting educators who teach financial accounting and possess knowledge of SAK implementation within digital accounting systems. The second group comprised external auditors with professional experience in auditing financial statements prepared using digital accounting systems.

A total of eight informants participated in this study, including four accounting educators and four external auditors. Although the number of participants is relatively small, qualitative research prioritizes depth of understanding rather than statistical generalization. Data collection was continued until thematic saturation was reached, meaning that additional interviews did not generate new conceptual insights related to the research questions. The participants possessed professional experience ranging from five to more than fifteen years in accounting education and audit practice. Their professional backgrounds enabled them to provide informed perspectives on how digital accounting systems influence financial reporting practices and the implementation of SAK in professional contexts.

3.3 Materials and Instruments

The primary research instrument used in this study was a semi-structured interview guide designed to explore participants' perspectives regarding financial accounting transformation in the digital era. The interview guide was developed based on a review of the literature on digital transformation in accounting and institutional theory. The questions were designed to capture participants' experiences related to changes in professional roles, challenges encountered in digital accounting systems, and opportunities arising from technological developments.

Examples of interview questions included: (1) How has the use of digital accounting systems influenced the implementation of SAK in your professional practice? (2) What challenges do accounting professionals face when working with digital accounting systems? (3) How do digital technologies affect the role of accountants or auditors in financial reporting and auditing processes? (4) In your view, how should accounting education adapt to prepare future professionals for digital accounting environments? To enhance the credibility of the instrument, the interview guide was reviewed by two accounting academics with expertise in financial accounting and digital accounting systems. Their feedback was used to refine the wording and relevance of the interview questions before data collection was conducted.

3.4 Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

Data collection was conducted through semi-structured interviews and document analysis. Interviews were carried out either face-to-face or through online communication platforms, depending on participant availability. Each interview lasted approximately 45–60 minutes and was recorded with the consent of the participants. The recordings were subsequently transcribed to facilitate systematic analysis.

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis following three stages of coding: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. In the open coding stage, interview transcripts were carefully reviewed to identify key statements and concepts related to digital transformation, professional role changes, challenges, and opportunities in the implementation of SAK. In the axial coding stage, related codes were grouped into broader categories that reflected patterns in participants' experiences. Finally, in the selective coding stage, the categories were integrated into major themes that explained the transformation of financial accounting practices in the digital era. The coding process was conducted manually using qualitative data organization techniques.

To enhance the credibility and trustworthiness of the findings, triangulation techniques were applied. Source triangulation was conducted by comparing perspectives from two groups of participants, namely accounting educators and external auditors. Method triangulation was implemented by combining interview data with document analysis, including relevant accounting standards, accounting curricula, and professional guidelines related to digital accounting practices.

Ethical considerations were also addressed throughout the research process. Prior to the interviews, participants were provided with information about the purpose of the study and were asked to provide informed consent. Participants were assured that their responses would remain confidential and that their identities would be anonymized in the research report. All interview data were used solely for academic purposes. The researcher's role in qualitative analysis also involves interpretation of participants' perspectives. To minimize potential bias, the researcher maintained reflexive awareness during data interpretation and ensured that the themes identified in the analysis were grounded in the empirical evidence obtained from the interviews.

4. Results and Discussions

4.1 Changes in the Role of the Accounting Profession in the Implementation of Standar Akuntansi Keuangan (SAK)

Based on the results of interviews with accounting educators and external auditors, digital transformation has brought significant changes to financial accounting practices, particularly in the implementation of SAK. All informants indicated that the use of digital accounting systems has improved the efficiency of recording processes and financial statement preparation. Procedures that were previously performed manually are now automated and integrated within cloud-based systems and computerized accounting applications.

All informants further explained that digital systems enable transactions to be recorded in real time and directly linked to financial reporting modules. This integration not only accelerates the preparation of financial statements but also minimizes recording errors commonly found in manual systems. Consequently, digital transformation is understood as a shift in the procedural and technical aspects of financial reporting, without altering the substantive accounting principles regulated under SAK.

> *"In principle, SAK remains unchanged; however, its implementation now heavily depends on the system. Students must understand how the standards are applied within accounting software."*
> *(Interview with accounting educator, 2025).*

This statement indicates that digital transformation does not alter the substantive principles of SAK but influences the mechanisms of its implementation. Accounting educators no longer function solely as instructors of accounting concepts; instead, they also serve as facilitators who bridge the understanding of accounting standards with system-based digital practices. These findings suggest that the transformation primarily occurs at the level of processes and implementation, while the formal regulatory framework remains unchanged. From the auditors' perspective, digital transformation has also reshaped the approach to assessing the fairness of financial statements. An auditor stated:

> *"Currently, most financial statements are system-based. The challenge is no longer recalculating the numbers, but ensuring that the system applies SAK correctly and that the data generated are reliable."*
> *(Interview with auditor, 2025).*

These findings indicate a shift in the role of the accounting profession from traditional record keepers to more analytical and strategic actors. Auditors are no longer solely responsible for verifying numerical accuracy; they are also required to evaluate accounting systems, account configurations, and technology-based internal controls. Consequently, the implementation of SAK in the digital era increasingly depends on accountants' ability to understand and assess the digital processes that generate financial information.

The implications of this transformation include a growing need for professional competency development that integrates accounting standard expertise with technological literacy. Although the fundamental principles of SAK remain unchanged, their application now requires a more adaptive approach. Therefore, the accounting profession must continuously evolve to maintain the quality, relevance, and credibility of financial reporting in an increasingly digitalized business environment.

Overall, the interview results demonstrate that financial accounting transformation in the digital era has shifted professional practices from a manual-oriented approach to a system-based orientation. This shift reinforces the central role of technology as a primary instrument in financial reporting processes while simultaneously increasing the demand for digital competencies within the accounting profession. These findings provide a foundation for understanding how digital transformation influences the role of accountants in ensuring the quality and consistency of SAK implementation.

4.2 Challenges Arising from Digital Transformation

Digital transformation has brought fundamental changes to financial accounting practices, affecting systems, processes, and professional roles. These changes not only create opportunities but also generate various challenges for accountants in maintaining the quality of SAK implementation. Accountants are required to adapt to technological developments without neglecting the fundamental accounting principles that underpin professional integrity. Based on the interview findings, one of the primary challenges identified is the limitation of digital competencies, as well as the gap between accounting education and professional practice.

> *"The development of accounting technology is progressing very rapidly, while the curriculum cannot always adjust immediately. This becomes a challenge for us as educators to ensure that graduates are not left behind in professional practice."*
> *(Interview with accounting educator, 2025).*

This statement indicates a gap between the rapid advancement of accounting technology and the ability of the curriculum to adapt simultaneously. Such conditions affect graduates' readiness to engage in accounting practices based on digital systems. From the auditors' perspective, the challenges are more closely related to system risks and internal controls. An auditor stated:

> *"Auditing can no longer focus solely on the numbers, but also on the system. If the system is flawed, the financial statements can be incorrect even if they appear well-presented."*
> *(Interview with auditor, 2025).*

This indicates that digital transformation increases the complexity of SAK implementation and expands the scope of auditors' responsibilities. Auditing is no longer limited to examining numerical accuracy but also involves evaluating accounting systems and technology-based internal controls. Overall, the findings suggest that the challenges faced by the accounting profession in the digital era include competency gaps, system complexity, and the need to integrate accounting standard expertise with technological literacy. Digital transformation therefore requires continuous professional development to ensure that the quality of financial reporting is maintained.

4.3 Opportunities for the Accounting Profession to Enhance Financial Reporting Quality in the Digital Era Through Technology Utilization

Based on the interview findings, digital transformation not only presents challenges but also creates significant opportunities for the accounting profession to enhance the quality of financial reporting. The utilization of digital-based accounting systems enables the presentation of financial information that is more accurate, relevant, and timely, while simultaneously strengthening transparency and accountability. In this context, the accounting profession has broader opportunities to assume a more strategic role in ensuring high-quality and reliable implementation of SAK.

> *"If technology is utilized properly, accounting graduates can actually be better prepared. They will not only understand the theory but also be ready to face digital-based financial accounting practices."*
> *(Interview with accounting educator, 2025).*

This statement indicates that the integration of technology in accounting education is perceived as an opportunity to enhance graduates' readiness. Technology functions as a bridge between theoretical mastery and professional practice, enabling graduates not only to understand SAK conceptually but also to apply it effectively within digital accounting systems. From the auditors' perspective, digital transformation also provides opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the audit process. An auditor stated:

> *"With digital systems, data become easier to trace. This actually provides an opportunity for auditors to enhance audit quality and ensure more consistent implementation of SAK."*
> *(Interview with auditor, 2025).*

The ease of data traceability through audit trails and integrated systems enables auditors to conduct testing in a more systematic and comprehensive manner. Digital technology not only accelerates the audit process but also enhances accuracy in assessing compliance with SAK. Overall, the findings indicate that digital transformation strengthens the role of the accounting profession in maintaining the quality and consistency of financial reporting. Despite the various challenges encountered, the opportunities arising from digitalization become significant when the accounting profession is able to adapt to technological advancements and utilize them effectively.

4.4 Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that digital transformation significantly changes the operational mechanisms of financial accounting practices without altering the substantive principles of SAK. Informants emphasized that accounting processes that were previously conducted manually are now integrated within digital accounting systems that automate transaction recording and financial reporting. As one informant explained, "In principle, SAK remains unchanged; however, its implementation now heavily depends on the system." This statement indicates that digital transformation mainly affects the procedural and operational aspects of financial reporting rather than the regulatory foundations governing accounting practices.

From an institutional perspective, this finding reflects the continued influence of the regulative pillar in shaping accounting practices. SAK remain the primary regulatory framework guiding financial reporting even when accounting processes are implemented through digital systems. This finding is consistent with previous studies indicating that accounting standards remain stable despite the adoption of new digital technologies (Coman et al., 2022; Schiavi, Behr, & Marcolin, 2024). Digital technologies function primarily as tools that transform the mechanisms through which accounting standards are implemented rather than replacing the standards themselves. Similar findings have been reported in studies examining the digitalization of accounting systems, which demonstrate that digital transformation enhances efficiency while maintaining the regulatory foundations of financial reporting (Dombrovska, 2023; Gonçalves et al., 2022).

The results of this study also reveal a significant transformation in the professional role of accountants. Traditionally, accountants were responsible for recording financial transactions and ensuring numerical accuracy in financial statements. However, the increasing use of digital accounting systems has shifted their responsibilities toward more analytical and strategic roles. Accountants are now expected to evaluate digital accounting systems, interpret financial information generated by automated processes, and ensure that accounting software correctly applies accounting standards. An external auditor noted that "the challenge is no longer recalculating the numbers, but ensuring that the system applies SAK correctly." This observation suggests that digital transformation shifts the focus of accounting work from manual verification toward system evaluation and technological oversight.

These findings support previous research suggesting that technological developments have transformed the role of accountants from traditional record keepers to strategic business advisors (Han et al., 2025; Sukoharsono & Djamhuri, 2025). Studies on accounting digitalization also indicate that accountants increasingly perform analytical functions related to data interpretation, risk assessment, and decision support (Arkhipova, Montemari, Mio, & Marasca, 2024; Imoniana, Nava Filho, Cornacchione, Reginato, & Benetti, 2023). However, this study extends previous research by demonstrating that this transformation is not solely driven by technological change but is also shaped by institutional pressures that require accounting professionals to maintain compliance with regulatory frameworks such as SAK.

In addition to changing professional roles, the findings also highlight several challenges associated with digital accounting systems. Informants emphasized that the rapid development of accounting technologies often exceeds the capacity of accounting education systems to adapt. As one accounting educator stated, "The development of accounting technology is progressing very rapidly, while the curriculum cannot always adjust immediately." This statement suggests that the normative institutional pillar, particularly accounting education and professional training systems, plays a crucial role in preparing future accountants for digital accounting environments.

Previous studies similarly highlight the existence of a competency gap between technological developments and accounting education curricula (Fauziyyah, 2022; Tavares, Azevedo, Marques, & Bastos, 2023). Without sufficient integration of digital competencies into accounting education, graduates may face difficulties adapting to technology-driven accounting practices. Other studies also emphasize that the success of digital transformation in accounting largely depends on the development of digital literacy and interdisciplinary competencies among accounting professionals (Harianto, 2025; Hasan et al., 2025).

Despite these challenges, the findings of this study also reveal significant opportunities arising from digital transformation. Digital accounting systems improve transparency, efficiency, and traceability in financial reporting processes. Informants explained that digital systems enable auditors to track financial data more easily through integrated audit trails (Nisaa et al., 2024). As one auditor stated, "With digital systems, data become easier to trace." This indicates that digital technologies enhance the ability of auditors to conduct systematic and comprehensive audit procedures.

These findings align with previous studies showing that digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and blockchain improve the reliability and transparency of financial reporting processes (Fobellah, 2025; Hajiyev, Babayev, & Gasimov, 2025). Digitalization also facilitates continuous monitoring and automated data verification, which can strengthen financial governance and accountability (Alduneibat, 2025; Lestari, 2025). Furthermore, empirical studies indicate that digital accounting tools significantly enhance the accuracy and efficiency of financial reporting processes, particularly through automation and real-time transaction processing (Astuti, Pw, Sidik, & Irawan, 2026).

Overall, the findings of this study suggest that digital transformation represents not only a technological shift but also an institutional adaptation process within the accounting profession. While the regulative pillar continues to ensure compliance with accounting standards such as SAK, the normative pillar shapes professional competencies through accounting education and professional training systems, and the cognitive pillar reflects how accounting professionals reinterpret their roles in response to technological change. These findings highlight that the transformation of financial accounting practices in the digital era occurs through the interaction between technological innovation, institutional structures, and professional adaptation processes.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Conclusion

This study demonstrates that digital transformation significantly reshapes financial accounting practices without altering the fundamental principles of SAK. The findings reveal that the primary change occurs in the mechanisms of implementation, where accounting processes increasingly rely on digital systems that automate recording, reporting, and data integration. As a consequence, the role of accountants has shifted from traditional administrative record keepers toward more analytical and strategic professionals responsible for evaluating accounting systems, interpreting financial information, and ensuring the proper application of accounting standards within digital platforms.

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to the accounting literature by integrating institutional theory into the analysis of digital accounting transformation. The results show that the transformation of financial accounting practices occurs through the interaction of institutional pillars: the regulative pillar represented by SAK as the formal regulatory framework, the normative pillar reflected in professional education and competency development, and the cognitive pillar represented by how accounting professionals reinterpret their roles in response to technological change. This study therefore provides a conceptual explanation of how digital transformation functions as an institutional pressure that reshapes professional practices while preserving the legitimacy of accounting standards.

5.2 Research Limitations

This study has several limitations that should be considered when interpreting its findings. First, the research relies on qualitative interview data from a relatively small number of participants, which limits the ability to generalize the findings beyond the specific research context. Second, the data are based primarily on self-reported perceptions from accounting educators and external auditors, which may contain subjective bias or reflect personal interpretations of digital transformation in their professional environments. Third, the research was conducted in Makassar, Indonesia, where variations in technological infrastructure, digital readiness, and access to digital accounting systems may differ from other regions, potentially influencing how digital transformation is experienced in practice. Finally, the study focuses on two professional groups and does not include perspectives from other relevant factors such as management accountants, regulators, or accounting software developers, whose insights could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the broader accounting ecosystem in the digital era.

5.3 Suggestions and Directions for Future Research

Future research could further expand the understanding of financial accounting transformation by examining specific factors that influence the effectiveness of digital accounting practices. In particular, future studies may investigate the relationship between accountants' digital competencies and the quality of financial reporting in technology-driven environments. Additionally, research may explore organizational factors such as digital infrastructure, organizational culture, and leadership support that facilitate the successful adoption of digital accounting systems. Comparative studies across different regions or countries would also be valuable to understand how variations in regulatory frameworks, technological readiness, and professional education systems influence the transformation of accounting practices. Furthermore, future research may analyze the impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and advanced data analytics on financial reporting processes and auditing practices, especially in relation to the implementation of accounting standards such as SAK.

Acknowledgement

The author would like to express sincere gratitude to all parties who have contributed to the completion of this research. Special appreciation is extended to the accounting educators and external auditors who generously shared their time, insights, and professional experiences as research informants. Their valuable perspectives have significantly enriched the findings of this study. The author also extends gratitude to colleagues and academic peers for their constructive feedback and support throughout the research process.

Author Contributions

UK contributed to conceptualization, methodology, investigation, data curation, formal analysis, and writing the original draft. TT contributed to methodology, validation, theoretical framework development, and writing, review, and editing. ES contributed to supervision, project administration, validation, and writing, review, and editing. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

References

Al-Hattami, H. M. (2025). The impact of digital accounting systems on financial performance in the banking sector: Advancements in the digital era. *International Journal of Intelligent Information Technologies (IJIIT), 21*(1), 1-19. doi:https://doi.org/10.4018/ijiit.377599

Alduneibat, K. A. (2025). The impact of digital transformation on the adoption of modern management accounting methods in commercial bank governance. *Asian Economic and Financial Review, 15*(9), 1431. doi:https://doi.org/10.55493/5002.v15i9.5588

Arkhipova, D., Montemari, M., Mio, C., & Marasca, S. (2024). Digital technologies and the evolution of the management accounting profession: a grounded theory literature review. *Meditari Accountancy Research, 32*(7), 35-64. doi:https://doi.org/10.1108/MEDAR-07-2023-2097

Astuti, S., Pw, L. R., Sidik, M. M. A., & Irawan, I. (2026). Analysis of the Impact of AI-Based Accounting Tools on the Accuracy of Financial Reporting for SMEs in Bandar Lampung. *Studi Akuntansi, Keuangan, dan Manajemen, 5*(3), 301-312. doi:https://doi.org/10.35912/sakman.v5i3.5656

Coman, D. M., Ionescu, C. A., Duică, A., Coman, M. D., Uzlau, M. C., Stanescu, S. G., & State, V. (2022). Digitization of accounting: the premise of the paradigm shift of role of the professional accountant. *Applied Sciences, 12*(7), 3359. doi:https://doi.org/10.3390/app12073359

DiMaggio, P. J., & Powell, W. W. (1983). The iron cage revisited: Institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields. *American Sociological Review, 48*(2), 147-160. doi:https://doi.org/10.2307/2095101

Dombrovska, N. (2023). Digital transformation of accounting: the impact of technologies on the efficiency and quality of financial reporting. *Ekonomichnyy Analiz, 33*(2), 239-246. doi:https://doi.org/10.35774/econa2023.02.239

Fathirah, D., Mobilingo, D. S., & Alimuddin, A. (2025). Dramaturgy in digital public accounting: Social representation and institutional imaging in the era of digital transformation. *Jurnal Ekonomi Kreatif dan Manajemen Bisnis Digital, 4*(1), 19-28. doi:https://doi.org/10.55047/jekombital.v4i1.973

Fauziyyah, N. (2022). Efek digitalisasi terhadap akuntansi manajemen. *Jurnal Akuntansi Keuangan dan Bisnis, 15*(1), 381-390. doi:https://doi.org/10.35143/jakb.v15i1.5276

Fobellah, A. N. (2025). Navigating digital transformation: auditing Artificial Intelligence-powered financial systems: A conceptual review. *International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 10*(02), 023-028. doi:https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2025.16.2.2274

Gonçalves, M. J. A., Da Silva, A. C. F., & Ferreira, C. G. (2022). *The future of accounting: how will digital transformation impact the sector?* Paper presented at the Informatics.

Hadi, A. Z., Syafina, L., & Hasibuan, N. F. A. (2024). The application of financial reporting based on sak-emkm and the utilization of accounting information technology on the financial report quality of UD Neo Cirasa Bakery. *Jurnal Akuntansi, Keuangan, dan Manajemen, 6*(1), 221-229. doi:https://doi.org/10.35912/jakman.v6i1.3694

Hajiyev, F., Babayev, N., & Gasimov, F. (2025). Organisation and areas of development of international audit in the digital economy. *Scientific Bulletin of Mukachevo State University. Series "Economics", 2*(12), 23-33. doi:https://doi.org/10.52566/msu-econ2.2025.23
Han, H., Sammour, A., Gao, S., & Yamoah, F. A. (2025). Digital transformation impacts organisational change in the role of accountants and auditors: an exploratory study. *Journal of Organizational Change Management*, 1-18. doi:https://doi.org/10.1108/JOCM-03-2025-0288
Harianto, D. (2025). Digital transformation in accounting: opportunities and challenges in the industry 4.0 era. *Outline Journal of Management and Accounting, 4*(1), 35-41. doi:https://doi.org/10.61730/zysyr332
Hasan, E. F., Alzuod, M. A., Al Jasimee, K. H., Alshdaifat, S. M., Hijazin, A. F., & Khrais, L. T. (2025). The role of organizational culture in digital transformation and modern accounting practices among Jordanian SMEs. *Journal of Risk and Financial Management, 18*(3), 147. doi:https://doi.org/10.3390/jrfm18030147
Hung, B. Q., Hoa, T. A., Hoai, T. T., & Nguyen, N. P. (2023). Advancement of cloud-based accounting effectiveness, decision-making quality, and firm performance through digital transformation and digital leadership: Empirical evidence from Vietnam. *Heliyon, 9*(6). doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e16929
Imoniana, J. O., Nava Filho, D. C., Cornacchione, E. B., Reginato, L., & Benetti, C. (2023). Impact of technological advancements on auditing of financial statements. *European Research Studies, 26*(4), 131-159. doi:https://doi.org/10.35808/ersj/3277
Irnawati, I., & Rahayu, R. (2025). The role of digital transformation through modular erp in enhancing corporate adaptability to global market changes. *Jurnalarro'ismandalika(Armada), 5*(2), 468-479. doi:https://doi.org/10.59613/armada.v5i2.5118
Juniardi, E., & Putra, D. M. (2024). Digital transformation in accounting: Navigating the future of the profession through systematic review and meta-analysis. *KnE Social Sciences, 9*(20), 17–35-17–35. doi:https://doi.org/10.18502/kss.v9i20.16467
Lestari, P. A. (2025). Transparency and accountability in the digital era: insights from public sector accounting. *Sinergi International Journal of Accounting and Taxation, 3*(3), 195-208. doi:https://doi.org/10.61194/ijat.v3i3.864
Nisaa, R. K., Bahrim, S. M. S., & Kustiwi, I. A. (2024). Teknologi digital dan transformasi internal audit terhadap perlakuan laporan keuangan: Studi literatur. *Jurnal Mutiara Ilmu Akuntansi, 2*(2), 263-277. doi:https://doi.org/10.55606/jumia.v2i2.2596
Novida, D. R. (2025). Evolusi sistem informasi akuntansi dalam era digital: Tinjauan literatur tentang tren, tantangan, dan peluang. *Jurnal Minfo Polgan, 14*(1), 77-85. doi:https://doi.org/10.33395/jmp.v14i1.14628
Putra, M. R. E., Wati, N. S., & Husain, S. (2024). Adaptability of the accountant profession: menggali maknakeberadaan profesi akuntan dalam menavigasi tantangan dan mempertahankan relevansi di era transformasi digital. *Jurnal Bisnis dan Kewirausahaan, 13*(1), 128-137. doi:https://doi.org/10.37476/jbk.v13i1.4517
Rahayu, S., & Hidayat, F. (2025). Analysis of accounting digitalization transformation on the financial performance of msmes in cirebon city. *Greenation International Journal of Economics and Accounting, 3*(2), 359-369. doi:https://doi.org/10.38035/gijea.v3i2.465
Sargsyan, N., Gevorgyan, H., & Khachatryan, V. (2025). Modern challenges in accounting through the lens of information technology. *Alternative Quarterly Academic Journal*, 31-35. doi:https://doi.org/10.55528/18292828-2025.2-30
Schiavi, G. S., Behr, A., & Marcolin, C. B. (2024). Institutional theory in accounting information systems research: Shedding light on digital transformation and institutional change. *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems, 52*, 100662. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.accinf.2023.100662
Scott, W. R. (2013). *Institutions and organizations: Ideas, interests, and identities*: Sage publications.
Sukoharsono, E. G., & Djamhuri, A. (2025). Technological disruption in digital transformation: how should the accounting profession adapt? *Asian Journal of Business and Accounting, 18*(1), 135-167. doi:https://doi.org/10.22452/ajba.vol18no1.5

Tavares, M. C., Azevedo, G., Marques, R. P., & Bastos, M. A. (2023). Challenges of education in the accounting profession in the Era 5.0: A systematic review. *Cogent Business & Management, 10*(2), 2220198. doi:https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2023.2220198

Wijayanti, H. T., & Airawaty, D. (2025). Isu-isu terkini dan baru dalam keuangan dan akuntansi. *Jesya (Jurnal Ekonomi dan Ekonomi Syariah), 8*(2), 1489-1501. doi:https://doi.org/10.36778/jesya.v8i2.2206