

IKEJA & DISTRICT SOCIETY



POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN THE ACCOUNTING INDUSTRY

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INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence, also known as AI, has been steadily increasing in popularity and use. It was projected that by 2021,

AI will be worth \$1.2 billion in the accounting industry alone. There are many benefits of artificial intelligence when applied to accounting because it reduces spent on tedious tasks and has led to increase in profitability organizations.

Artificial intelligence is already making waves in the accounting industry, with AI-powered software helping to automate increasingly mundane tasks. Its meaning to the accountants needs to be properly examined because it will help them in not only freeing them but in complementing their efforts when handling.

WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that has been around for a while and has slowly been gaining popularity. Thought it is not anything new but it has become more advanced with the addition of new sensors. AI can be used to carry out tasks that are either too simple or too tedious for human beings to handle. There are many different types of AI and they all have one thing in common: “they don’t make decisions based on emotions”.



HOW WILL AI AFFECT TAX AND AUDITIN ACCOUNTING?



Tax and audit services are expected to be minimally affected by artificial intelligence. AI may provide more accurate tax preparation but the Internal Revenue Service is still in the process of evaluating how to integrate it into their system. When it comes to audits, AI can be used when reviewing documents for accuracy though there is currently no evidence that it could do the audit itself.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a rapidly growing field with the potentials of disrupting and shaping the accounting industry. The potential benefits of AI in the accounting industry include but are not limited to the following:

- Automation of administrative tasks and saving time for accountants
- Keyword searching programs that enable accountants to find information quickly
- Its tools are used by programmers to extract insights from large datasets that could otherwise have been impossible to analyze manually



WILL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REPLACE ACCOUNTANTS?

Artificial Intelligence is currently a hot and trending topic in the accounting world and has led to tongue wagging questions such as:

- What does AI mean for accountants?
- Will AI replace Accountants?
- What can Accountants do to prepare for AI disruptions?

Depending on the school of thought involved or consulted, it is not clear yet whether AI will replace accountants but it's something to be mindful of.

CONCLUSION

Artificial intelligence is often seen and will continue to be seen as threatening. However, if professional Accountants are ready to have an open mind regarding what AI can do for them, its relevance would be appreciated. AI can automate many process tasks to free up employees to attend to other activities. It lowers the cost of hiring humans in many areas because companies can use machines to perform the same or similar tasks. It is and will continue to be appreciated by professional accountants because it will surely enable them to work faster and more accurately.