

## EDITORIAL EJAFB

# THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ACCOUNTING AND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FINANCE WORLD

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When it comes to the accounting industry, the numbers always tell new stories. One of the main factors influencing this field's current transformation is artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence takes center stage in this conversation and poses a threat to the foundation of traditional accounting practices. For interested stakeholders, including accountants, auditors, and finance specialists used to different realities, the question is no longer "will AI be useful?" but rather "how will AI be useful?" Therefore, how will the application of this new tool transform the accounting profession? Furthermore, how does this tool align with the legal and ethical requirements of accounting? In addition, as subject-matter experts, how do we prepare for the inevitable shifts in the workforce and skill set? We will address all of that below. First and foremost, the applications of AI to accounting offers accuracy and creativity, among other significant ramifications. Like all technical developments, however, it has its own drawbacks that force professionals to reevaluate their responsibilities, procedures, and, frequently, the fundamental goal of accounting itself. Generally, automation is the main drive that sits at the core of AI's impact on the accounting field. Manual activities that were time-consuming, such as bookkeeping, entering data, reconciling, were all handled by humans and were very time-consuming in the past. Nowadays, as a result of technological improvements, AI-powered systems can read and interpret large volumes of data more accurately than humans can. We believe therefore, that by relieving experts in the field of routine duties, these solutions lower human error and free them up to concentrate on more valuable tasks.

On the other hand, automation offers many more advantages than just speed and accuracy. Through data analysis and learning, machine learning is advancing AI systems. By preventing frauds by identifying patterns, trends, and anomalies that even highly educated human experts would overlook, the systems will undoubtedly become even more effective. Additionally, AI-enabled accounting services, for instance, can identify and stop unusual transactions that might be signs of fraud or forecast future financial crises using historical data, sending out alerts that could save companies millions of dollars. But this significant shift also brings up significant questions about the role of human accountants. Will only supervisors take their place? We believe that augmentation is the answer in the long run. Artificial intelligence (AI) is here to enhance the profession of accounting, not to replace it, by providing tools that enhance decision-making, reduce error margins, and optimize financial strategies. For this reason, we think that accountants will eventually become advisors and strategists who use artificial intelligence-generated insights to guide their

clients through the complex financial world. Additionally, one of the biggest administrations of AI is in the area of predictive finance. Traditionally, accounting was the main activity that was turned, retrospectively, into a decision guide for the present by analyzing the organization's past transactions and events. This scenario, however, changes, and AI is the new king in the field of proactive decision-making. For instance, now AI can detect patterns within the datasets, which in turn helps accountants to make perfect forecasts about the companies' financial skid. Also, the audit field is an area where predictive analytics plays a fundamental role. Here AI can screen the financial data and spot the out-there irregularities that, in some cases, may be fraud or proof of poor management. What's more, the tool can predict at one point of time the most probable unhealthy-contingent points. The AI systems can, therefore, flag up the problem of worrying areas in advance when they are still only small potential issues, by using data only from the past, and allowing auditors to take a much more preventative approach.

As we can see, there are many possible uses for AI in accounting. However, we believe that putting these systems into place raises a number of other ethical and legal concerns. One of these concerns is the issue of bias, for instance. The caliber of the data used to train AI systems determines how well those systems perform. If the input is flawed, AI will make biased predictions and decisions. This can have serious repercussions in accounting, especially in fields like financial risk, tax assessments, and credit scoring modeling where skewed data could lead to discriminatory results. As of right now, we know that AI systems operate as "black boxes," which means that we don't know how they arrive at their conclusions and outputs. In light of this, we also know that the accounting profession is challenged by this lack of transparency, which is founded on the concepts of accountability, verification, and trust. Thus, how can an auditor verify the accuracy of a financial statement if they cannot understand how an AI system processed the underlying data? Therefore, as AI becomes more integrated into the accounting industry overall, it will be even more crucial to ensure that the technology adheres to ethical standards and is transparent in its decision-making processes.

We believe that cooperation between humans and machines—or, more accurately, between tradition and innovation—is the way forward. Accountants can make sure they stay at the forefront of the financial industry and lead companies and individuals toward a prosperous and moral future by utilizing AI's power while adhering to the values that established the profession.