

TRENDS IN RESEARCH ON MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING: EXAMINING MODERN ISSUES AND THEMES

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ABSTRACT

A selection of the most current works on management accounting are discussed in this article. In order to study major topics and themes in present management accounting research, 116 publications on the subject were analyzed from three top journals. From 2008 to 2010, the papers were published. Several areas of the literature are covered in this paper. To start with, it takes a close look at studies that have come out recently, so academics may see where the field of management accounting is heading. Secondly, it emphasizes how management accounting research has begun to focus on intellectual resource management. Last but not least, it draws attention to important new areas of study, such as leadership, organizational justice, and trust.

KEYWORDS: *Management, Accounting, Modern Issues, Themes.*

Introduction

The importance of scientific study has been the subject of heated controversy in recent years. More and more, society is demanding proof of the societal effect of academic research, which puts academics under strain. Governments and funding organizations are under this kind of pressure to prove that scientific research is worth spending money on by demonstrating how it will improve people's lives in tangible ways across economics, culture, society, and the environment. In addition, since funds allocated to research are finite, we must make the most of what we have in order to reap the most benefits for society. From this vantage point, researchers should demonstrate the practical relevance of their work to boost their funding prospects.

Scholars in a wide range of fields have thus begun to question the generalizability of their work in light of this. Attempts to develop answers that would make scientific research more relevant are sometimes met with debates that are still in their early stages and largely center on what defines its success or, conversely, the root reasons of its loss. Sometimes the discussion has progressed to the point where new ways to evaluate the potential societal effects of scientific research have been developed. Medical research has quickly moved towards the creation of models that aim to provide a reliable assessment of the results of scientific investigation; some examples of these models are the Economic Value of Medical Research, the Canadian Academy of Health Science Impact Framework, and the Payback Framework.

The fact that various fields of study have reached different points on the lengthy road leading to gauging the results of scientific research shouldn't be seen as a "delay" relative to others. Their unique characteristics, on the other hand, have the potential to significantly affect the method of questioning the usefulness of scientific studies. Quick activation of the aforementioned problematization process occurs when scientific research addresses societal issues, meaning that the research object is strongly related to a perceived need of society or, more generally, a societal issue. This process is primarily focused on

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developing measurement systems that can reliably assess the impact of the research. Reason being, there is a direct correlation between the study topic and its potential societal benefit; this correlation is so strong that it is generally assumed without discussion. Put another way, the value shouldn't be proven because it "deserves" to be proved, but because it should be measured.

In contrast, fields like the social sciences and the humanities, where the connection between the study's subject and a societal need is less clear, show an initial desire to prove the existence of an impact or to investigate why one does not materialize. Since the presence of an influence has already been shown, conveyed, and recognized, the next step is to problematize how to evaluate it.

Research in management accounting and its effects are the main topics of this article. The paper's specific goal is to examine the current state of management accounting research on the topic and to provide new directions for future studies in the area. One goal of the study is to add to the current body of knowledge by providing a systematic review of the relevant literature on the topic of effect. In contrast, it hopes to get people thinking about how to improve future studies, which might help bring it closer to other fields where study on the effects of scientific research has progressed farther.

The following is the outline of the paper. In the second part, we will define impact and examine its current literature interpretations before moving on to explain why this term is important to research. In Section 3, we take a look at where things are in terms of the effects of management accounting studies. Specifically, it seeks to give a general outline of research and to organise the existing specialist literature. Section four offers some potential directions for future management accounting study, and section five offers some last thoughts.

Literature Review

Harris et al. (2011). A selection of the most current works on management accounting are discussed in this article. In order to analyze important topics and themes in modern management accounting research, 116 papers were reviewed from three top publications. From 2008 to 2010, the papers were published. Several areas of the literature are covered in this paper. To start with, it takes a close look at studies that have come out recently, so academics may see where the field of management accounting is heading. Secondly, it emphasizes how management accounting research has begun to focus on intellectual resource management. Trust, leadership, and organizational justice are some of the important new areas of study that are highlighted.

Berry et al. (2009). Additionally, the authors of the study that was stated (Otley et al., 1995) serve as the basis for the subsequent investigation. Research on management control is presented in its historical context, as well as extends these ideas in light of more current studies (British Journal of Management 6, Sections 31–34). The following developing topics—control and risk, control and culture, theory and practice—are used in order to arrange this review. These themes include strategic control decision-making, strategic control performance management, and control models for performance measurement and management.

Guffey et al. (2017). From 1989 to 2013, the Journal of Management Accounting Research (JMAR) was analyzed in this paper using citation and descriptive content analysis. Using the taxonomy of management accounting research proposed by Shields (1997), we classify papers published in JMAR according to research technique, subject, and underlying discipline (theory). Additionally, we provide data on content changes over time to reveal possible trends. To further cement JMAR's position as a leading accounting journal, we also compile citations to publications published in the journal and using citation analytics to determine which research methodologies, subjects, underlying fields, and individual pieces have made the most impact. In the end, we use content patterns and citation outcomes to make predictions about JMAR's future. Notably, we see that literature reviews, field studies, and surveys are becoming less common in JMAR, despite the fact that these are the research methodologies with the most effect according to the number of citations they receive.

Ahmed Mohamed Ghandour et al. (2021). The previous two hundred years have seen tremendous change in the ways management accounting and control systems are practiced. The complexity of the environment, changes in management style, organizational structures, and quick technical advancements all contributed to these shifts. This paper's primary objective is to survey the field of management accounting and control systems practice in order to draw conclusions about its present and future state of development. A literature evaluation focusing on the evolution of management accounting and control system practices in the 20th and 21st century was conducted using an analytical

methodology. This led to the formulation of a theoretical framework depicting the state of the art in management accounting. This led to several promising new avenues of inquiry for this field. This study's results demonstrated that management accounting's focus has shifted from determining costs to providing value to consumers.

Research Methodology

This study provides an evaluation of the literature on 116 management accounting articles that were published between 2008 and 2010 in the Journal of Management Accounting Research (JMAR), Accounting, Organisations and Society (AOS), and Management Accounting Research (MAR).

Over the course of this literature review's iterative development and revision, a taxonomy of study topics and concerns was improved. Management accounting or non management accounting was the initial classification for papers. If there was any doubt about this, another management accounting professor was asked for their opinion. We only included editorials, forewords, tributes, notes, and remarks if we thought they actually contained research. After each article was read and assessed, it was sorted into both established and new categories. As additional regions and insights were discovered throughout the assessment process, the categories were adjusted and enhanced. Throughout the process, we also looked at previous studies in the literature review for more information.

Following the development of a preliminary research taxonomy, publications were categorized according to that framework. We made a decision and filed the paper under the most significant subject when it dealt with many key issues. No paper could be found in more than one category. When another management accounting academic was needed to clarify a paper's categorization, it was done so. This procedure yielded a taxonomy of current research topics and concerns, which are displayed below after final revisions.

Management Control

- Budgeting
- Organizational control
 - Topics covered include:
 - Corporates leadership
 - worldwide authority
 - Interorganizational control

Price transfers

- Assessment and measurement of performance Comparing and contrasting
 - Implications for Performance and Organizational Behavior
 - Systems of incentives
 - Systems for measuring performance

Cost Accounting

Activity-based costing and interorganizational cost management are the two major approaches.

- The Management of Intellectual Resources
- Information systems for accounting, knowledge management,
- Display of managerial information, and
- Organizational learning are the four areas that will be discussed presently.
- A review and analysis of the relevant literature;
- Research methodology and approaches;
- Control of risks;
- Accounting for strategic management;
- Environmental and sustainability management

Subheadings in the taxonomy are given in alphabetical order, which is meaningless. Therefore, the ranking does not reflect the relative importance of the articles included in the review. Organizational control is sometimes categorized as either intraorganizational control (focusing on interactions within a

single business) or interorganizational control (addressing ties between two collaborating firms). When it comes to managing cultural or national variations across businesses or departments, international control takes an intra-or inter-organizational approach. Management control systems are a broad category that includes performance assessment and evaluation tools. There is a lot of common ground between the concepts of interorganizational control and interorganizational cost management.

Data Analysis

The analysis and debate are split into two parts. To begin, we will situate the aforementioned results in the context of prior literature evaluations and use that to draw attention to a number of overarching tendencies. The second part of the paper examines the most important ideas that have surfaced in the most recent research.

Examination of Large-Scale Patterns

This section aims to provide a concise overview of the major developments in management accounting research throughout the past 30 years. This can only be achieved by showing that our results are comparable to those of other studies. This paper's taxonomy permits some level of comparison with prior content assessments. When making this comparison, two previous research stand out. Before everything else, the width and depth of paper are its greatest strengths. scans eleven prominent periodicals' publications on management accounting from 1981 to 2000, a span of twenty years. This paper is great for comparisons because of its length and breadth.

Additionally, please provide a review on JMAR's first twenty years of operation (1989–2008). Although this research mostly focuses on North America and has a limited scope, it provides a good point of reference for comparing findings since it takes a long-term view of a top journal that works only with management accounting.

When read together, these articles offer a comparative framework for highlighting certain long-term tendencies in management accounting research. The purpose of focusing on macro changes that have occurred over the past 30 years is to give this article more substance by setting its findings within the larger framework of management accounting research.

Table 1 contrasts the overarching themes in with the given key categories; however, in order to make the study more comparable to others, IRM has been integrated with other. Table 1 should be understood in light of the fact that this analysis only considers publications published between 2008 and 2010, whereas the previous study only considered articles published between 2000 and 2008. Hence, keep in mind the geographical and longitudinal differences across the three studies when making time-based conclusions.

Table1: Proportions of Article Topics in Literature Reviews Compared

	Hesford's et.Al.	Smith & Lindquist (JMAR.)	Durden & Harris
In charge	70.2%	52.7%	57.9%
Costs	19.4%	23.6%	6.7%
Others	10.5%	23.8%	35.5%
	100.1%	100.1%	100.1%

Management Control

Even though it may not be as prevalent as in previous decades, the subject of control is nevertheless prominent in management accounting study. Budgeting and organizational control, two of the three areas within management's purview, show clear patterns.

There is a tiny but active corpus of literature on budgeting. Our research shows that just 5.2% of publications addressed budgeting difficulties, despite the fact that 20.4% of studies did. Despite the fact that some academics appear to be writing budgeting's death knell in a study of North American companies, show that the practice is very much alive and well in the business world. A small number of people, mostly from outside the academic establishment, have called for the elimination of budgeting altogether, while there are many who have voiced worries about its misuse. Despite a few caveats, the data appears to back up our gut feeling: budgeting is too useful and strong to be discarded just yet. Rather, concepts like continuous budgeting proposed by Frow et al. (2010) will allow it to adapt to the evolving environment. Instead of viewing the drop in budgeting's practical significance as a sign of research saturation, it may be more prudent to view the decrease in publishing on the topic as a sign of the opposite.

Although there is a substantial amount of literature on the topic of organizational control, one important pattern stands out. Most studies on international control and interorganizational control follow this pattern. It would appear that the new macro theme of internationalization or the multinational firm is directly tied to the noticeable uptick in focus on these two subjects. This topic is touched upon in various contexts, including international control, transfer pricing, corporate governance, accounting information systems, knowledge management, performance measurement, intraorganizational control, and interorganizational control. At least in this subfield, scholars have made an effort to link their work to the significant concerns in management accounting practice, and the fact that internationalization issues have taken center stage reflects the big shifts in practice over the last several decades.

Cost Accounting

Table 1 shows that cost accounting is not given the same level of importance as it formerly was. The underlying data contradicts Table 3, which appears to indicate that JMAR has not observed this trend of decreased cost accounting articles. Table 1 shows a total of 23.7% during the time period that JMAR was evaluated, which includes both the first and second halves of the period. There was a first phase that ran from 1989 to 1998 and a second time that ran from 1999 to 2008. While 29.2% of papers in the first period were classed as cost accounting studies, just 16.3% of papers in the second period were given that classification. This not only shows that cost accounting articles have been published at a much lower rate in JMAR than in other management accounting journals, but it may also suggest that cost accounting topics receive greater attention in JMAR than in other journals. The reasons behind this apparent tendency toward a greater focus on cost accounting and the extent to which JMAR's preference for quantitative research methodologies is associated with this trend should be investigated in future studies.

Other

Cost accounting is no longer accorded the same amount of attention as it formerly was, as seen in Table 1. Contrary to what Table 3 suggests, the underlying data suggests that JMAR has not seen this trend of reduced cost accounting papers. Throughout the two-part time period when JMAR was assessed, as shown in Table 1, the overall percentage was 23.7%. From 1989 to 1998, it was in its first phase, and from 1999 to 2008, it was in its second. Only 16.3% of publications in the second period were classified as cost accounting research, compared to 29.2% in the first period. This not only indicates that JMAR has a substantially lower article publication rate compared to other management accounting journals, but it also suggests that cost accounting is a more prominent issue in JMAR. Research in the future should look into why there seems to be a shift toward cost accounting and how much of a correlation there is between JMAR's preference for quantitative research methods and this shift.

Table 2: Research on Strategic Management Accounting is becoming more Prevalent

	Hesford's et. al.	Smith & Lindquist (JMAR.)	Durden & Harris
SMA.	1.7%	4.2%	6.1%

Overall Evaluation

Within the following part, we will talk about the seven key ideas that surfaced as a consequence of the research that was conducted. There are a variety of themes that are explored, some of which include, but are not limited to, the following: research methodology, trust, leadership, organizational justice, sustainability, environmental management, and performance measurement systems (PMS).

To begin, it is important to note that, as can be seen in Table 2, a considerable amount of research in the field of management accounting is focused on the Project Management System (PMS). It would seem that the Project Management System (PMS) is the most significant aspect of management accounting research and practice at the present time. Additionally, due to the many new challenges that have been brought about by internationalization, it is likely that PMS will continue to be at the forefront of management accounting practice and research. This is because internationalization has brought about several new challenges. Because of the effects that internationalization has on changes in corporate structure, rising competition, alterations to strategies, and cross-cultural challenges, it is anticipated that new areas of study will emerge in this subject for a long length of time to come. This is because internationalization has several implications.

The second point is that the idea of trust seems to be a consistent theme across the body of research that was examined. According to Vosselman and van der Meer-Kooistra (2009, page 269), the

"willingness to accept vulnerability" is an essential component of our understanding of the idea of trust. It is true that this is the case despite the fact that they acknowledge that "the issue of defining trust remains largely unresolved." When one party believes that the other is not likely to engage in exploitative activity, the chance of that party trusting the other party rises. In this situation, the fundamental assumption is that the parties trust one another. There were clear conceptual references to trust found in more than 34.5 percent of the literature that was studied. The majority of these references may be found in the domain of organisational control, whereas the PMSs and research methods/methodologies get a lesser amount of attention. Furthermore, they are dispersed and distributed in a manner that is relatively equitable among the periodicals. Despite the fact that project management systems (PMSs) and management accounting as a whole deal with trust in a direct and comprehensive manner, there is still a significant amount of conceptual and empirical research that has to be undertaken in the field of trust. The implication of this is that the significance of trust in management accounting is gaining more and more recognition.

Third, although the popular literature on leadership has made a greater distinction between management and leadership over the past several decades, very few people would dispute that management is not an essential component of good leadership. Throughout the course of management accounting study, leadership has traditionally received just a small amount of attention; but, in recent years, this has started to alter. However, only a few of the publications that were included for this study addressed leadership in any depth. The concept of leadership and leadership style was discussed in 12.9% of the papers that were included in the contemporary research that was considered. On the other hand, this appears to be a topic that is ripe with opportunities for the discipline of management accounting, particularly when one considers the fact that it is closely connected to the also developing concept of trust.

In the next section, we will discuss the fourth problem, which is the concept of responsibility accounting. However, 9.5% of the papers that were taken into consideration touch on organisational justice (including distributive, procedural, and interactional justice) and controllability in performance assessment. This is despite the fact that only a tiny number of studies really address the problem in depth. The amount of empirical study that has been conducted on responsibility accounting is quite limited, as Cools and others have pointed out. In exceptional circumstances, you should only make use of citations. The review of the current literature reveals a number of additional empirical studies that concentrate primarily on controllability and organisational fairness. These studies highlight the importance of these topics. believes that managers have a deep understanding, and that this understanding guides their approach to the way in which workers see the influence of organisational justice on trust. In spite of the fact that these studies provide a substantial contribution to the existing body of empirical research on responsibility accounting, there is still a large need for significant further study in this area.

In the fifth place, the problem of SEM was addressed in just two of the papers that were classed as management accounting studies in our study. This discovery comes as a surprise because, for a considerable amount of time, this particular subject has been the subject of the majority of the public discourse in the fields of social science, politics, and science. The standard approach to the subject matter is typically classified as "religion," which is generally accepted. In order to illustrate this argument, we will use passages from one of the two articles that were taken into consideration for this review. Employ theological notions and terminology, such as "actively involved in moral decision-making," "ethical viewpoint," "destruction of the planet," "strong moral anger," "just," "spiritual beliefs," and "religious principles," to tackle the matter of sustainability. Subsequently, he references a prior declaration that characterized sustainability as "a matter of religious significance." Furthermore, he publicly advocates for the idea of pantheism by asserting that "as human beings, we wholeheartedly accept our connection to the physical world and our inseparable intertwining with what we refer to as 'Nature.'" "While overt preaching may be appropriate in a theological journal, it is questionable whether it should be disguised as comprehensive scholarly inquiry. The fields of environmental management and sustainability are very essential, and there is a significant amount of study that has to be done in these areas. Research in this area must be conducted in a manner that is both practical and objective; otherwise, the field will continue to stand on the periphery of the field.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to examine some of the most current publications in the subject of management accounting, which is exactly what the writers of this research intended to achieve. In this

respect, we examined 116 papers that were published over the last year on the topic of management accounting. These publications were selected from three of the most prestigious journals in the area within the accounting discipline. The construction of the research taxonomy was first accomplished via the use of an iterative approach that included development and refining. This was done directly from the beginning of the process. Following that, the articles were arranged according to this taxonomy as the following phase. The last phase was to conduct an analysis of the review's findings, first within the context of macro trends and then later on in a more general sense. The selection of five primary topics of research was made possible as a result of the examination of macro trends. In contrast to the concept of internationalization, which has been the focus of a significant amount of recent research, the issue of budgetary research has been getting a lesser amount of attention in recent times. After then, it became common knowledge that research into cost accounting was falling behind its competitors in the field of IRM, which is a promising new area of study. Studies that have been carried out on spinal muscular atrophy have shown a pattern of progression that is gradual but consistent. Following that, the complete evaluation brought to light a number of essential components at that point. During the beginning of the presentation, a number of points were highlighted that underlined the ongoing significance of researching premenstrual syndrome (PMS). The next section provided a high-level description of the trust problem, describing it as an important emergent issue and a subject that is ready for further investigation. After then, there was a discussion of leadership as a major theme in the literature, which was then followed by a discussion of organizational justice in its entirety. The findings of subsequent study have shown that structural equation modelling (SEM) calls for an approach that is more analytical and devoid of an emotional component. The next thing that we saw was that JMAR was hesitant to adopt qualitative research methodologies. Finally, we focused on the ongoing efforts that have been made to bridge the gap between management accounting theory and practice. In conclusion, this study and analysis proposes a potential future path for research that is still in the process of developing via a combination of individual contemplation and collaborative effort. In the rapidly developing subject of management accounting, traditional subfields of management accounting, such as cost accounting and management control, are gradually losing ground to more modern subfields. However, new areas of study are emerging as potential research hotspots. Some examples of these new areas are management accounting, supply chain management, and information risk management systems. Finally, internationalization, trust, organizational justice, and leadership are some of the primary emergent themes that are being researched in a variety of situations and from a variety of perspectives. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed with the current paper. Initially, its usefulness is restricted to a certain extent. For the duration of this investigation, which lasted for three years, just three papers were taken into consideration.

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