DOI: 10.23977/infse.2024.050401 ISSN 2523-6407 Vol. 5 Num. 4

The Improvement of Accounting Work Efficiency and Quality through Big Data Technology

Sihui Dai¹, Zongying Guo², Jingyi Li³

¹ISoftStone Technology Corporation, North York, Ontario, M2J 2C5, Canada ²The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Fremont, CA 94539, USA ³BDO USA P.C.Los Angeles, CA 90071, USA

Keywords: Big Data Technology; Accounting Work Efficiency; Quality; Improvement

Abstract: In today's digital age, the amount of data is exploding, and big data technology arises at the historic moment. For accounting work, how to effectively use this technology to improve work efficiency and quality, has become the focus of the industry. Big data technology has strong data processing and analysis capabilities, which can bring new changes to accounting work, and help enterprises to make more accurate decisions and enhance their competitiveness. To this end, the paper expounds how to significantly improve the efficiency and quality of accounting work. Through analyzing the characteristics and advantages of big data technology, combined with practical cases, this paper discusses its role in data processing, risk prediction, decision support and other aspects, which provides a powerful theoretical and practical basis for the modern development of accounting work.

1. Introduction

In today's information age, with the expansion of enterprise scale and the surge of information volume, accounting information processing is facing unprecedented challenges. When the traditional accounting information system handles large-scale and diversified data, it is often inefficient and prone to make mistakes, which is difficult to meet the needs of enterprises for rapid decision-making and fine management. The emergence of big data technology provides a new idea and method for the processing of enterprise accounting information, making it possible to improve the quality of accounting information. Big data technology can automatically collect, store, process and analyze accounting data, reduce manual operation, and significantly improve the efficiency of accounting work. Through big data analysis, outliers and errors in accounting data can be identified and handled more accurately, and the accuracy of accounting information can be improved.

2. The concept and characteristics of big data technology

Big data technology, in short, refers to the ability to quickly obtain valuable information from massive, high-growth and diversified data, through specific technologies and methods. In the information age, the amount of data is exploding, and traditional data processing tools and methods have been difficult to meet the demand. Big data technology arises at the historic moment, which not only refers to the huge amount of data, but also covers the diversity of data types and the speed of

processing speed.

The starting unit of measurement for big data is usually PB (1024TB), EB (1024 PB) or even ZB (1024EB), and may reach a higher magnitude in the future. Data of this magnitude goes far beyond the processing power of traditional databases.

Various data types (Variety): Big data includes not only traditional structured data (such as tabular data in relational databases), but also semi-structured data and unstructured data. This diversity requires greater flexibility in data-processing techniques[1]. In the huge amount of data, really valuable information is often only a small percentage. Therefore, big data technologies require efficient algorithms and models to extract and mine this valuable information to support real-time decision making.

3. Limitations of the traditional accounting work mode

3.1 Limitations of information processing

The traditional accounting work mode mainly relies on manual operation and paper documents, and the processing links are many and scattered. Under this mode, the timeliness of financial reports is poor, and it is difficult to meet the needs of modern enterprises for rapid decision-making. In the process of manual processing, human error is difficult to avoid, such as data entry errors and calculation errors, which will directly affect the accuracy and reliability of accounting information. In addition, traditional accounting methods often lack an effective verification and audit mechanism for data, which further increases the risk of data quality.

3.2 Limitations of functional positioning

The traditional accounting work mode mainly focuses on the two major functions of accounting and supervision, namely, the post-reflection and the record of the previous economic business. This role positioning of "Mr.Account" makes the accounting personnel rarely participate in the operation and management of the enterprise, and it is difficult to provide strong support for the strategic decision of the enterprise. In modern enterprise management, the value of financial data is far more than recording and reflecting, but more importantly, it is used to predict future trends, evaluate business performance, and optimize resource allocation through data analysis.

3.2.1 Short-term management objectives

The traditional financial management mode takes profit maximization as the ultimate goal. This short-term guidance makes enterprise managers often pay attention to immediate interests while ignoring long-term development when making decisions. In the modern competitive market environment, the sustainable development ability of an enterprise is more important than the short-term profit. Therefore, the traditional financial management model needs to be transformed to value creation and long-term competitiveness promotion.

3.2.2 Separation of business process and financial process

In the traditional model, the business process and the financial process are often separated. Accountants rarely participate in the process of the business level, resulting in great constraints on the management of cost management, fixed assets and other aspects. This separation state not only reduces work efficiency, but also increases information asymmetry and communication costs.

3.2.3 Lack of adaptability to the external environment

The traditional management mode mainly focuses on the internal management of enterprises, and lacks in-depth research and adaptation to the external environment. Under the context of modern global economy, the external environment faced by enterprises is complex and changeable, including market competition, policies and regulations, technological progress and other aspects. Therefore, the financial management needs to pay more attention to the changes of the external environment, and timely adjust the management strategy and resource allocation scheme[2].

4. Application of big data technology in accounting work

4.1 Rapid processing and integration of financial data

In today's digital age, the amount of financial data generated and needed to be processed by enterprises shows an explosive growth trend. Traditional accounting treatment methods are often inadequate in the face of massive data, and the emergence of big data technology provides a powerful solution for the rapid processing and integration of financial data.

First, big data technology can realize real-time data acquisition and automated processing. Through the seamless connection with various internal business systems of the enterprise, such as sales system, procurement system, human resources system, etc., the financial data can be automatically collected into the data warehouse at the moment of generation, greatly reducing the time and error rate of manual input. For example, once the sales order is generated, the relevant revenue, cost and other financial data can be immediately extracted and preliminarily classified and summarized. Secondly, the data cleaning and conversion function has significantly improved the data quality. Big data technology can identify and correct errors, missing values and outliers in data, and standardize data from different systems and different formats to make it consistent and comparable. This provides an accurate and reliable data base for subsequent analysis and decision-making[3].

For example, a large multinational company with multiple subsidiaries and business units around the world needs to collect and integrate financial data from different regions and different currency units each month. With the help of big data technology, enterprises can quickly gather these scattered data, conduct currency conversion and data standardization processing, and generate accurate and unified financial reports, so as to provide the management with comprehensive financial information in a timely manner.

4.2 Accurate financial analysis and Forecast

In terms of financial analysis, the traditional analysis methods are often limited to the simple summary and comparison of historical data, and it is difficult to dig deep into the potential relationships and trends behind the data. Big data technology can use data mining, machine learning and other algorithms to conduct multi-dimensional and in-depth analysis of massive financial data. At the same time, the big data technology can realize the analysis based on the full sample data, not just the sampling data. This makes the analysis results more accurate and comprehensive, capturing subtle changes and anomalies. For example, in cost analysis, the cost composition and change trend of every product, every department and even every business process can provide strong support for cost control and optimization. In terms of financial forecasting, the application of big data technology has a significant advantage. Using time series analysis, regression analysis and other prediction models, combined with a large number of historical financial data and external market data, can predict the revenue, profit, cash flow and other key financial indicators more accurately. For example, by analyzing the market demand, competitors' performance, macroeconomic environment and other

factors, combined with the sales data and operation situation of the enterprise itself, we can predict the product sales trend and revenue situation in a period of time in the future.

4.3 Risk assessment and internal control

Another important application of big data technology in accounting work is the strengthening of risk assessment and internal control. In terms of risk assessment, big data technology can integrate various internal and external data resources of the enterprise, including financial data, industry data and macroeconomic data, to build a comprehensive risk assessment model. Through the analysis of these multi-source data, the potential risk factors, such as market risk, liquidity risk, etc., can be identified more accurately, and can be used to evaluate the possibility of their occurrence and the degree of impact. For example, by analyzing the data of customers 'credit records, transaction behavior, financial status and other data, customers' credit risks can be evaluated in real time, and the credit limit and collection strategies can be adjusted in time to reduce the risk of bad debts[4].

In terms of internal control, big data technology can realize real-time monitoring and audit of business processes. By setting up data collection points in key business links, obtaining business data in real time, and comparing them with preset control standards and rules, illegal operations and abnormal situations can be found in time, early warning and corresponding control measures can be taken.

For example, in the expense reimbursement process, the big data technology can automatically review the compliance of the reimbursement documents, such as whether the expense items meet the budget, whether the reimbursement amount is reasonable, whether the approval process is complete, etc. For the reimbursement application that does not meet the requirements, it can be timely prevented and notified to the relevant personnel for rectification. In addition, the big data technology can also evaluate and optimize the implementation of the internal control system. After analyzing the internal control data, we can identify the loopholes and weak links within the system. This will allow us to make targeted improvements and refinements, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and adaptability of our internal controls.

5. Big data technology to improve the efficiency and quality of accounting work

In the digital age, the rapid development of big data technology is profoundly changing all walks of life, and the accounting industry is no exception. With its powerful data processing capability and advantages of real-time analysis characteristics and deep insight, big data technology has brought unprecedented opportunities for the improvement of accounting efficiency and quality of work. The following will detail how big data technology can improve the efficiency and quality of accounting work.

5.1 Automated process reduces manual operation

5.1.1 Automated bookkeeping and account reconciliation

In traditional accounting work, bookkeeping and reconciliation are two basic and tedious tasks. The application of big data technology enables the financial software to automatically grab transaction data from various business systems, automatically generate accounting vouchers according to the preset accounting rules, and automatically conduct bank reconciliation, current account checking and other work. This process not only reduces the manual entry errors, but also greatly improves the processing speed and accuracy. For example, through the integration of ERP (enterprise resource planning) system and accounting system, enterprises can realize the seamless

connection between sales, procurement, inventory and other business processes and financial management, and realize the automatic flow of data.

5.1.2 Automate report generation

Financial statement is one of the important achievements of accounting work, but also an important basis for enterprise decision-making. In the traditional way, accountants need to manually collect, sort out and analyze data and prepare various statements. And big data technology automates the process. By setting the report template and data source, the system can automatically extract data from the database and generate financial statements that meet the requirements, such as balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, etc. This not only improves the efficiency of report generation, but also ensures the consistency of reports.

5.1.3 Automated audit and compliance inspection

Audit and compliance inspection are an indispensable part of accounting work. By building an audit model and rule base, big data technology can automatically scan and analyze financial data and identify potential risk points and abnormal transactions. This not only reduces the work burden of the auditors, but also improves the efficiency and accuracy of the audit[8]. At the same time, big data technology can also help companies monitor changes in laws and regulations in real time to ensure that their financial activities meet the latest regulatory requirements.

5.2 Real-time data processing to speed up the decision-making speed

The real-time processing power of big data technology has revolutionized the accounting work. By collecting, processing and analyzing financial data in real time, enterprises can obtain valuable information faster and provide more timely and accurate support for decision-making.

5.2.1 Real-time monitoring of the financial situation

Big data technology enables companies to monitor their financial position in real time, including cash flow, accounts receivable, inventory and other key indicators[9]. By building a real-time monitoring system, enterprises can keep abreast of the latest developments of their financial status anytime and anywhere, and find out potential problems and risks in time. This helps enterprises to timely adjust their business strategies, optimize the allocation of resources, and ensure their financial stability.

5.2.2 Quick response to market changes

In the highly competitive market environment, enterprises need to timely understand the market dynamics and the situation of competitors in order to quickly adjust their business strategies. Through the real-time analysis of massive market data, big data technology can provide enterprises with comprehensive market insight and competitor analysis. This helps enterprises to grasp the market trend, quickly respond to market changes, seize business opportunities.

5.2.3 Accelerate the decision-making process

Traditional decision-making processes often rely on manual data collection and analysis, which are time-consuming and susceptible to artificial factors. Big data technology can provide fast and accurate decision support for enterprises through automated data processing and real-time analysis. This helps enterprises to shorten the decision-making cycle and improve the decision-making

efficiency[5]. In addition, it can also automatically capture the budget data and the real execution data, set the data calculation logic, establish a data index system, so that a budget analysis report can be automatically released. At the same time, we can also use the data visualization method to show the results of budget analysis in the form of charts, and analyze their trend, so as to lay a solid foundation for the performance evaluation of enterprises.

5.3 Guarantee of data accuracy and integrity

The introduction of big data technology provides a strong guarantee for the accuracy and integrity of accounting data. By building a perfect data management system and quality control mechanism, enterprises can ensure the authenticity, accuracy and integrity of accounting data. The technology can integrate data sources from multiple channels, including enterprise internal business systems, external market data, social media data, and more. Through multi-source data cross-verification and cleaning processing, enterprises can ensure that the source of accounting data is reliable and complete information. This helps to reduce data errors and omissions and improve the accuracy and reliability of the data[6].

5.4 Automate management reports

Accounting big data analysis technology enables self-service report service, ZTE new cloud finance cloud map "12345" framework innovation enterprise report management, realizing automation and multi-dimensional coverage. The framework is based on insight into enterprise value creation, integrates strategic planning and management needs, accurately positions core values, business models and control points through VBDT four-dimensional model (value, business, data, technology), and builds a comprehensive management accounting system and standard report[7]. Relying on data governance, collection, analysis and visualization technology, Financial Cloud Map follows a five-step implementation strategy: data preparation, interface standardization, data cleaning and processing, report configuration, and flexible generation of multi-dimensional analysis reports such as budget, performance and salary. This move significantly reduces the artificial burden of statement preparation and analysis, enables financial personnel to focus more on the deep problems behind the data, and provide strong support for business decisions.

6. Conclusion

In short, big data technology has brought unprecedented opportunities for accounting work, greatly improving the efficiency and quality. However, the potential risks also need to be addressed with caution during the application process. With the continuous progress and improvement of technology, it is believed that big data technology will play a greater role in the accounting field, promote the development of accounting work to a more intelligent and accurate direction, and can provide strong support for the sustainable and healthy development of enterprises.

References

[1] Li pingting. Research on the path of big data technology in accounting application in the digital transformation environment [J]. China's Collective Economy, 2023 (34): 165-168.

[2] Li Ting. The Application of Big Data Thinking and Technology in Accounting Work [J]. China Economic and Trade, 2023 (27): 142-144.

[3] Tian Junmin. The strategy to improve the accounting information quality of feed enterprises under the background of big data [J]. China Feed, 2023 (18): 124-127.

[4] Wei Liping. On the challenges and solutions of enterprise management accounting in the era of big data [J]. Quality and Market, 2023 (7): 163-165.

- [5] Shen Jiawei. Research on the improvement of enterprise internal financial audit quality in the environment of big data [J]. Accounting study, 2023 (32): 125-127.
- [6] Zongying Guo, Yuxiang Sun, Jingyi Li, Mengdie Lu, The Influence of Business Analytics on Modern Management Accounting Informatization Decision under the Background of Big Data.[J]. Accounting and Corporate Management (2024) Vol. 6: 101-107.
- [7] Yuxiang Sun, Jingyi Li, Mengdie Lu, Zongying Guo. Study of the Impact of the Big Data Era on Accounting and Auditing. [J]. Frontiers in Business, Economics and Management, (2024) 13(3), 44-47
- [8] Bao, W., Che, H., & Zhang, J. (2020, December). Will_Go at SemEval-2020 Task 3: An accurate model for predicting the (graded) effect of context in word similarity based on BERT. In Proceedings of the Fourteenth Workshop on Semantic Evaluation (pp. 301-306).
- [9] Jingyi Li, Mengdie Lu, Zongying Guo, Yuxiang Sun, Sihui Dai, Design and implementation of accounting and audit risk early warning system based on big data. Accounting, Auditing and Finance (2024) Vol. 5: 120-126. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.23977/accaf.2024.050117.