

**EFFECT OF COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS ON FINANCIAL
PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC COMPANIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA CLAYS LIMITED**

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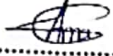


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DECLARATION

I, Ankunda Anna, declare that this work or any part thereof has not previously been submitted in any form to any University or any other body whether for assessment, publication, or any other purpose. Where information previously used has been captured in this report, it has fully been acknowledged. I can also confirm that the intellectual content of the work is the result of my efforts and no other person's.

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APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this academic research was conducted under my supervision as the academic supervisor, and has been reviewed and approved.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	ii
APPROVAL.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER ONE:	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	4
1.3.1 Main Objective	4
1.3.2 Specific Objectives	4
1.4 Research Questions.....	4
1.5 Scope of the Study	4
1.5.1 Geographical Scope.....	4
1.5.2 Time Scope	5
1.6.3 Content Scope	5
1.6 Significance of the Study	5
1.7 Justification of the Study.....	6
1.8 Conceptual Framework	7
CHAPTER TWO.....	9
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
2.0 Introduction	9
2.1 Theoretical Framework	9
2.2 Computerized Accounting Systems and Financial Performance of Public Companies.....	9
2.2.1 Effect of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency of Financial Information	10
2.2.2 Effect of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity of Financial Information	11

2.2.3 Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Timely Decision-making and Financial Analysis	12
2.3 Measures of Financial Performance in Public Companies in Uganda	13
2.3.1 Profitability.....	13
2.3.2 Liquidity.....	13
2.3.3 Return on Capital	14
2.4 Gaps in the Literature	14
CHAPTER THREE.....	15
METHODOLOGY.....	15
3.0 Introduction	15
3.1 Research Design.....	15
3.2 Study Population.....	15
3.3 Sample Size	15
3.4 Sampling Techniques.....	16
3.5 Data Sources.....	16
3.5.1 Primary Data Sources.....	16
3.5.2 Secondary Data Sources.....	17
3.6 Data Collection Instruments	17
3.6.1 Questionnaire	17
3.7 Validity and Reliability.....	18
3.7.1 Data Validity.....	18
3.7.2 Data Reliability.....	18
3.8 Ethical Considerations	18
3.9 Limitations of the Study	19
CHAPTER FOUR.....	20
PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS	20
4.0 Introduction	20
4.1 Findings of the Study.....	20
4.1.1 Response Rate.....	20
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	20
4.2.1 Gender Distribution.....	21
4.2.2 Age Bracket.....	21
4.2.3 Level of Education Attained.....	22

4.2.4 Duration of Employment.....	22
4.2.5 Position Held in the Organization	22
4.3 Effect of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency.....	23
4.4 Effects of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity.....	25
4.5 Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Decision-Making	26
4.6 Summary of Findings	28
CHAPTER FIVE	29
DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	29
5.0 Introduction	29
5.1 Discussion of Findings	29
5.1.1 Impact of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency ...	29
5.1.2 Effects of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity....	30
5.1.3 Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Timely Decision-Making	30
5.2 Conclusions	31
5.3 Recommendations	33
5.3.1 For Uganda Clays Limited.....	33
5.3.2 For Other Public Companies.....	33
5.4 Suggestions for Future Research	34
5.5 Summary	35
REFERENCES	36
APPENDICES.....	42
APPENDIX I	42
APPENDIX II	43
RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE.....	43

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	7
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LIST OF TABLES

Table 3. 1: Summary of the Sample Size of Respondents.....	16
Table 4. 1: Summary of Response Rate.....	20
Table 4. 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents	21
Table 4. 3: Age Bracket of Respondents.....	21
Table 4. 4: Education Level of Respondents.....	22
Table 4. 5: Duration of Employment of Respondents	22
Table 4. 6: Position Held in the Organization by Respondent.....	22
Table 4. 7: Impact of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency.	23
Table 4. 8: Effects of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity..	25
Table 4. 9: Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Timely Decision-Making	27

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CAS - Computerized Accounting Systems

ICT - Information and Communication Technology

ERP - Enterprise Resource Planning

TAM - Technology Acceptance Model

RBV - Resource-Based View

ROC - Return on Capital

ROA - Return on Assets

ROE - Return on Equity

CVI - Content Validity Index

SPSS - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

SMEs - Small and Medium Enterprises

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

IFRS - International Financial Reporting Standards

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation

KPI - Key Performance Indicator

ISO - International Organization for Standardization

ROI - Return on Investment

CFO - Chief Financial Officer

HR - Human Resources

M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation

ABSTRACT

This study explores the impact of Computerized Accounting Systems (CAS) on the financial performance of public companies in Uganda, using Uganda Clays Limited as a case study. In an era where digital transformation is reshaping financial management practices worldwide, this research seeks to investigate the effect of computerized data processing on the accuracy and efficiency of financial information, data storage on the accessibility and integrity of financial data, and the effectiveness of computerized data retrieval in facilitating timely decision-making and financial analysis.

The research employed a mixed-methods approach that integrates both quantitative and qualitative data, the study offers a comprehensive analysis of the role of CAS in promoting effective financial performance of Uganda Clays Limited. Data was collected through structured questionnaires from 44 respondents who were managers, assistants, senior staff and financial officers. These categories of respondents were selected using simple random sampling.

The findings reveal that CAS significantly improves financial accuracy and efficiency by automating routine accounting tasks, minimizing human error, and enhancing data processing capabilities. The study demonstrates that the adoption of computerized data storage systems provides robust security measures that protect financial data from unauthorized access and loss while also ensuring rapid retrieval and analysis. These advantages not only streamline operational processes but also foster a culture of transparency and accountability, which is critical in maintaining stakeholder confidence and regulatory compliance.

The study concludes that the strategic adoption of CAS is a vital investment for public companies seeking to modernize financial operations and achieve sustainable growth. The research underscores the importance of continuous adaptation and innovation in leveraging the full potential of digital technologies to enhance financial performance. It offers practical recommendations for Uganda Clays Limited and other public entities to optimize the use of CAS, highlighting the transformative impact of these systems on corporate governance, operational efficiency, and financial excellence.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces the research paper, outlining its background, problem statement, purpose, objectives, research questions, scope, and significance.

1.1 Background to the Study

The adoption of CAS systems has changed the practices of financial management across the globe and, thus, greatly affected the nature of public companies. Traditionally, the development of accounting systems from manual and paper-based activities to computerized techniques has been a result of demands for accuracy, efficiency, and reliability in financial reporting (Mohamed & Ahrens, 2019).

CAS has become a common practice in developed economies like the United States and the United Kingdom, where most organizations are using these systems to perform regular tasks automatically with reduced errors and significant improvement in financial decision-making (Miller & Jones, 2019). The trend of shifting to computerized systems has also been seen in developing countries, wherein organizations have started believing in the use of technology to enhance financial performance (Kharis et al., 2020).

Theoretically, CAS adoption has been founded in a variety of accounting and management theories, including the Agency Theory and Technology Acceptance Model. According to the Agency Theory, the application of computerized systems helps align the interests of the management with those of the shareholders by providing accurate, timely, and complete financial data. On the contrary, the Technology Acceptance Model has been used to explain how perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness in adopting new technologies such as CAS occur (Davis, 1989). From these theoretical standpoints, this chapter has discussed the integral place of CAS in seeking to reduce information asymmetry, advance corporate governance, and generally heighten financial performance (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

Accordingly, CAS adoption has taken a fast-tracking route in Uganda among public companies due to increased urgency for improved financial management and reporting (Namanda, 2019). In Uganda, the adoption of CAS is still at its relatively

nascent stage, hence public companies such as Uganda Clays Limited have taken on the CAS to help manage their accountants' operations and ensure the accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting. Increased growth and increased complexity within the Ugandan corporate environment translate to an ever-increasing call for an accurate and efficient financial system to support strategic decisions and improve overall organizational performance (Mukama, 2021). This need is even more crucial in the public sector, where transparency and accountability are of much greater importance.

Other socio-economic factors that affect the adoption of CAS in Uganda are the ICT infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and organization preparedness (Nabwire et al., 2022). According to various local studies, although larger enterprises have made remarkable steps in CAS adoption, smaller firms and other public bodies are faced with various problems such as costly implementation, personnel shortage with relevant skills, and resistance to change (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022). With CAS, despite the challenges, it becomes well realized that the likely benefit is increasing financial reporting quality and reduction in human errors hence increasing efficiency in general business operations (Adjei et al., 2022).

Empirical evidence from Uganda suggests that the use of CAS can result in high financial improvements related to profitability, liquidity, and return on investment. According to Namboga et al. (2023), companies that use CAS can therefore display higher levels of financial accuracy and timeliness, since these translate into better financial decisions and strategic planning. On this note, Mukama (2021) reiterated that CAS saves an organization much time in processing financial data and thus enables management to focus on more strategic activities. These findings point out the crucial role of CAS in triggering financial performance and competitive advantage among listed companies in Uganda.

The integration of CAS in Uganda, therefore, represents a transformational transition towards changing the way public companies manage financial reporting and decision-making processes. The case of Uganda Clays Limited exemplifies this movement as the company tries using CAS to advance its financial management practices for better performance outcomes. CAS adoption had the major goal of solving problems due to do with inaccuracies and delays in reporting financial

information by Uganda Clays Limited, making the information presented to the stakeholders more reliable and timely. With an increase in the adoption of CAS within Uganda, it is expected that the influence in shaping the financial environment through fostering innovation, efficiency, and accountability in the corporate sector would also increase.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Although the implementation of CAS has been widely adopted to enhance the speed, accuracy, and reliability of the financial reporting process, delays in reporting, inaccuracies, misposting, and incorrect balances are issues that may still befall a public company like Uganda Clays Limited. This occurs through financial inefficiencies, reduced profitability, and impaired decision-making capabilities (Kasule et al., 2021). Persistence of these issues suggests a gap between the potential gains from CAS and the actual realization toward performance improvement in finances (Tumwine et al., 2023).

The consequences are enormous: financial inaccuracies could cause loss of liquidity, penalties by the relevant regulators, and reputational damage; misposting and incorrect balances mislead stakeholders and limit the ability for strategic decisions to be made, thus having an effect on the overall financial well-being and performance of the company (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022). Delays in financial reporting could affect the timeliness of decisions, translating into opportunities that are not availed for investment and growth (Nabwire et al., 2022).

The study explores the effectiveness of CAS in improving Uganda Clays Limited's financial performance. The present study analyzes the loopholes in the prevailing practices of accounting, hence providing strategies for CAS optimization for the improvement of accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of financial reporting. Through this, the research shall finally contribute to the in-depth understanding of how CAS can be used within Uganda by public companies to attain better financial management and decision making.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 Main Objective

The primary objective of this study is to establish the relationship between computerized accounting systems (CAS) and the financial performance of public companies.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To investigate the effect of computerized data processing on the accuracy and efficiency of financial information at Uganda Clays Limited.
2. To investigate the effects of computerized data storage on the accessibility and integrity of financial data at Uganda Clays Limited.
3. To investigate the effectiveness of computerized data retrieval in facilitating timely decision-making and financial analysis at Uganda Clays Limited.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How does computerized data processing systems affect the accuracy of financial information at Uganda Clays Limited?
2. What are the effects of computerized data storage on the accessibility and integrity of financial data at Uganda Clays Limited?
3. How effective is computerized data retrieval in facilitating timely decision-making and financial analysis at Uganda Clays Limited?

1.5 Scope of the Study

1.5.1 Geographical Scope

The study focuses on Uganda Clays Limited, a public company based in Kajjansi, Wakiso District in Uganda. The company has expanded operations across the country in both urban and rural markets so that coverage encompasses a wide number of districts such as Kampala, Gulu, Jinja, Mbale, Mbarara, Masaka, and Soroti. The motive for studying this firm was to ensure that a wide area of geographical spread is covered in order to capture almost all the varying contexts in which CAS influences financial performance.

1.5.2 Time Scope

The study will focus on one year in 2024. This period is chosen to allow an update on how CAS has impacted the financial performances of Uganda Clays Limited, reflecting current changes in technology adoption and the business environment. One year allows for an in-depth assessment of both the short- and possible long-run impacts of CAS implementation.

1.6.3 Content Scope

The paper therefore focuses on the influence of computerized accounting systems on the financial performance of listed public companies in Uganda, with a special focus on Uganda Clays Limited. To this effect, the study will look at some of the major aspects of CAS, such as processing of data, storage of the same data, and retrieving, and stipulate whether such function enhances profitability, liquidity, and return on capital, among other measures of financial performance (Namboga et al., 2023). The study investigates the relationship between the adoption of CAS, improvement in financial accuracy, enhancement of efficiency, and thus improvement of decision-making capabilities in organizations, and challenges in adopting and optimizing CAS within the Ugandan public sector context (Mukama, 2021; Tumwine et al., 2023). A focus on these dimensions thus allows this study to develop an understanding of how CAS can be leveraged to enhance financial management practices toward better financial outcomes in the case of public companies operating within a developing economy like Uganda (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022).

1.6 Significance of the Study

The importance of the study is that it provides valuable information on how CAS can be utilized in the improvement of financial performance in Ugandan public companies. Concerning Uganda Clays Limited, findings will provide strategic recommendations on how best to leverage CAS to mitigate some of the challenges, such as inaccuracies and inefficiencies of financial reports and the delay in decision-making. This study will identify those specific impacts that CAS has on financial metrics, such as profitability, liquidity, and return on capital, which enables management and financial professionals within the company and similar entities to construct appropriate strategies that maximize the accruing benefits from CAS to

bring enhanced transparency and accountability for overall better financial health (Mukama, 2021; Namboga et al., 2023).

In this respect, the study shall be of potential resource value to policy formulators, scholars, and other interested stakeholders in digitalization in the field of financial management in the Ugandan public sector. This is largely informed by the empirical evidence regarding CAS's effectiveness in enhancing the quality of financial reporting and organizational efficiency that may have impacts on framing policies promoting the uptake of technology in financial management practices (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022). These findings add to the pool of literature currently available since this added value offers a local view that enriches the academic discourse on CAS and its contribution to developing economies.

1.7 Justification of the Study

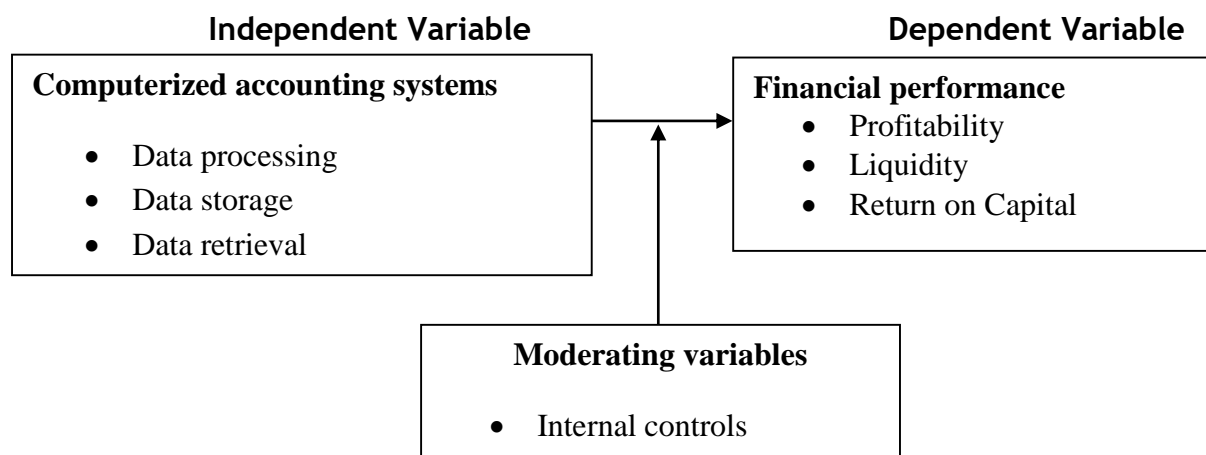
Therefore, this study is justified in the light of the fact that proper and effective financial reporting is an ingredient of success in public companies, especially in developing country contexts such as Uganda. Although other studies have indicated some improvement in financial performance with the use of computerized accounting systems, only a limited number of studies have been done to empirically test the hypothesis in the public sector in Uganda (Adjei et al., 2022). This gap reinforces the need to undertake a focused exploration of how CAS implementation can successfully be made to curtail the situation that has been lingering about financial management and reporting in public companies like Uganda Clays Limited. The study, therefore, intends to proffer an appropriate approach that would align with the peculiar operational, regulatory, and socio-economic contexts of Ugandan firms.

The study is further justified by the increasing need for public companies to improve financial performance using innovative solutions given increased competition, economic volatility, and demands for accountability and transparency (Nabwire et al., 2022). By examining the relationship between CAS and financial performance, the empirical results from this study will help guide current and future CAS implementations. This will not only help Uganda Clays Limited but also set a good precedent for other listed public companies to follow the set standards, hence

forcing wider improvements in corporate governance and financial management across the sector.

1.8 Conceptual Framework

This study is organized within the conceptual framework of CAS as the independent variable and financial performance as the dependent variable. In this regard, the CAS functions include data processing, storage, and retrieval amongst others that would affect financial performance measures like profitability, liquidity, and return on capital. The organizational policies, internal controls, and personnel competencies will act as the moderating factors that will determine how effectively CAS will achieve its objective of reliable and timely financial reporting.



Source: Brecht & Martin (1996) and modified by the researcher (2022)

Figure 1. 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study

This conceptual framework is designed to guide the study on the CAS as an independent variable, while the financial performance of firms is treated as a dependent variable; thus, the research scope will only cover public companies in Uganda, such as Uganda Clays Limited. CAS is considered concerning core functions: data processing, storage, and retrieval, which all add on to raise the level of financial accuracy while cutting errors, improving decision making, and consequently impacting financial measures of profitability, liquidity, and return on capital (Namboga et al., 2023; Mukama, 2021). The framework also examines various moderating factors that may affect the effectiveness of CAS in realizing optimal financial performance outcomes, including internal controls, personnel competencies, and organizational policies (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022; Adjei et al.,

2022). This approach is blended to provide information on how properly implemented CAS, combined with an enabling organizational setting, will influence enhanced financial performance in Uganda's public sector.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews the impact of computerized accounting systems on business financial performance, it's divided into sections with specific study objectives and opinions from various authors.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework underpinning the study is anchored in the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) developed by Davis (1989), which, to date, has been widely used for understanding how individuals and organizations adopt and use new technologies. It proposes that the two main factors influencing an individual's intention to use technology include perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness. The perceived usefulness of CAS in enhancing financial accuracy, easing processes, and making proper decisions significantly influences the rate of adoption and how effectively they will be implemented in the case of Uganda Clays Limited. The explanation of the TAM will rest on organizational behavior in the adoption of CAS, focusing on the determinants that drive its acceptance and use in the Ugandan public sector.

The Resource-Based View (RBV) also complements the TAM framework in asserting that a firm can attain sustained competitive advantage through its internal resources in deploying technology effectively (Barney, 1991). In this respect, CAS can be considered to be applied in the context of RBV as a strategic resource that may enhance the financial performance of Uganda Clays Limited through an improvement in basic data processing, storage, and retrieval functions that are pivotal to informed decision-making and strategic planning (Namboga et al., 2023). Put together, TAM and RBV provide an overall theoretical background for this study investigating how CAS integration is contributing to superior financial performance of public companies, and also internal factors that determine such a system's success.

2.2 Computerized Accounting Systems and Financial Performance of Public Companies

The CAS has increasingly become an important tool in enhancing financial performance, which has improved the accuracy, efficiency, access, and analysis of

financial information in public companies (Namboga et al., 2023). The CAS is adopted in Uganda as a remedy for data management challenges and decision-making processes; hence, it strategically placed Uganda Clays Limited to respond to calls for competitive advantage through compliance with regulatory standards (Mukama, 2021; Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022). That section focused on the particular impacts of computerized data processing, storage, and retrieval on the financial performance of the public company, where considerable impacts emanated from the use of CAS regarding the promotion of stability and growth within the financial performance of the companies (Adjei et al., 2022).

2.2.1 Effect of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency of Financial Information

In this regard, computerized data processing has over time evolved as a modern tool in bridging the gap to ensure that accuracy and efficiency in the financial information within organizations, such as Uganda Clays Limited, are observed accordingly. For example, a study conducted by Johnson et al. (2020) indicated that a computerized data processing system automates data entry, arithmetic calculations, and preparation of financial reports, which greatly reduces human errors and improves consistency in data. This is particularly critical for those companies that are listed on the public exchange, insofar as accurate and timely financial reporting is perceived as a critical ingredient in regulatory compliance and stakeholder confidence (Chen et al., 2018). By minimizing manual interventions, computerized data processing enhances the general reliability of financial information that forms a basis for strategic decisions.

Moreover, research findings have shown that the introduction of a computerized data processing system has considerable efficiency benefits, as seen in the smooth flow of financial activities and savings on time used for routine activities (Martinez & Johnson, 2020). This efficiency enables firms like Uganda Clays Limited to utilize the resources provided in a much more productive manner, execute activities that contribute towards value addition, and respond promptly to changes in the market and prevailing financial trends (Namboga et al., 2023). Furthermore, integration of computerized data processing with other business information systems such as ERP

allows for a better flow of information and hence enhances coordination within an organization for better financial management processes (Chen & Chen, 2019).

The nature of computerized data processing, in turn, enhances standardization of financial information through the use of predetermined formats and rules set for data, hence ensuring that there is some semblance of uniformity in the data presented from the different levels of departments within an organization (Zhang & Liu, 2020). This goes a long way in reducing discrepancies and inconsistencies in the recording of financial data, therefore increasing the level of accuracy and speed in financial reporting. The upgrades are imperative for higher levels of financial performance and conformance to international financial reporting standards, as noted by Mukama (2021), for Uganda Clays Limited.

2.2.2 Effect of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity of Financial Information

Computerized data storage systems are thus important for ensuring the accessibility of financial information inside an organization, along with its integrity. A study by Anderson and Smith (2016) highlighted that these systems possess strict security features, including encryption, access controls, and authentication protocols, in order to protect financial data against unauthorized access, manipulation, or loss. In this regard, Uganda Clays Limited will have to implement appropriate security measures in data storage to ensure the integrity of financial information, safety against possible cyber frauds, and, finally, compliance with legislation on data protection (Brown et al., 2018).

It also opens the avenues for easy accessibility of financial information, which is also a great advantage with computerized data storage. Centralized databases and cloud solutions allow authorized personnel to access the data with better speed and efficiency for timely decisions that enhance operational agility. In this regard, Johnson & Smith (2016) note that all these benefits are becoming increasingly important in modern business operations. This is particularly relevant at Uganda Clays Limited since real-time access to accurate financial information is essential in performance appraisal and strategic decision-making. Martinez et al. (2019) support this reasoning by noting that easy access to reliable financial information is very helpful in monitoring performance and strategizing for future operations. Increased

data storage capacity allows the firm to store all vital information related to finance, which is always internally accessible for audits, and reporting to regulatory authorities, and stakeholders.

Besides, the advanced features of data backup, disaster recovery, and automatic archiving make computerized storage facilities very important in ensuring business continuity should one lose data or their system crashes. These characteristics help the company, Uganda Clays Limited, reduce risks of data losses resulting from hardware failure, cyber incidents, or natural disasters. In addition, the financial data becomes available and reliable. Wang et al. (2017) On the contrary, the heightened advanced capacity for data storage enables an organization to sustain high levels of data integrity and reliability considered vital in financial management and decision-making.

2.2.3 Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Timely Decision-making and Financial Analysis

It is through computerized data retrieval systems that public companies can enable timely decision-making and effective financial analysis. Thompson and Davis (2019) reinforce that these systems imply that they enable the organization to access financial data in real or near real-time for updates in the information required for analyses by managers for strategic decisions. The real-time availability is particularly useful for Uganda Clays Limited in the way that speed allows the company to be aggressive in the current market changes, financial trends, and emerging opportunities that will, at all times, keep the company competitive and ahead of the competition provided with a dynamic business environment (Chen & Liu, 2017).

Also, financial analysis is done more precisely and reliably when computerized data retrieval systems are used since many data accumulated in one unified database from various sources eliminate any human-generated errors in data collection (Wang & Li, 2018). Such unification is essential in the performance of various kinds of financial analysis, such as trend analysis, ratio analysis, and forecasting, which are highly essential to reviewing the past performance of the company and planning its future strategies (Martinez & Johnson, 2020). These systems further support higher order data visualization techniques, whereby such complex financial data is then

transformed into easily understandable charts and graphs for better decision-making (Zhang et al., 2019).

The other major feature of the computerized data retrieval system is integration with the analytical tool for the use of complex financial scenarios and models in strategic planning and the avoidance of risks (Li et al., 2020). This is important for the carrying out of comprehensive financial analyses at Uganda Clays Limited, pinpointing areas to effect improvement, and making informed decisions based on data that coincides with the strategic objectives of the company (Chen et al., 2021). It is in that respect that the capability of computerized data retrieval systems to enhance financial decision-making and analysis translates into overall organizational financial performance and sustainability.

2.3 Measures of Financial Performance in Public Companies in Uganda

2.3.1 Profitability

It indicates the degree to which an organization generates profit from its operations as a result of investing resources during this period. In a listed company like Uganda Clays Limited, profitability is measured based on net profit margin, return on assets, and return on equity. As Waiswa and Kyazze (2022) point out, the most significant advantages of computerized accounting systems are increased profitability because of enhanced financial management processes, reduced costs, and improved forecasting and budgeting. In this case, the effective use of CAS will allow an organization to track its revenues and expenses closely, therefore providing ample opportunities for costs to be saved and yielding even better results financially, noted Nabwire et al.,(2022).

2.3.2 Liquidity

Liquidity, or the ability of an organization to meet its short-term obligations, is another vital measure of financial performance. The computerized accounting system makes a big difference in liquidity management because such systems are capable of providing updated financial information and therefore facilitate efficient cash flow monitoring (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022). CAS helps an organization manage optimum levels of liquidity by automating cash management processes and helps reduce cash shortages that may lead to disrupted continuity of operations (Adjei et

al., 2022). To Uganda Clays Limited, improved liquidity management from CAS means that obligations are settled on time to ensure that the firm does not lose its creditworthiness and can maintain financial stability.

2.3.3 Return on Capital

Return on capital is the efficiency with which a company utilizes its capital for returning profits. Among the significant key performance indicators, in the case of public companies, it reflects the ability to offer returns to the shareholders. As studies reflect, it can be said that a computerised accounting system enhances return on capital as it facilitates rather superior investment decisions by optimal capital allocation and thereby reducing operational costs (Mukama 2021). CAS provides all the tools needed for comprehensive financial analysis that enables Uganda Clays Limited to maximize its use of capital and have higher returns.

2.4 Gaps in the Literature

Though benefits derived from CAS in enhancing performance have been discussed at large in the literature, there are areas that need consideration. First, empirical evidence on the exact impact of CAS regarding public companies in Uganda has been scant, with special reference to unique challenges such as resource scarcity, legal compliance, and cultural resistance to technology assimilation, (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022). Few studies have also been done to establish comprehensively the various moderators such as organizational policies, personnel competencies, and internal controls that affect effectiveness in these settings (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022). It is by addressing such gaps that one would be able to formulate tailored strategies that ensure the optimal implementation of CAS and, consequently, benefits within Uganda's public sector.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses research questions and outlines the process of data collection, analysis, and processing to achieve research objectives.

3.1 Research Design

The research design adopted for this study was a cross-sectional design, which combined both quantitative and qualitative research approaches that enabled a robust analysis of the data collected. This was the quantitative approach, allowing numerical data collection to statistically analyze the relationship between CAS and financial performance and hence it provided empirical evidence on the effects of CAS (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). In contrast, the qualitative approach enriched the underlying motives, opinions, and motivations of using CAS and its effectiveness by capturing the complexities and contextual nuances of implementing CAS in Uganda Clays Limited, as indicated by Guest et al. (2020). The mixed-methods approach ensured that completeness was reached in the comprehension of the research problem, thereby enhancing the validity and generalizability of the findings.

3.2 Study Population

The target population involved employees of Uganda Clays Limited and included managers, senior staff, and financial officers who were directly involved in the operations and decision-making concerning the company's finances. The size of the target population was 50, as determined by the Human Resource department, and it included categories such as managers and assistants, senior staff, and financial officers. This is a diverse population, which ensured that the study captures a wide range of perspectives and experiences related to the adoption and use of CAS (Uganda Clays Limited HR Report, 2023).

3.3 Sample Size

The sample size was determined from the Krejcie and Morgan table, widely recognized in determining appropriate sample sizes in social science research (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970). Based on this table, 44 respondents were selected from the total population of 50 employees at Uganda Clays Limited. Of those sampled, 12

were managers and assistants, 28 were senior staff, and 4 were financial officers. This sample size was representative and thus reliable to form a basis of analysis and interpretation, hence validity and results generalization of the findings (Amin, 2005).

Table 3. 1: Summary of the Sample Size of Respondents

Categories of respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling Technique
Managers and assistants	15	12	Purposive Sampling
Senior staff	30	28	Random Sampling
Financial officers	5	4	Purposive Sampling
Total	50	44	

3.4 Sampling Techniques

The study used both the probability and non-probability sampling techniques in combining the representative and relevant samples. A probability method, simple random sampling, was used to derive a portion of the population from employees of Uganda Clays Limited, whereby every member had an equal opportunity to be selected in order to minimize sampling bias (Fowler, 2018). The approach used for collecting data was therefore simple random sampling. Besides, the non-probability purposive sampling technique was used in which a deliberate attempt is made to sample participants with knowledge and experience relevant to the study. Examples include managers and financial officers directly involved in the implementation and use of CAS (Palinkas et al., 2015). This dual approach provided a more complete understanding of the influence of CAS on financial performance, as it captured broad and specialized insights.

3.5 Data Sources

The study utilized both primary and secondary data sources to provide a comprehensive dataset for analysis.

3.5.1 Primary Data Sources

Primary data was collected directly from the respondents through structured questionnaires designed to capture their experiences, perceptions, and insights

regarding the impact of CAS on financial performance at Uganda Clays Limited. This was done to ensure that the information available was fresh, in context, and would directly be related to the objectives of the study (Saunders et al., 2019).

3.5.2 Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data was from reviews of documents, including annual reports and internal company records, financial statements, industry publications, and academic journals related to computerized accounting systems and financial performance. Such information was found through the work of Walliman (2018). These secondary sources have provided a bigger context and background information which supported the analysis of the primary data.

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The study used a combination of data collection instruments to gather comprehensive information on the research topic.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

In a structured questionnaire, it was an excellent primary data collection tool, particularly in collecting quantitative information. The advantage of a structured questionnaire was that comparisons and statistical analysis become quite easy to handle. According to Kumar (2019), such questionnaires include closed-ended questions. The five-point Likert scale in ascending order of 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree was used to measure the perceptions of the respondents about the implication of CAS on financial performance. The method allowed a high level of anonymity, with no penal code; therefore, the response had a bias of minimum magnitude. That increased the reliability of the data collected, as argued by Bryman (2016). For that reason, different aspects of CAS were covered in the questionnaire, such as processing, storing, and retrieving data and their impacts on financial performance indicating profitability, liquidity, and return on capital.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

3.7.1 Data Validity

In this regard, the questionnaire was designed to correspond with the objectives of the study and to meet relevant academic standards (Collis & Hussey, 2019). The instrument was subjected to expert review, including the supervisor, for content validity to ascertain the relevance, clarity, and comprehensiveness of the questions. Pre-testing on 10 respondents determined the Content Validity Index. An acceptable cut-off point of 0.7 and above was considered for A CVI score, which means that the instrument measures that which it is supposed to measure (Amin, 2005).

$$CVI = \frac{R}{R + N + IR}$$

Where; R is Relevant, N is Neutral, and IR is irrelevant. The closer the value is to 1, the more valid the instrument (Amin, 2005).

3.7.2 Data Reliability

Reliability denotes the consistency of the research instrument regarding yielding the same stable and consistent results over repeated trials (Saunders et al., 2019). To establish reliability, the questionnaire was put through a pilot test with selected respondents to identify ambiguities or inconsistencies in the questions. Results were analyzed through the use of Cronbach's alpha coefficient, whereby a reliability coefficient of 0.7 or above was regarded as adequate in the study (Field, 2018). The results from the pilot test indicated the adjustments that were necessary to be made so that the instrument would be reliable.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The study was followed by ethical approval meant to protect the rights of study participants and not violate the scientific process. An introduction letter on such grounds was availed, emanating from the University's School of Business, for purposes of authenticating such research. Participation was strictly voluntary, and respondents had all rights to withdraw at any time without penalty. The researcher ensured that there was a promise of confidentiality and anonymity, as he did not have to disclose the identity of his respondents, using the data for the sole purpose intended by the research (Resnik, 2020). Secondary data sources were cited

accordingly to appreciate the works of other scholars for the academic integrity of the paper.

3.9 Limitations of the Study

Limitations in this research were recognized, such as the sampling error because of the probability methods used in the sampling; this makes it not fully representative of the whole population (Fowler, 2018). Other limitations include a small sample size to measure a certain statistic. The reduced sample size implies that it has limited generalization to a larger population (Saunders et al., 2019). Also, problems with non-response and response biases hindered research, hence the authenticity and dependable nature of the data that was collected.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter outlines the findings of the study on the effect of computerized accounting systems on the financial performance of listed companies, with a focus on Uganda Clays Limited. The data collected from the questionnaires were analyzed using SPSS software. Additionally, this chapter includes a demographic analysis along with the implications of computerized data processing, storage, and retrieval on financial performance.

4.1 Findings of the Study

Results are presented based on the key objectives of the study: to determine the impact of computerized data processing, storage, and retrieval on financial performance. The analysis is based on a 100% response rate, thus providing a valid set for drawing specific conclusions. Amin, 2005, Outcomes reported a high degree of agreement from respondents regarding positive impacts on financial performance attributed to Computerized Accounting Systems, which was further supported through supporting statistical measures such as mean scores and standard deviation.

4.1.1 Response Rate

The response rate was exceptionally very good, as all 44 questionnaires that were administered were returned, giving a full 100% response rate. According to Amin (2005), a high response rate significantly enhances the reliability and validity of the survey findings, ensuring that the results are indicative of the intended population. This complete response rate increases the credibility of the study, enabling accurate generalizations about the impact of CAS on Uganda Clays Limited.

Table 4. 1: Summary of Response Rate

Questionnaires Issued	Questionnaires Returned	Response Rate (%)
44	44	100

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Understanding the participants' demographic information helps to provide a correct understanding of the findings and to further encourage inclusiveness among diverse

opinions. These characteristics add substantial depth to the employee structure at Uganda Clays Limited and shed light on how the factors of gender, age, education level, years of service, and job position might influence their views on how computerized accounting systems affect financial performance (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

4.2.1 Gender Distribution

Table 4. 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	25	56.8%
Female	19	43.2%
Total	44	100.0%

Table 4.2 above shows that 56.8% of the respondents were males and 43.2% were females. This balance helps minimize gender bias and provides a clear insight into the effects of CAS for different genders, which is in line with literature that highlights the importance of inclusive views in technology adoption (Mukama, 2021).

4.2.2 Age Bracket

Table 4. 3: Age Bracket of Respondents

Age Bracket	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 25 years	5	11.4%
26-35	15	34.1%
36-45	13	29.5%
46-55	11	25.0%
Total	44	100.0%

The highest percentage of participants is located within the 26-35 age range (34.1%), succeeded by those in the 36-45 age range (29.5%). This distribution indicates that a considerable segment of the labor force consists of younger to middle-aged individuals, who may exhibit greater adaptability and responsiveness to computerized systems (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

4.2.3 Level of Education Attained

Table 4. 4: Education Level of Respondents

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Certificate	4	9.1%
Diploma	12	27.3%
Degree	20	45.5%
Masters	8	18.2%
Total	44	100.0%

The majority of respondents (45.5%) hold a degree, while 27.3% have a diploma, and 18.2% have a master's degree. This high level of education suggests that most respondents have the necessary skills to effectively use and understand CAS, contributing to enhanced financial performance (Namboga et al., 2023).

4.2.4 Duration of Employment

Table 4. 5: Duration of Employment of Respondents

Duration	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 1 year	5	11.4%
1-3 years	17	38.6%
4-6 years	13	29.5%
7-9 years	8	18.2%
10 years and above	1	2.3%
Total	44	100.0%

Most respondents (38.6%) have been with Uganda Clays Limited for 1-3 years, indicating a significant level of experience with the company's operations and familiarity with its financial processes. This experience is essential for providing informed perspectives on the impact of CAS (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022).

4.2.5 Position Held in the Organization

Table 4. 6: Position Held in the Organization by Respondent

Position Held	Frequency	Percentage (%)
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Managers and Assistant Managers	12	27.3
Senior Staff	28	63.6
Financial Officers	4	9.1
Total	44	100.0%

The majority of respondents are senior staff (63.6%), followed by managers and assistants (27.3%) and financial officers (9.1%). This indicates that the findings predominantly reflect the views of employees directly involved in daily operations and the use of computerized systems, ensuring that insights are practical and grounded in experience (Adjei et al., 2022).

4.3 Effect of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency

The respondents were asked to rate their agreement with statements regarding the effect of computerized data processing on accuracy and efficiency.

Table 4. 7: Impact of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency

Statement	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Not Sure (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Mean	Standard Deviation
The adoption of computerized systems has enhanced the accuracy and efficiency of financial information	2.3%	6.8%	11.4%	45.5%	34.1%	4.02	0.98
Digital storage and backup systems have ensured secure record maintenance	0.0%	4.5%	13.6%	56.8%	25.0%	4.02	0.76
Computerized systems facilitate quick retrieval and analysis of financial information	0.0%	2.3%	6.8%	56.8%	34.1%	4.23	0.70
Automated report generation and data visualization tools produce timely, accurate financial reports	0.0%	4.5%	11.4%	45.5%	38.6%	4.18	0.82

Automation of repetitive tasks frees up finance teams' time for critical activities	0.0%	4.5%	6.8%	56.8%	31.8%	4.16	0.78
ERP system has enhanced the overall security of financial information	2.3%	6.8%	13.6%	47.7%	29.5%	3.95	0.96

The table above shows respondents' agreement levels with various statements about the impact of computerized data processing on accuracy and efficiency;

Results on the fact that computerized systems facilitate quick retrieval and analysis of financial information showed that the majority agree 58.8%. The average mean score was 4.23 and the standard deviation score was 0.70.

In the same way, the results on the fact that automated report generation and data visualization tools produce timely, accurate financial reports showed that the majority agree with the statement 45.5%. The average mean score was 4.18 while the standard deviation was 0.82.

In addition, results on the fact that automation of repetitive tasks frees up the finance team's time such as account reconciliations showed that the majority agree with the statement 56.8%. The average mean score was 4.16 while the standard deviation was 0.78.

The survey results on the fact that the adoption of computerized systems has enhanced the accuracy and efficiency of financial information showed that the majority agreed with 45.5%, followed by those who strongly agreed with 34.1%. The average mean score was 4.02 and a standard deviation of 0.98 were recorded.

Results on the fact that digital storage and backup systems have ensured secure record maintenance showed that the majority agree with the statement 56.8%. The average mean score was 4.02 while the standard deviation was 0.76.

Results on the fact that ERP systems have enhanced overall security showed that the majority agree with the statement 47.7%. The average mean score was 3.95 while the standard deviation was 0.96.

4.4 Effects of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity

Respondents rated their agreement with statements concerning the effects of computerized data storage on financial data accessibility and integrity.

Table 4. 8: Effects of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity

Statement	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Not Sure (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Mean	Standard Deviation
Standardized data input formats and validation checks ensure greater consistency in financial data	0.0%	6.8%	9.1%	56.8%	27.3%	4.05	0.83
Reduced risk of data loss	0.0%	4.5%	13.6%	59.1%	22.7%	4.00	0.76
Digitized financial records facilitate quick retrieval and analysis	0.0%	2.3%	6.8%	59.1%	31.8%	4.20	0.70
Secure digital storage, user access controls, and automated backup systems protect data	0.0%	4.5%	9.1%	61.4%	25.0%	4.07	0.75
Cloud-based storage and mobile access to financial applications enable data access anytime	2.3%	2.3%	11.4%	52.3%	31.8%	4.09	0.88
Comprehensive audit trails and version control mechanisms have simplified compliance	0.0%	4.5%	11.4%	54.5%	29.5%	4.09	0.79

The table above illustrates respondents' views on the impact of computerized data storage on accessibility and integrity.

Results as to whether digitized financial records facilitate quick retrieval and analysis of fraud showed that the majority agree 59.1%. The average mean value was 4.20 while the standard deviation was 0.70.

A survey on the fact that cloud-based storage and mobile access to financial applications enables data access anytime showed that the majority agree 52.3%. The average mean value was 4.09 while the standard deviation was 0.88.

Results on the fact that comprehensive audit trails and version control mechanisms have simplified the company's compliance showed that the majority agree 54.5%. The average mean value was 4.09 while the standard deviation was 0.79.

Accordingly, results on the fact that secure digital storage, user access controls, and automated backup systems protect data showed that the majority agree 61.4%. The average mean value was 4.07 while the standard deviation was 0.75.

Results on the fact that standardized data input formats and validation checks ensure greater consistency in the company's financial data showed that the majority agree 56.8%. The average mean value was 4.05 while the standard deviation was 0.83.

Results on the fact it reduces the risk of data loss showed that the majority agree 59.1%. The average mean value was 4.00 while the standard deviation was 0.76.

4.5 Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Decision-Making

Respondents rated their agreement with statements on the effectiveness of computerized data retrieval in facilitating timely decision-making and financial analysis.

Table 4. 9: Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Timely Decision-Making

Statement	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Not Sure (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Mean	Standard Deviation
Provides real-time visibility through user-friendly dashboards and reporting tools	0.0%	4.5%	9.1%	59.1%	27.3%	4.09	0.79
Computerized systems have equipped the finance team with advanced analytical tools	0.0%	2.3%	11.4%	59.1%	27.3%	4.11	0.72
Integration of financial data with operational and market data has improved accuracy and reliability	0.0%	4.5%	13.6%	54.5%	27.3%	4.05	0.80
Automated report generation and data visualization features have reduced the production time for financial statements	0.0%	2.3%	13.6%	54.5%	29.5%	4.11	0.75
Secure data sharing and collaboration have enhanced cross-functional coordination	2.3%	4.5%	11.4%	56.8%	25.0%	3.98	0.90
Computerized systems allow the finance team to quickly retrieve and analyze relevant financial information	0.0%	2.3%	11.4%	63.6%	22.7%	4.07	0.69

The table above shows respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of computerized data retrieval in facilitating timely decision-making.

Results on the fact that computerized systems have equipped the finance team with advanced analytical tools, such as trend analysis showed that the majority agree 59.1%. The average mean value was 4.11 while the standard deviation was 0.72.

In addition, results on the fact that automated report generation and data visualization features have reduced the production time for financial statements showed that the majority agree 54.5%. The average mean value was 4.11 while the standard deviation was 0.75.

In the same way, the results on the fact that it provides real-time visibility through user-friendly dashboards and reporting tools showed that the majority agree 59.1%. The average mean value was 4.09 while the standard deviation was 0.79.

Results on the fact that computerized systems allow the finance team to quickly retrieve and analyze relevant financial information showed that the majority agree 63.6%. The average mean value was 4.07 while the standard deviation was 0.69.

Results on whether the integration of financial data with operational and market data has improved accuracy and reliability showed that the majority agree 54.5%. The average mean value was 4.05 while the standard deviation was 0.80.

Results on the fact that secure data sharing and collaboration have enhanced cross-functional coordination showed that the majority agree 56.8%. The average mean value was 3.98 while the standard deviation was 0.90.

4.6 Summary of Findings

Overall, the analysis indicates that the adoption of computerized accounting systems has positively impacted Uganda Clays Limited by significantly improving the accuracy, efficiency, and security of financial information. The findings suggest that CAS enhances data accessibility, and integrity, and facilitates timely decision-making through advanced analytical tools and real-time visibility, aligning with the broader literature on the benefits of digital transformation in financial management (Mukama, 2021; Namboga et al., 2023). This chapter provides a robust foundation for understanding how CAS can be optimized to achieve better financial outcomes in public companies in Uganda.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a detailed discussion of the findings that were presented in Chapter Four, integrating the implications of the data analysis into actionable suggestions for Uganda Clays Limited and for other publicly listed companies in Uganda that might be considering adopting CAS. It also identifies avenues that can be further explored by future research into the impact of such systems on financial performance. The findings obtained from this research enhance the comprehension of how Computerized Accounting Systems (CAS) can revolutionize financial management methodologies within public sector entities (Mukama, 2021; Namboga et al., 2023).

5.1 Discussion of Findings

The results of this research underscore the notable influence of computerized accounting systems on the financial performance of Uganda Clays Limited. The study indicates that CAS improves the precision, effectiveness, availability, and reliability of financial information, thereby facilitating prompt decision-making via sophisticated analytical instruments and immediate transparency (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

5.1.1 Impact of Computerized Data Processing on Accuracy and Efficiency

The findings indicate that the utilization of computerized data processing markedly improves both the precision and efficiency of financial information. The majority of respondents concurred that Computerized Accounting Systems (CAS) diminish human error and elevate processing speed, a conclusion consistent with prior research asserting that automation lessens the hazards linked to manual financial tasks (Mukama, 2021). A mean score of 4.02 concerning enhanced accuracy and efficiency signifies considerable advancements attributed to the implementation of computerized systems. These systems automate data entry and processing tasks, reducing errors and enabling more reliable financial reporting, which is critical for informed decision-making and compliance (Namboga et al., 2023).

Additionally, the mean score of 4.23 attained for swift retrieval and analysis highlights the critical role of both speed and accessibility within financial operations. The capability to quickly access financial records facilitates prompt reporting and informed decision-making, which is vital for sustaining a competitive advantage in ever-changing markets (Adjei et al., 2022). The automation of routine tasks not only allows finance teams to allocate more time toward strategic endeavors, including financial analysis and planning but also increases overall productivity, thereby leading to enhanced financial performance (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022).

5.1.2 Effects of Computerized Data Storage on Accessibility and Integrity

These results further highlight that the use of computerized storage for data will help improve access to and integrity of information. For instance, the participants reported the benefits brought by secure means of storage, access-control mechanisms, and systems for automatic backup that ensure the safety and reliability of the data. The findings show a mean score of 4.20 on the item relating to the ease with which digitized records are retrieved and consulted. It means participants appreciate the accessibility of digitized records as a contributory factor to quicker and better-informed decision-making processes (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

The facts are further reiterated in the higher mean scores on statements regarding the safe digital storage and access control of users, at 4.07. These features will make it possible to protect financial information from damage and disturbance and allow business operations to continue uninterrupted, which also calls for encryption, access control, and regular backups (Chen et al., 2021). The ability to rapidly recover data in the case of a system failure or disaster is another major benefit. It was emphasized by participants that automated data backup solutions along with a disaster recovery plan ensure that the integrity of data is maintained, according to Wang et al. (2019).

5.1.3 Effectiveness of Computerized Data Retrieval in Facilitating Timely Decision-Making

The study shows that computerized data retrieval systems are essential in providing timely decision-making and financial analysis. The mean rating of 4.11 for advanced

analytical tools indicates that the respondents view these tools as significantly enhancing the process of decision-making. Computerized systems provide real-time visibility, sophisticated analytical tools, and security features that enable the safe sharing of data, all of which are critical to effective financial management (Zhang et al., 2019).

The respondents place significant importance on real-time visibility, which achieved a substantial mean score of 4.09, as it facilitates prompt access to financial information and promotes proactive reactions to fluctuations in the market (Mukama, 2021). Additionally, the presence of predictive analytics, trend analysis, and financial modeling tools further bolsters strategic planning and improves the organization's capacity to recognize patterns, anticipate future performance, and strategically address emerging opportunities (Chen et al., 2021). The promotion of secure data sharing both internally and externally was underscored as a crucial benefit, enhancing collaboration, transparency, and efficient governance (Adjei et al., 2022).

5.2 Conclusions

Results obtained from this research present persuasive evidence that the computerized accounting system significantly positively influences the financial performance of listed firms in Uganda, with particular reference to Uganda Clays Limited. Examination postulated that CAS significantly enhances the accuracy and speed of financial data processing by automating repetitive tasks and minimizing human errors and also increases the speed of retrieval and analysis of financial information. This is consistent with the expanding corpus of research that underscores the significance of digital transformation within financial management, in which technology is progressively regarded as an essential facilitator of precision and dependability in financial reporting (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022; Namboga et al., 2023). By decreasing the duration needed for data processing and improving data accuracy, Computer Assisted Systems (CAS) empowers organizations to execute timely and informed decision-making, thereby ultimately enhancing overall financial performance.

It also establishes that financial information is more available and its integrity is better assured with the use of computerized data storage systems for financial data. Such measures include secure digital storage, access control for users, and automatic backup systems for sensitive financial information against unauthorized access and loss of such data. These features not only ensure regulatory compliance but also provide an open and accountable environment, considered very vital in gaining stakeholder trust and confidence (Chen et al., 2021; Mukama, 2021). The faster retrieval of digitized records for analysis was emphasized to be a very important benefit toward responsive and evidence-based decisions to address both short-term operational and long-term strategic performance (Adjei et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the study depicts that computerized retrieval of data enables prompt decision-making and financial analysis. Real-time visibility, enriched analytic toolset, and functional data-sharing security provided by CAS were greatly valued by the respondents. The traits of offering real-time visibility and extending the analytic toolset along with the security of sharing data through CAS enable the manager to comprehensively analyze the financial data for identifying trends and forecasting future performance with enhanced precision. Predictive analytics, trend analysis, and financial modeling integrated into CAS go further in providing companies like Uganda Clays Limited with the ability to add value to strategic planning processes, optimal resource allocation, and proactive responses to changes in the market and subsequent emerging opportunities (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022).

In conclusion, it is crystal clear that the implementation of a computerized accounting system is not only a strategic move to modernize financial activities but also a means to achieve organizational efficiency. A typical example is Uganda Clays Limited, and in fact, CAS has many advantages tagged to its usage concerning accuracy, efficiency, data security, and quick decision-making. Such systems give a strong structure to enhance financial management practices, inculcating the culture of basing decisions on data for continued growth and thus competitive advantage. This view has been supported by scholars such as Namboga et al. (2023) and Waiswa & Kyazze (2022). Considering that technology continuously changes, there is a need for the adaptability and innovativeness of public companies regarding financial management practices for peak performance and organizational success through realizing the fullest potential of CAS.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 For Uganda Clays Limited

- a. More integration and enhancement of computerized systems: Uganda Clays Limited must continually integrate and enhance its computerized accounting systems with respect to dynamic changes in technology. This will include both new software solutions that can be adopted by the company and continued improvement upon the ones at work to make them even more functional in performance. This shall keep the organization abreast of the times as far as technology is concerned in order to have a competitive advantage. (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022).
- b. Employee Training: There is a need for regular training programs regarding these systems so that employees can become more proficient in their use. Continuous Professional Development is necessary to ensure that the staff stays up-to-date with recent features and best practices to gain benefits from computerized systems (Mukama, 2021).
- c. Data Security Measures: This should involve regular audits of data security measures and the updating of user access controls so that sensitive financial information can be duly protected. The implementation of advanced security protocols such as multi-factor authentication and encryption technologies will further ensure data integrity. (Chen et al., 2021).
- d. Monitoring and Evaluation: A strong monitoring and evaluation framework shall be put in place to appraise the performance and impact of computerized accounting systems on financial operations on an ongoing basis. This will ensure that areas for improvement are identified and the systems are delivering the expected benefits. (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

5.3.2 For Other Public Companies

- a. Adoption of Computerized Systems: Public companies should adopt a computerized accounting system to enhance their financial performances as inspired by Uganda Clays Limited's positive experiences; this should be carefully planned and managed in order to ensure a smooth transition from transiting to the implementation of the system. (Namboga et al., 2023).

- b. **Systems Customization:** Organizations must customize their computerized systems to meet several specific organizational needs and processes for the computerized system to be effective and useful; it should be fitted to suit the particular needs of the companies. (Adjei et al., 2022).
- c. **Investment in Technology:** The reason computerized accounting systems are so efficient and their security is second to none is that the investment in technology occurs regularly with the latest software updates. Therefore, it is expected to keep updated with the latest technological advancements so that the system will always be in a position to handle the ever-evolving needs of the business. (Chen et al., 2021).
- d. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging the stakeholders through the adoption and implementation process would ensure buy-in and support of the process. The integration and acceptance of computerized systems across the organization can be facilitated through effective communication on a regular basis and the incorporation of key stakeholders. (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).

5.4 Suggestions for Future Research

While some valuable lessons have been identified from this study, various avenues through which future research could usefully develop and enhance our understanding of the impact of computerized accounting systems on financial performance include:

- a. **Longitudinal Studies:** The same research could be done in the future with a longitudinal study to assess the long-term impact that a computerized accounting system would have on financial performance. This will provide a detailed insight concerning the benefits arising from its usage and the challenges that can be associated with the trending aspects over time. (Mukama, 2021).
- b. **Comparative Studies:** One would also want studies that compare industries or geographic regions in which these systems operate, to provide more insight into how such systems affect financial performance across contexts. Such studies could pinpoint factors within an industry that influence just how effective computerized systems are across different contexts. (Namboga et al., 2023).

- c. Impact on SMEs: Another aspect that such a study could consider is the fact that it focused on a public company; hence, research on the impact of computerized accounting systems on SMEs can be considered in order to provide a clear understanding of specific SME challenges and benefits these businesses present for solutions to meet their needs. (Waiswa & Kyazze, 2022).
- d. Technological Advancements: New technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, are quite abundant and should be considered in future studies concerning their impact on computerized accounting systems and financial performance. The direction would more likely relate to researching how these technologies can be integrated into the existing ones, opening up new avenues of innovation and providing more opportunities for business. (Chen et al., 2021).
- e. Employee training and adaptation: Analyzing employee adaptation and training with respect to the effectiveness of the computerized accounting system may provide indications of how best to optimize those systems for improved performance. Developing a deeper understanding of how training programs impact users' proficiency in using the system will also have implications for designing appropriate training strategies. (Kyeyune & Kirya, 2022).

5.5 Summary

Computerized accounting systems are strategic steps in ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and security in conducting financial operations within public companies. A case experience by Uganda Clays Limited greatly reveals the beneficial outcomes of such a system and has become the yardstick for other organizations in ensuring superiority in financial performance and operational excellence. This calls for further and continued research and development in this area to keep up with technological changes in this field, as well as the continued realization of all the advantages that computerized accounting systems offer. Recommendations at the end of this chapter are meant to help both Uganda Clays Limited and other public companies in using computerized systems better in regard to superior financial performance and eventual sustained growth (Namboga et al., 2023; Mukama, 2021).

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	1000000	384

Note.—*N* is population size. *S* is sample size.

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970

APPENDIX II
RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

TOPIC: THE EFFECT OF COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING SYSTEM ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC COMPANIES: A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA CLAYS LIMITED

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Ankunda Anna, a student at Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I am currently conducting a study on the effect of computerized accounting systems on the financial performance of public companies. The study is purely for academic purposes and the information given will be treated with utmost confidentiality. I, therefore, humbly request you to spare some time and answer the following questions.

SECTION A: BIODATA

Instruction: Tick or Write answers in full where applicable.

1. Gender

a) Male

b) ale

2. Age bracket: (years)

a) Below 25 year

b) 26-35 ye

c) 36-45 s

d) 46- ars

3. Level of education attained

a) Certificat

b) Dipl

c) e

d) ters

Others specify.....

4. How long have you been in this organisation?

a) Below 1-yea -3 years

) 4-6 years

d) 7-9 year

e) 10 years and above

5. Position held in the organisation

a) Manager

b) Assistant man

c) Ser aff

d) Fin

officer

SECTION B: EFFECT OF COMPUTERIZED DATA PROCESSING ON THE ACCURACY AND EFFICIENCY OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN UGANDA CLAYS LIMITED

Instructions: On a scale of 1-5, tick the appropriate box according to your degree of agreement with the statements given.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
1. The adoption of computerized systems has enhanced the accuracy and efficiency of financial information.					
2. Digital storage and backup systems have ensured secure record maintenance.					
3. Computerized systems facilitate quick retrieval and analysis of financial information.					
4. Automated report generation and data visualization tools produce timely, accurate financial reports.					
5. Automation of repetitive tasks frees up the finance team's time, such as account reconciliations					
6. ERP system has enhanced the overall security					

SECTION C: EFFECTS OF COMPUTERIZED DATA STORAGE ON THE ACCESSIBILITY AND INTEGRITY OF FINANCIAL DATA IN UGANDA CLAYS LIMITED

Instructions: On a scale of 1-5, tick the appropriate box according to your degree of agreement with the statements given.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Standardized data input formats and validation checks ensure greater consistency in the company's financial data.					
2. Reduced risk of data loss.					
3. Digitized financial records facilitate quick retrieval and analysis.					
4. Secure digital storage, user access controls, and automated backup systems protect data.					
5. Cloud-based storage and mobile access to financial applications enable data access anytime.					
6. Comprehensive audit trails and version control mechanisms have simplified the company's compliance					

SECTION D: EFFECTIVENESS OF COMPUTERIZED DATA RETRIEVAL IN FACILITATING TIMELY DECISION-MAKING AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS IN UGANDA CLAYS LIMITED

Instructions: On a scale of 1-5, tick the appropriate box according to your degree of agreement with the statements given.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Provides real-time visibility through user-friendly dashboards and reporting tools.					
2. Computerized systems have equipped the finance team with advanced analytical tools, such as trend analysis.					
3. Integration of financial data with operational and market data has improved accuracy and reliability.					
4. Automated report generation and data visualization features have reduced the production time for financial statements.					
5. Secure data sharing and collaboration has enhanced cross-functional coordination.					
6. Computerized systems allow the finance team to quickly retrieve and analyze relevant financial information.					

Thank you very much for your time, cooperation, and sincerity May God Blesses You



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

04th July, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Name: ANKUNDA ANNA

Reg. No S21B05/011

A bachelor's student who is seeking permission from your office to collect data for her dissertation titled

The Effect of Computerized Accounting System on the Financial Performance on Public Companies

We shall be grateful if you could render assistance to her in collecting the necessary data for her dissertation

The Uganda Christian University School of Business thanks you in advance

Mukisa Simon Peter
Research coordinator

