THE IMPACT OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE :A CASE STUDY OF J&L INDUSTRIES LIMITED KAMPALA

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DECLARATION

As per the university's values of honesty and conscientiousness, I have not gained any unauthorized help while working on this paper. I declare that the work is fairly mine and written the best of my understanding with no traces of plagiarism or any other unethical practice.

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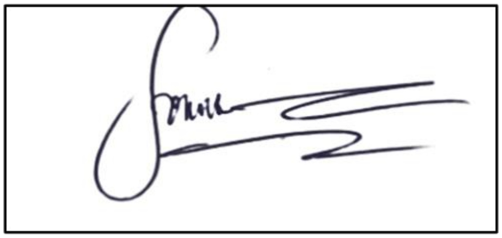
This certifies that ASINGURA SHAFIGAH S21B05/061 completed her dissertation under the guidance of under the guidance of



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DEDICATION

My family has been the steadfast source of my determination throughout my academic path, and to them, I dedicate this study report. You have given me the drive and the discipline to attack any task with passion and determination. Their endless support and belief in my abilities have driven my determination to pursue excellence. I am forever grateful for their advice and inspiration.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This section considers information about the learning background, challenge statement, intention of the analysis, aim of the analysis, research questions, scope of the study, conceptual framework, significance of the study, and definition of different terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Worldwide, most switches have occurred in the community and working areas in the pressure on business subjects and in the requisite of owners, controllers, financial institutions, and other investors for adequate information provision (Bader, 2018). Switches are also shown by the need to ensure different ways of using traditional methodologies for performance endurance. Therefore, highlighting a satisfactory performance level is the most basic significance towards the successful development of any organization (Yaser, 2014). Provide an adequacy of high-quality information, reflecting the class of economic result and helping all the active bodies to understand the way performance is required, and the possibility of controlling the way they should design the existence of quality and complex information systems and management control system (Rainer, 2017). Under the terms of a corporate information systems, an accounting subsystem is relevant in many cases, mostly concerning financial performance. Accounting is always related to making informed decisions on various subjects that will enable a company to invest its money wisely.

In developed countries like the USA, Canada, China, and Japan, the accounting system is conjoined with the financial state and outcomes of firms. Economic performance is a composite of an organization’s financial health, ability, and willingness to meet its long-term financial obligations, and commitment to provide services in the future (Samer, 2016). According to Borhan (2018), the output of AS primarily consists of financial reports, is needed at various levels of management and also by other users. Users need financial and related information with different degrees of detail and levels of analysis (Hopwood, 2018).

Innovative and state-of-the-art accounting practices that accompany computer-based AS are very difficult for most business owners to adopt in African countries. On the contrary, organizations are designing even more sophisticated accounting information systems to meet strategic goals and enhance performance (Eb, Pretorious, and Zuva, 2015). Common challenges that smaller firms, including SMEs face, especially in the developing countries in the adoption of computerized accounting systems, include lack of capital and technological obsolescence, limited financial resources, management information, limited scale economies and management's IT-oriented behavior; and funds to improve the skills lack (Francalanci, 2017).

The accounting information systems is very instrumental to organizations in Uganda. They administer and collect information, which is usually ordinary or raw data, and its conversion into financial data for purposes of reporting to decision-makers (Affiliated, 2019). AS are those mechanisms that help in collecting, recording, classifying, and analyzing data and information about events that have some sort of economic consequence on organizations. It also aids in maintaining, processing, and communicating the same information to the internal and external stakeholders accordingly. Accounting systems generally help provide internal and external reporting data, financial statements, and trend analysis capabilities affecting organizational performance.

1.2 Problem statement

The challenge is that at least organizations in Uganda are still operating with accounting software's that are often symbolized with keeping a big number of documentation and are especially characterized with mistakes in recording most of transactions. Despite the increasing participation of both nongovernmental and governmental organizations to train and encourage organizations to use computerized accounting systems, their training programs have had little or no impact on changing attitude and acquisition of such accounting systems (Wahab, 2010)). Despite effective accounting systems financial performance of those organizations seems not to be good hence the need for study.

1.3 General objective to the learning

A general objective of the learning will be to assess the effect of accounting systems on financial performance.

1.4 Specific aims

These included;

i. To establish the components of accounting system in use at J&L Industries Limited Kampala.

ii. To investigate various ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited Kampala.

iii. To establish the relationship between computerized and non-computerized accounting system with monetary performance.

1.5 Study questions

I. Which are the aspects of the accounting system used by J&L Industries Limited Kampala?

ii. What are the various ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited Kampala?

iii. Is there any relationship between computerized accounting systems and financial performance?

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 Content Scope

The study shall evaluate the impact of accounting systems on financial performance. The study shall ascertain the constituents of accounting systems in use at J&L Industries Limited Kampala, explore various ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited Kampala, and explore the relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance.

1.6.2 Time Scope

This study shall consider five months long enough to allow gathering of information, data collection, and processing.

1.6.3 Geographical Scope

Geographically, the leaning will be aimed at the premises of J&L Industries Limited Kampala. J&L Industries Limited, also known as Jun Long Motorcycle Genuine Parts, is the leading distributor of genuine motorcycle spares and parts, its location is at Royz Plaza along Rubaga Road in Kampala.

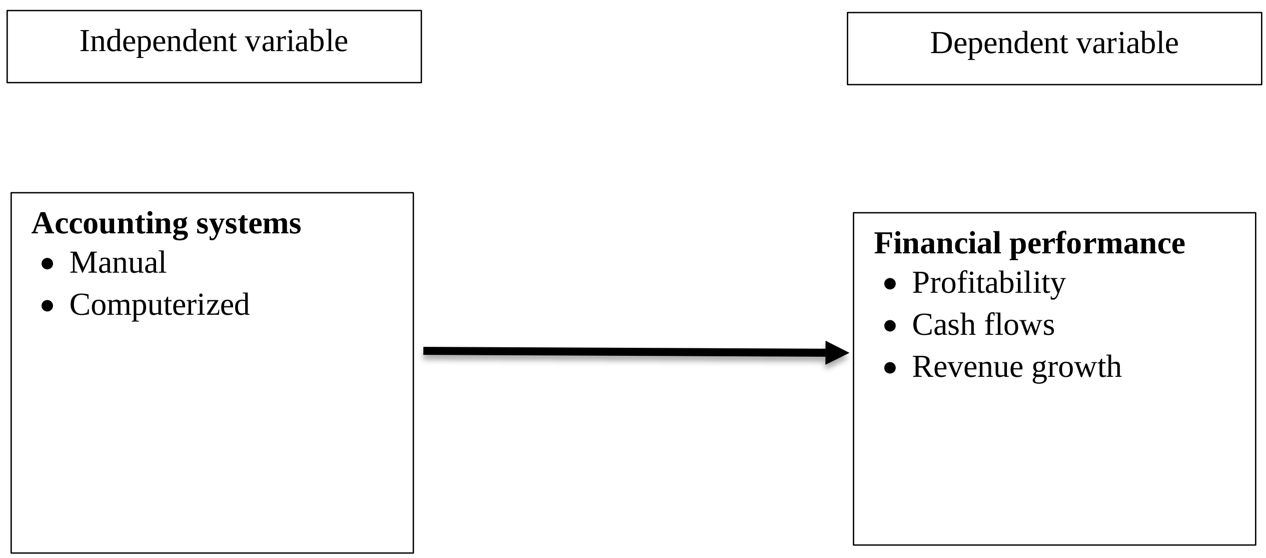
1.7 Definition of key terms

Financial performance could be termed as the act of performing monetary activity. In a wider sense, monetary performance refers to the extent to which monetary objectives are being optimized. This is the way of measuring the results of a firm's policies and operations in monetary terms.

Accounting refers to keeping records of all the financial activities that take place within the business, money coming in or going out.

Accounting System: The term signifies a collection of accounting techniques along with associated procedures and controls.

1.8 Conceptual framework



Source: Bodner, G. & Hopwood, W. (2010). Accounting information systems.

1.9 importance of the study

The study findings will be concentrated at reaping financial rewards to investors in the accounting sector for example bankers, private organizations, institutions of higher learning (tertiary colleges and universities), and the government in ensuring capacity utilization policies for all enterprise operators.

Policymakers and society leaders can also gain from the study because results could lead them in maximizing resource allocation. The learning's judgments and advice as a case of remark necessary in identifying the potential gaps will facilitate this.

The conclusions drawn from the research may further act as remark data for other scholars/researchers.

the study would lead the researcher in obtaining a bachelor's degree in business administration from Uganda Christian University since it’s one of the prerequisites for the award.
Its conclusions will help the experimenter to gain thorough knowledge of the fundamental ideas behind field research, including techniques for acquiring, compiling, and analyzing data. The researcher will be competent to perform business research-related tasks at work and in private consultations since they have acquired such skills.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section will deal with the analysis of the related writings on the study of strongest matches, specifically assessing the effect of accounting software’s on monetary performance. The learning will then be refocused on identifying the accounting system components used at J&L Industries Limited Kampala, examining the different ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited Kampala, and finding out the connection between the computerized accounting software’s and monetary performance.

2.1 Accounting Software’s Adopted

It is a common awareness that the major aim of a business is to increase profit, either through a rise in productivity or by realizing quick growth in market share domination. To achieve this objective, businesses must be responsive with changes in the environment, especially to the information technology revolution. These, information technology is imperative for most businesses. It is hard to achieve and survive in the attainment of an aggressive advantage without at least some adoption of this development or implementation in technological products. As obtained from different studies, the most diffused information system in practice is the accounting information system and, more importantly in the aspects of financial reporting. (Baudot, 2019).
According to Hussein, 1983, a good accounting system is not judged by how well records are kept but also by how it is able to meet the information needs of both the internal and external decision-makers. His notion was that it is common for qualified accountants to do a good job of keeping records up to date but they fail to provide information needed by the decision maker;

this view was maintained by Marsden (2019). Regarding the accounting control procedures in small and microbusiness enterprises, Esmeray (2021), noted that one system of controls over all activities of the business is necessary since a well-designed and properly implemented control system may provide protection of resources against wastage and fraud, accuracy and reliability of the accounting data, and success in the evaluation of the performance of the business. They state that Ganyam (2019) defines the accounting controls as those measures related to the protection of assets and the reliability of accounting and financial reports.

2.2 Monetary Performance

One needs to design and implement financial management to provide a firm's principles. The main objective of financial management is the need to balance liquidity, solvency, and profitability (Dillard, 2019). Financial performance is an important aspect or element for any organization, firm, or institution. It directly affects the life and survival of any profit-making organization. When there's better performance, that is an indication of how effectively the management works and makes good use of the organization's resources (Doellgast, 2019)

In this study, the financial performance of an organization is a measure that shows to what extent an organization can utilize its assets in generating revenue from its core business mode. It is possible to measure an organization’s financial performance by monitoring the profit accumulated, value of shares, and growth index. Other financial analysts depend on return on investment, net income percentage of sales, and cost of poor-quality production percentage of sales as a measure of financial performance. In this research, parameters such as gross profit margin return on investment and as well as earnings before interest and tax shall be used in assessing the financial performance of the institution.

2.3 Accounting system components

Human element

These are the people using the accounting systems. The accounting professionals who would look to use an organization's accounting systems include the accountants, business analysts, consultants, managers, auditors, and chief financial, Savitri (2019). These further supports allowing one to get information when required from outside the firm. In this way, the consultants can use the information contained within the accounting information system to research the efficient functioning of the pricing structure of the company through the sales data, cost data, and revenue. The AS design will have to be done in a user-oriented manner, that is, it shall be designed according to the person using it. It should also be hassle-free, easily used; it should not cause an encumbrance to a process but instead make the process efficient.

Policy and Procedures. Procedures and instructions of accounting information system are techniques and methods which are utilized for collecting, saving, saving, saving, retrieval, and processing of data. Hosain, 2019. These automated and manual techniques will both be, and the data can come from both internal sources-for example, employees and external sources-for example, the internet customer's orders. Procedures and instructions must be followed regularly to be sufficient about fulfilling the requests and needs of various users and various sorts of information.

Data. Any data contained in an accounting system contains all the financial information concerning the business practices of an organization. Therefore, it is apparent that all relevant business data affecting the finances of the firm must be put into the system of accounting information. Data contained in the accounting system depend on the nature of the business, Kim (2020). This data then goes into accounting reports and statements such as tables of depreciation or amortization, accounts receivable aging, trial balance, profit and loss, among others. With all this data in one place within an accounting system, it aids or facilitates the recordkeeping, reporting, analysis, auditing, and decision-making activities of the business, Kim (2020). This information, in turn, can be further used in the preparation of accounting reports and statements such as tables of depreciation or amortization, accounts receivable aging, trial balance, profit and loss amongst others. The availability of all this information in one position within the system of accounting facilitates and supports record keeping, reporting, analysis, auditing and decision-making activities of the business, Akbay 2019. It should be complete, accurate, and relevant to become useful.

Software. To this regard, the software component of the accounting information system is the computer software applied in storing, retrieving, saving, processing and analyzing the financial data of the firm. The accounting information systems were hand-operated, paper-based systems in the early times before computers were invented, while nowadays, most firms are using computer software as the base for the system of accounting information, (Udoh, 2021). The three most basic needs of any useful software controlling accounting information are reliability, quality, and security. Management needs to rely on the information outputted from the system to go through proper decisions, and they need good quality information to make those decisions.

Accounting systems packages could be tailored to meet the specific requirements of different types of businesses. "If an off-the-shelf program does not meet a company's needs, the software can also be developed in-house with much end-user input or can be contracted to another company to develop it specifically for the organization.". .

IT Infrastructure. This element is just a technical name for the equipment and the hardware utilized in running the accounting information system. Most of these hardware items and equipment are tools that all businesses would have to possess; as such, they include personal computers, storage devices, printers, servers, routers, and probably the backup power supply, (Zaman, 2020). Besides the cost of these components, take note if they combine factors such as storage capacity, speed and the size of the memory, and can they scale or be upgraded. More significantly, the hardware to be applied in any accounting information system has to be consistent with the intended software Nikpour, 2018.

In addition to that, an ideal accounting information software should comprise a plan for the protection, maintenance, modernization, and substitution of parts of the hardware system and a strategy for disposing of ineffective and obsolete hardware so that all sensitive information is entirely destroyed. Carvalho, 2022.

Internal Controls. This refers to the safety measures and precautions an accounting information system takes to protect its pertinent data. These can range from something as complex as biometric identification to something as basic as passwords. The AS should therefore comprise the internal controls in order to prevent illegal and unauthorized access to computers by controlling access to only authorized persons within the organization. Mahmood, 2021. It must also prevent unauthorized access of files by users who are authorized to access only certain sections of the system.

The data contained in an accounting system are sensitive not only regarding the company but also to its customers and employees. These data may involve credit card numbers, national ID numbers, social security numbers, salary information, and so on. All the data in the AS should be encrypted, and all access to the system should be subject to login and monitoring. To that end, all system activity should be identifiable and traceable Susanto, (2020). An accounting system should also be provided with an internal control system to safeguard it against computer viruses and hackers, as well as from other types of threats emanating from within and outside which might compromise the security of the network.

2.4 Measures of Monetary Performance

There are two aspects that can be generated in relation to the monetary performance of an organization that may be of interest to stakeholders. These include the capability of such a firm in creating profit as reflected in comments about its financial performance. This concurs with Oudat, 2021, who opines that it is undertaken that under competitive market terms, profit maximization leads to the efficient assignment of resources and that profit is the most appropriate measure of a firm's performance. Hence, ratios of financial efficiency in this respect spotlight the relationship between profit and sales and profit and assets employed. From another point of view, the financial performance of the company can be appraised from the position of a share value to its investors. In this vein, ratios of monetary performance emphasize earnings per share, dividend yield. Monetary ratios are those that express the general profit performance of a firm. Two aspects that can be generated relating to the monetary performance of an organization that can be of interest to stakeholders include the ability of such a firm to create profit as mirrored in remarks to its monetary performance. This concurs with Oudat, 2021, who asserts that it is undertaken that profit maximization leads to the efficient assignment of resources under competitive market terms and also that profit is the most appropriate measure of a firm's performance. Thus, ratios of financial efficiency in this respect focus on the relationship of profit and sales and profit and assets employed.". In yet another way, the monetary performance of the company may be appraised in terms of the worth of shares to investors. In this respect, ratios of monetary performance address issues such as earnings per share, dividend yield. Monetary ratios refer to those that express the general profit performance of a firm. Two are the aspects that can be generated in relations to the monetary performance of an organization that may be of interest to stakeholders: the capability of such a firm to generate profit as reflected in comments on its monetary performance. This agrees with Oudat, 2021 who said that it is undertaken that profit maximization leads to the efficient assignment of resources under competitive market terms and that profit is considered the appropriate measure of a firm's performance. Thus, ratios of financial efficiency in this respect focus on the relationship of profit and sales and profit and assets employed. In another respect, the monetary performance of the company may be viewed in respect of the value of the shares to investors. In this way, ratios of monetary performance focus on earnings per share, dividend yield. Monetary ratios are those which express the general profit performance of a firm.

2.5 The connection between computerized accounting software's and financial performance.

On the other hand, Schleich 2022 assesses the impact of computerized accounting on financial performance in some selected real estate companies in Jordan. Data was collected from the well-designed questionnaires from employees working in the companies such as Noor Capital, Jordan International Investment Company, Ihdathiat Coordinates, Real Estate Development RED, and Afaq Holding. Within the framework of this research, the researchers distributed 250 questionnaires, and after checking it, they rejected 75 and accepted 175 for analysis. The data obtained within the study was analyzed by using the statistics of linear regression. According to the results, Jordan International Investment Company has most benefited from AIS, but no impact of AIS was revealed in Ihdathiat Coordinates. In this paper, Ironkwe and Nwaiwu, 2019 investigate the effect of the accounting system on the financial and non-financial measures of companies in Nigeria.

Qualitative and quantitative data that were employed in this work were data for the 16 companies in the Nigerian Stock Exchange. These data were sourced from questionnaires and the Nigeria Stock Exchange, over the period 2011 -2014. The data collected is analyzed by multiple linear regression techniques which is supported by the statistical package for Social Science. In the empirical investigation, it is found that accounting information system significantly has a positive impact on the financial and non-financial measure indicators of the companies in Nigeria.

In an article, Borhan and Nafees assess the impact of accounting information system on the financial performance in some real estate companies in Jordan. The survey research design is the basis of the study, and the data was gathered from 175 employees of 5 firms in Jordan. The questionnaires are the tool for collection of primary data. Data collected is subjected to statistics analysis of linear regression. It was found that there is significant influence in the financial performance of the studied companies by Accounting Information System.

Kashif 2021, Studies on the Impact of the Accounting System on the Financial Performance of Chosen FMCGs Company of India. The research design adopted for the study is the survey research design, with a sample size of 400 respondents, while data were collected from the 177 returned and valid questionnaires. Data analyses were done through simple linear regression analysis, and the hypotheses were tested at a 95% confidence level. Findings indicated that there is a significant influence of the accounting information system on the financial performance of selected FMCG companies in India. Another paper by Masadah (2020) focuses on the accounting systems and their impacts on organizational performance implementation. It made use of data from 137 questionnaires received from small and medium enterprises in Saudi Arabia. The PLS smart calculation method was used during the analysis and while testing the hypothesis studies. It shows that organizations which have integrated accounting information systems in their operations have indicated impacts on organizational performance generally and on its dimensions of reducing costs, improving the quality of the output, and on effective decision making.

This paper explores the impact of the accounting system on the profitability of a few selected commercial banks in Jordan. In this study, the data were collected from 206 Jordanian bank employees using a self-administered questionnaire. The results obtained after collecting data through a survey were analyzed using linear regression. These findings revealed the fact that accounting information systems would mean a great difference to the profitability of the banks under study.

For instance, Karigha, 2022, has cited her work as one of the studies that have established the influence of an AIS on the prosperity of a bank in Jordan. The design for this study is a survey. In this regard, the research acquired 112 questionnaires from the respondents who are employees of Jordanian banks. The hypotheses of the study shall be analyzed through the methods of multiple regressions and correlation. Results thus indicated that the accounting information system played an important role in the success of any bank.

Hajra (2021) discusses a review of the accounting system for effective internal control with respect to firm performance.

The method used for collecting data in this research is qualitative, through which various related paper works were reviewed. The research paper also used secondary data, due to which it was able to come up with trustworthy conclusions based on empirical data. Findings from the study confirmed that proper and efficient operation of control would result in better performance, quality accounting information, and the decision made by internal and external users. In the paper, Okpala 2019 studies the relationship between accounting systems and performance management in regard to organizational performance.

The research adopted a survey research design. Data collected were analyzed; this was due to the sample size used of 74 SMEs. Regression analysis technique is the technique used in this study to analyze the data collected. The findings of this study showed that the knowledge of the accounting managers and the support from the top management significantly influenced the accounting information systems of an organization; similarly, the accounting information systems of each of these sub-variables also significantly influenced the performance management as well as the organizational performance of that particular organization.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter examines the research method, the demography, sampling technique, the sample size, types of testimonies to be used, and the data collection methods to be used, and shows how data will be processed.

3.1 Research method

The correlational method will be utilized in the study because it will enable the assessment of the effects of accounting systems on financial performance. This study will be conducted both quantitatively and qualitatively. Qualitative data will be collected through interviews, while quantitative research data will be collected using questionnaires so as to collect data on a large array of variables at one point or period of time for description and explanation of the phenomenon under investigation.

3.2 The Target Population

The management staff and employees in the accounting and finance departments, and the relevant departments in charge of accounting systems at J&L Industries Limited in Kampala, and a sample of 50 respondents shall get the required information.

3.3 Sampling Technique

The researcher will create a sample population by using a combination of purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Employee respondents will be randomly selected since the population for study is so large, while the senior staff members will be selected purposively since they are also key informants with relevant information regarding this topic of investigation.

3.4 Sampling Size

The sample (respondents) will be selected at random from the study area and population, where at least 44 respondents will be selected. To be done after obtaining the names and addresses from the Management of J&L Industries Limited in Kampala, one will send the structured questionnaires to the respondents. The study will use a sample size of 44 respondents from a population of 50 as estimated from the Toya Yamane's formula.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+Ne^2}$$

Where "N" is the population, "n" is the sample size, and "e" is the level of significance

$n = N \div (1+N e^2)$

n=50 ÷ (1+50(e2))

n=50÷1.125

n=44

3.5 Data Sources

The information in this research is primarily primary data; however, it also has secondary data, which will be gathered from journals, internet books, company records, etc. The primary data will come from the respondents themselves, using questionnaires and interview guides.

3.6 Data Gathering Methods and Tools

3.6.1 Question sheets

The investigator shall administer the question sheets to the sample respondents. Majorly, the questionnaire will be closed-ended. The questionnaire will carry Likert questions, namely: strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree, and strongly agree. The researcher will distribute the questionnaire directly to the respondents and give them one week to fill them out. This should be able to give time for probing and clarification of questions that have not been understood by the respondent.

3.7 **Data Processing and Analysis**

Data to be collected shall be edited, coded, and thereafter analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences computer software. Quantitative data shall be presented in the form of descriptive statistics in terms of percentages and frequencies for all the variables utilized in the research study. The quantitative data shall thereafter be represented in graphs, pie charts, and tables. Thematic analysis, editing, coding, and categorizing of data shall be done to develop useful conclusions and interpretations of the research objectives, which shall be deduced for reporting in a narrative form. This shall be analyzed for themes and sub-themes relating to the research objectives, and subsequently used in describing and explaining the phenomenon of accounting systems' impact on financial performance.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

3.8.1 Validity

The instrument validity shall be tested using the Content Validity Index. This shall involve scoring by judges in relation to the relevance of the questions in the instruments with the variables under study and a consensus judgment given to each variable considering only variables above 0.70.

Below is the formula to be used for calculating the content validity index

$$CVI = \frac{\text{Total number of items declared valid}}{\text{Total number of items}}$$

Assuming I have five items rated by four judges. Here's the rating table:

Items	Judge1	Judge2	Judge3	Judge 4
1	3	4	4	4
2	2	3	3	3
3	4	4	4	4
4	2	2	3	3
5	3	4	4	3

Calculate the context validity index; by counting the number of judges who rated each item as 3 or 4 and divide by the total number of judges which is 4

Item	Count of 3s and 4s	CVI
1	4	4/4=1.00

2	3	3/4=0.75
3	4	4/4=1.00
4	2	2/4=0.50
5	4	4/4=1.00

Select the valid items with CVI >= 0.70 and consider them valid, so valid items include 1,2,3,5 and invalid items 4

So CVI= 4/5 = 0.8

3.8.2 Reliability

The research instruments will be pretested for reliability on a sample of 10 respondents from Nile breweries. This will enable individual questions and the whole questionnaire to look very carefully at, according to Amin. Reliability therefore refers to the consistency of the instrument in measuring what it's supposed to measure. In this study, a Cronbach's alpha coefficient will be computed to manifest how reliable the data is using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, taking only variables scoring 0.70 and above, as suggested by Nunally, **1978.**

3.9 Limitations of the study

In the respect to this study, limited finances will be a problem to the researcher. The associated costs in this limitation include transport, printing, and photocopying of relevant materials. However, the researcher will have to seek some money from relatives and friends and use it sparingly so that he can be able to overcome the cost constraint.

The time element in collecting, analyzing, and finally presenting the report is one obvious problem to be faced by the researcher. However, the problem shall be surmounted since a time element is taken into consideration and that all appointments made and agreed upon with the respondents shall be fully met.

However, since some information is regarded as confidential, some respondents are going to hide some information from the researcher, and therefore he may not be in a position to probe deeper into the subject matter. The researcher, however, shall assure the respondents that any information given is to be treated with maximum confidentiality.

CHAPTER FOUR

Presentation, Analysis, and Interpretation of Findings

4.0 Introduction

The research focused on establishing how accounting systems affect financial performance. Data for the study was derived from questionnaires based on set objectives, including identifying components of the accounting system used at J&L Industries Kampala Limited, ways in which financial performance is measured at J&L Kampala Industries Limited, and finding out how computerized accounting systems relate to financial performance.

4.1 General characteristics of respondents.

The characteristics of respondents in terms of gender (sex), age bracket, and level of education were as shown below.

4.1.1 Sex of respondents

Table 1: Showing gender of respondents

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Valid	female	24	54.5	54.5
	Male	20	45.5	45.5
	Total	44	100.0	100.0

Primary source:

The table above indicates that the highest number, 54.5%, of the respondents were females, and the lowest, 45.5%, were males. This revealed that there was a sex imbalance within the study, which was related to the recruiting procedures of J&L Industries Limited, Kampala. This, however, aided the experimenter in getting different information from the two different sexes of the respondents, not biased.

4.1.2 Age of respondents

Table 2: Showing age of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20-25 years	10	22.7	22.7	22.7
	26-30 years	7	15.9	15.9	38.6
	31-35 years	10	22.7	22.7	61.4
	36-40 years	12	27.3	27.3	88.6
	above years	5	11.4	11.4	100.0
	Total	44	100.0	100.0	

Primary source.

According to the table above, the majority 27.3% of the respondents were between 36 and 40 years; 22.7% both had years ranging from 20 to 25 years and 31 to 35 years respectively; 15.9% had 26 to 30 years whereas the minority 11.4% were above 40 years. This also helped the researcher to obtain varying views about the study under investigation since the study involved respondents with different age groups.

4.1.3 Education level of respondents

Table 3: showing level of education of respondents

		Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Valid	Diploma	9	20.5	20.5	20.5
	Bachelors	20	45.5	45.5	65.9
	Postgraduates	14	31.8	31.8	97.7
	Others	1	2.3	2.3	100.0

	Total	44	100.0	100.0	

Primary source.

As indicated in Table above, the majority, 45.5%, of the respondents were bachelor's degree holders, 31.8%) had masters, and 20.5% had attained diplomas, while the minority 2.3% had attained other qualifications. This meant that all respondents had obtained some kind of education, an aspect that assured the researcher that the respondents could easily interpret the questionnaires and raise views relevant to the study under investigation.

4.2. The accounting system components

Objective 1 of the study was to establish the components of the accounting system in use at J&L Industries Limited, Kampala. To achieve this, the researcher looked into the response regarding the extent to which the respondents agreed and disagreed on the components of accounting system in use at J&L Industries Limited, Kampala. These are presented in table 4.2 below. Abbreviations used: SA = strongly agree, A = agree, N = neutral, D = disagree, and SD = strongly disagree

Table 4: showing the accounting system components

T**he accounting system components used at J&L Industries Limited Kampala**	**SA**		**A**		**N**		**D**		**SD**	
The people in the software's of accounting are the software's users.	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**
	21	47.7%	15	34.1%	4	9.1%	2	4.5%	2	4.5%
We use the procedures and instructions of the accounting information software's.	7	15.9%	11	25.0%	15	34.1%	7	15.9%	4	9.1%
The data included in the accounting software's is all the financial information	22	50.0%	9	20.5%	10	22.7%	2	4.5%	1	2.3%

related to the business practices of the organization.										
The software element of the accounting information software's is the computer software utilized to save, retrieve, store, process, and analyze the firm's financial data.	18	40.9%	0	0.0%	11	25.0%	15	34.1%	0	0.0%
Information Technology Infrastructure.	31	70.5%	10	22.7%	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	1	2.3%
Internal Controls.	27	61.4%	15	34.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.3%	1	2.3%
We have the process that helps us achieve our goal.	38	86.4%	6	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source: Primary data

The table above indicated that the majority, 47.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that people in the systems of accounting are the system users 34.1% agreed and 9.1% were not sure while the minority 4.5% both disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Moreover, the results revealed that a higher percentage, 34.1 percent of the respondents were undecided about the usage of procedures and instructions of the accounting information system, while 25.0 percent agreed and 15.9 percent strongly agreed and disagreed, respectively, and the minority, 9.1 percent strongly disagreed.

Other findings of the study showed that a higher percentage, 50.0%, of the entire respondents strongly agreed to the data involved in the accounting system, which encompassed all the financial information regarding business practices of the institution; 22.7% not sure; 20.5%

agreed while 4.5% disagreed as the smaller percentage, 2.3%, strongly disagreed.

The findings are supported by the fact that most of the respondents, 40.9%, strongly agreed to the fact that the software element of accounting information system is computer software designed to save, retrieve, store, process, and analyze firm's financial data, while the proportion of 34.1% disagreed, whereas 25.0% were not sure.

These findings further revealed that 70.5% of the respondents agreed strongly to information technology infrastructure, while 22.7% agreed, 4.5% were not sure, and the minority 2.3% strongly disagreed.

The study findings further showed that the majority, 61.4% of the respondents, strongly agreed to internal controls while 34.1% agreed, whereas the minority 2.3% both disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Finally, the research results pointed out that a majority of 84.6 percent strongly agreed that the process is there to help them in achieving their goals while a minority of 13.6 percent agreed.

4.2.1 Correlations showing the accounting system components

Table showing Correlations on accounting system components

		The people in the systems of accounting are the system users	Information Technology Infrastructure	Internal Controls.
The people in the systems of accounting are the system users	Pearson Correlation	1	.202	.043
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.189	.783
	N	44	44	44
Information Technology Infrastructure	Pearson Correlation	.202	1	.449**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.189		.002
	N	44	44	44
Internal Controls.	Pearson Correlation	.043	.449**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.783	.002	

N	44	44	44

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Above table results show the relatively positive relationship between people in the systems of accounting are the system users and information technology infrastructure having a positive coefficient of correlation of 0.202 and $p < 0.01$. From this, it is shown that the people within the systems of accounting are the system users and information technology infrastructure is related to the computerization that brought loyalty to clients/ customers. The results also showed that internal controls and the people in the systems of accounting are the system users correlated strongly with a correlation coefficient of 0.783, $P<0.01$. This means that the relationship between internal controls and the people in the systems of accounting are the systems' users is good. 4.3. The different ways of measuring financial performance

The second objective of the study was to establish the various ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited, Kampala. This aspect was measured using 8 items scored on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agreed, 4 = agree, 3 = not sure, 2 = disagree, and 1 = strongly disagree, and the findings are presented in the table below using descriptive statistics of percentages (mean and standard deviation).

4.3. The different ways of measuring financial performance

The second objective of the study was to establish the various ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited, Kampala. This aspect was measured using 8 items scored on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agreed, 4 = agree, 3 = not sure, 2 = disagree, and 1 = strongly disagree, and the findings are presented in the table below using descriptive statistics of percentages (mean and standard deviation).

Table 5: showing the different ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited Kampala

The different ways of measuring financial performance at J&L Industries Limited Kampala	**SA**		**A**		**N**		**D**		**SD**	
Working capital	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**

	0	0.0%	25	56.8%	18	40.9%	1	2.3%	0	0.0%
Gross profit margin	23	52.3%	9	20.5%	7	15.9%	5	11.4%	0	0.0%
Net profit margin	7	15.9%	11	25.0%	17	38.6%	9	20.5%	0	0.0%
Debt to equity ratio	12	27.3%	9	20.5%	14	31.8%	8	18.2%	1	2.3%
Return on equity	26	59.1%	16	36.4%	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Return on asset	20	45.5%	13	29.5%	7	15.9%	3	6.8%	1	2.3%
Total asset turnover	27	61.4%	15	34.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.3%	1	2.3%
Inventory turnover	38	86.4%	6	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source: Primary data

From the table above, it is evident that the majorities of the respondents, at 56.8%, agreed that they use working capital to measure financial performance, 40.9% were not sure, and a minority at 2.3% strongly disagreed.

Also from the study findings, the majority at 52.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that we use gross profit margin to measure financial performance; 20.5% agreed, 15.9% were not sure, and the minority at 11.4% disagreed.

To add more to this, the findings of the study said that a greater percentage of the respondents were not sure whether the net profit margin was used to measure financial performance, 25.0 agreed, 20.5% disagreed, while the minority 15.9% strongly agreed.

From the field study, 31.8 percent of the respondents were not sure whether the measure of the financial performance in the enterprise was through the ratio of debt to equity, while 27.3 percent strongly agreed with, 20.5% agreed with, and 18.2% disagreed, but the minority strongly disagreed. Regarding the use of return on equity as a measure of financial performance in the enterprise, the majority of the respondents gave a strong opinion at 59.1%; 36.4%) agreed, and the minority was not certain at 4.5%.

On the same note, findings of the study strongly agreed that they use return on assets to measure the financial performance since they do indeed show a majority of 45.5%; 29.5% agreed; 15.9% were not sure; and 6.8% disagreed, whereas 2.3% strongly disagreed.

It can be observed that most (61.4%) of the respondents confirmed that total asset turnover is used when measuring financial performance, while the minority agreed or disagreed to 34.1% of the respondents, 2.3% from the remaining sample disagreed and strongly disagreed.

Research findings recognized most (84.6%) of the respondents who strongly agreed on using the inventory turn around to measure the financial performance, while only 13.6 % agreed from the remaining sample

4.3.1. The coefficients showing different ways of measuring financial performance (Regression)

Table showing Coefficients of different ways of measuring financial performance

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	(Constant)	2.258	.638		3.542	.001
1	Gross profit margin	.545	.106	.635	5.161	.000
	Net profit margin	-.077	.106	-.090	-.729	.470

a. Dependent Variable: Inventory turnover

From the above table, the results indicate that there exists a strong positive relationship between Gross profit margin and Net profit margin, having a positive standardized coefficient of 0.635, with Sig<0.00; this therefore implies that print Gross profit margin and Net profit margin are related.

The correlation analysis also showed that gross profit margin is negatively associated with a net profit margin, with a standardized coefficient of -0.090, with less than 0.470 significance.

4.4. The relationship between computerized accounting systems and financial performance

The third objective of the study was to ascertain the relationship between computerized accounting systems and financial performance. The scale used for the case consisted of 12 items measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 5 = strongly agreed, 4 = agree, 3 = not sure, 2

= disagree, and 1 = strongly disagree, and the results are given in the table below using descriptive statistics in percentages, mean and standard deviation.

Table 6: showing relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance

The relationship between computerized accounting systems and financial performance.	**SA**		**A**		**N**		**D**		**SD**	
	(F)	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**	**(F)**	**(%)**
Computerization has created customer loyalty.	29	65.9%	12	27.3%	2	4.5%	1	2.3%	0	0.0%
Computerization of accounting systems has increased profits.	14	31.8%	29	65.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.3%
Computerized accounting improves the quality and effectiveness of decision-making.	18	40.9%	23	52.3%	3	6.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
There is better accounting information reliability.	18	40.9%	21	47.7%	4	9.1%	1	2.3%	0	0.0%
It instantly generates key financial reports.	15	34.1%	19	43.2%	7	15.9%	3	6.8%	0	0.0%
Computerization produces professional-looking financial statements.	24	54.5%	18	40.9%	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Computerized accounting reduces inventory errors.	24	54.5%	19	43.2%	1	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Computerization automatically schedules vendor and invoice payments and reminders.	14	31.8%	29	65.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.3%

Computerization calculates employee wages and payroll taxes.	18	40.9%	23	52.3%	3	6.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Enters transactional data directly into books for timely closing	18	40.9%	21	47.7%	4	9.1%	1	2.3%	0	0.0%
Increases the accuracy of data entries	27	61.4%	15	34.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.3%	1	2.3%
Generate accurate and complaint financial reports	38	86.4%	6	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source: Primary data

A majority of 65.9% strongly agreed that computerization has created customer loyalty. Added to this are 27.3% who agreed, 4.5% who were not sure, and a minority of 2.3% who disagreed.

The results also indicate that the majority of the respondents agreed to the proposition that computerization of accounting systems has increased profits at 31.8%, while the minority strongly disagreed to the proposition at 2.3% servants.

Coupled with the findings of this study emphasized that most of the respondents agreed to the fact that computerized accounting improves the quality and effectiveness of decision-making, 40.9% strongly agreed while the minority constitute 6.8% who were not sure.

This is going by the findings of the study, whereby more of the respondents agreed to the fact that there is better accounting information reliability; 40.9% strongly agreed, while 9.1% were not sure, and a minority 2.3% strongly disagreed.

On the same note, the result of the study showed that the majority of 43.2% agreed that it instantly produces the key financial reports while 34.1% strongly agreed, 15.9% were not sure, and a minority of 6.8% disagreed.

Findings in the study also indicated that the majority, 54.5%, of the respondents strongly agreed that computerization produces professional-looking financial statements, 40.9% agreed, and the minority 4.5% were not sure.

The findings of this study showed also that most of the respondents 54.5% strongly agreed that computerized accounting reduces inventory errors, 43.2%) agreed, and the minority of 2.3% were not sure.

In addition to that, the findings of this study showed that the majority 65.9% of the respondents agreed that computerization automatically schedule vendor and invoice payments and reminders 31.8 % strongly agreed and the minority 2.3% strongly disagreed.

In addition to that, it was established in the findings of this research that most of the respondents agreed to the fact that computerization calculates employees' wages and payroll taxes, 40.9%) strongly agreed, and the minority 6.8% were not sure.

From the responses, 47.7% agreed to the fact that transactional data is entered directly into books for timely closing, 40.9% strongly agreed, while 9.1% were not sure, as only the minority 2.3% strongly disagreed in line with study findings.

The findings of the study further indicated that the majority, 61.4%, of the total respondents strongly agreed to increasing the accuracy of data entries, while 34.1% agreed and the minority of 2.3% strongly disagreed and thus disagreed.

Finally, the finding of the study has confirmed that the majority constituted 84.6% of the respondents who strongly agreed on generating financial reports with accuracy and compliance. The minority was 13.6% of the total respondents who agreed.

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

5.0 Introduction

This chapter summarizes findings observed and inferred from data presented in Chapter 4. The summary of findings is based on the literature available in chapter two. This chapter also gives the conclusions, recommendations, and suggested areas for further study.

5.1 Summary of the Findings

It came forth from the study that the components of an accounting system consisted of : the people in the systems of accounting are the system users; we use the procedures and instructions of the accounting information system; The data included in the accounting system is all the financial information related to the business practices of the organization. First, we have the software component of the accounting information system: computer software used in the storing, retrieving, storing, processing, and analyzing of the firm's financial data. Then comes the information technology infrastructure, internal controls; and then we have the processes, which help us in achieving our goal.

The different ways of measuring financial performance included working capital, gross profit margin, net profit margin, debt equity ratio, return on equity, return on assets, total asset turnover, and inventory turnover.

From the findings of the study, it was brought out that the relationship between computerized accounting systems and financial performance included that computerization has created customer loyalty.

The computerization of accounting systems has facilitated increasing profits. Computerized accounting enhances the quality and effectiveness of decision-making; there is better reliability of accounting information. It instantly generates key financial reports; computerization produces professional-looking financial statements; Computerized accounting reduces inventory errors; Computerization automatically schedules vendor and invoice payments and reminders. It calculates wages and payroll taxes of employees, directly feeds transactional data into books for timely closing. It increases the accuracy of the data entries and generates accurate and complaint financial reports.

5.2 Conclusion

The elements of an accounting information system that this study brought out included: People in the systems of accounting are the system users; we use the procedures and instructions of the accounting information system. The data included in the accounting system are all the financial information relating to the business practices of the organization. The software component of the accounting information system involves the use of computer software to store, retrieve, store, process, and analyze the financial data of the firm. We have the information technology infrastructure incorporating internal controls, and we have the processes that will allow us to achieve our objective.

It emerged from the study that the various ways of measuring financial performance included working capital, gross profit margin, net profit margin, debt equity ratio, return on equity, return on assets, total asset turnover, and inventory turnover.

From the findings of the study, it was established that the relationship between computerized accounting systems and financial performance included the fact that computerization has introduced customer loyalty. Computerization of the accounting systems has improved the profits. Computerized accounting enhances good quality and efficient decision-making. The accounting information is more reliable. It instantly produces key financial reports. The computerization actually produces professional-looking financial statements. Computerized accounting reduces the errors upon inventory. Automatic scheduling of vendor and invoice payments and reminders shall be done by the computerization. Computerization: This includes the computation of employees' wages along with payroll taxes. It captures the data of the transaction directly, which is being closed rapidly into the books, and enhances accuracy at the time of input of data. Thus, it permits the generation of financial reports that are accurately computed and compliant. 5.3 Recommendations

It is, therefore important to have a well-designed and operating accounting information system that could enable J&L Industries Limited Kampala to manage its most valuable resource, which is information. It could either be a manual or an automated system using Tally, MYOB, and QuickBooks, among others. The system shall manage day-to-day transactions of the firm so as to inform the owner about performance and growth of business.

Basically, the conclusion from evidence of the study would be that accounting information systems are pivotal in producing quality accounting systems in a timely manner. They ensure that each level of management-whichever level the management has been-gets sufficient, adequate, relevant, and true information to plan for, increase control, and enhance the performance of a firm.
Financial and accounting data are those which would equip the financial managers with a perspective on how the firm has gone on in the past and how it should plan further in the future. There should be a need for financial management. This can be done by managing a company's assets, financing, equity revenues, and costs so as to increase revenue, profit and stock price. Its main function is to enable the owners and other stakeholders to make rational decisions. It allows for aggregated industry comparison and firm ratings within the same industry. 5.4 Further research areas

Accounting information systems and firms' performance among SMEs in Uganda Summary

APPENDICES

Questionnaire

Dear respondent,

My name is ASINGURA SHAFIGAH, a student of Uganda Christian University Mukono conducting research into the influence of accounting systems on financial performance as part requirement for the award of bachelor's degree of Uganda Christian University, and you have been selected to participate in this study as a respondent. Please give the best information as shown on the questionnaire based on your experiences objectively. I hereby declare that the information provided shall be used for academic purposes only and observed at the highest level of confidentiality

Yours faithfully ASINGURA SHAFIGAH

SECTION A: Demographic Characteristics

Tick/ fill in the most appropriate answer

Gender:

Female		Male	

2. Age (please tick appropriately)

Below 20 years		20 – 25 years		26 – 30 years	
31 – 35years		36 – 40 Years		Above 40 years	

3. Highest level of education Qualification

Certificate		Diploma	
Bachelors		Postgraduate	

SECTION B: The accounting system components used at J&L industries limited Kampala, (Tick as Appropriate)

4. Indicate the extent to which you agree with the following observations on the accounting system components used at J&L industries limited Kampala on a scale of (1) = strongly disagree, (2) = disagree, (3) = not sure (4) = agree (5) = strongly agree

	Scale					
	The accounting system components	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
a	The people in the systems of accounting are the system users					
b	We use the procedure and instructions of the accounting information system					
c	The data included in the accounting system is all the financial information related to the business practices of the organization.					
d	The software element of the accounting information system is the computer software utilized to save, retrieve, store, process and analyze the firm's financial data.					
e	Information Technology Infrastructure.					
f	Internal Controls.					
g	**We have the process that help us achieve our goal**					

Any other; please specify

...

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...

SECTION C: The Various ways of measuring performance financial (Tick as Appropriate)

6. For each of the following statements below which indicate the different ways of measuring financial performance at J&L industries limited Kampala, please indicate the level of your agreement on a scale of (1) = strongly disagree, (2) = disagree, (3) = not sure (4) = agree (5) = strongly agree.

	Scale					
	The different ways of measuring financial performance	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
A	Working capital					
B	Gross profit margin					
C	Net profit margin					
D	Debt to equity ratio					
E	Return on equity					
F	Return on asset					
G	Total asset turnover					
H	Inventory turnover					

Any other; please specify

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……………………………………………………………………………………………

SECTION D: The relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance (Tick as Appropriate)

7. Instructions: The extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about computerized accounting system and financial performance relationship at J&L Industries Limited Kampala, please respond by using this scale: (1)= strongly disagree, (2) = disagree, (3) = not sure (4) = agree (5) = strongly agree.

	Scale					
	The relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
A	Computerization has created customer Loyalty.					
B	Computerization of accounting systems has increased profits					
C	Computerized accounting improves quality and effectiveness of decision making					
D	There is better accounting information reliability					
E	It instantly generates key financial reports					
F	Computerization produces professional looking financial statements					
g	Computerized accounting reduces inventory errors					
h	Computerization automatically schedule vendor and invoice payments and reminders					
	Computerization calculates employee wages and payroll taxes					
	Enters transactional data directly into books for timely closing					
	Increases the accuracy of data entries					
	Generate accurate and complaint financial reports					

Any other; please specify.

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……………………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Thanks for your time.

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Listed below is a set of questions that should, in essence, yield information with regard to the impact of single motherhood on child development:.

What are the components of the accounting system used at J&L industries limited Kampala?

....

....

What are the different ways of measuring financial performance at J&L industries limited Kampala?

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....
....
....

3. What is the relationship between computerized accounting system and financial performance at J&L industries limited Kampala?

....
....
....

Thank you and may the almighty reward you.

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