

AUDITING | RESEARCH ARTICLE

Transformation of Accounting Information Systems: An Analysis of the Impact of Digitalization on the Financial Performance of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Digital transformation has reshaped the financial management practices of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), particularly through the adoption of digital Accounting Information Systems (AIS). In Indonesia, SMEs play a vital role in national economic growth, yet many still face challenges in adopting digital accounting technologies due to limited digital literacy, inadequate technological infrastructure, financial constraints, and resistance to change. This study aims to systematically review the impact of AIS digitalization on SME financial performance and to identify the key supporting and inhibiting factors influencing its implementation. Using a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach guided by the PRISMA 2020 framework, this study analyzes peer-reviewed articles published between 2021 and 2026 from major academic databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar. The findings indicate that AIS digitalization has a significant positive effect on SME financial performance, particularly in improving operational efficiency, financial reporting accuracy, internal control, decision-making quality, profitability, and revenue growth. The review also reveals that successful implementation is strongly influenced by human resource competence, digital literacy, management support, technological infrastructure, government support, and regulatory readiness. However, barriers such as high investment costs, limited technical skills, organizational resistance, cybersecurity risks, and inadequate infrastructure remain critical challenges. This study contributes theoretically by integrating the Resource-Based View, Technology Acceptance Model, and Technology-Organization-Environment framework to explain AIS digitalization in SMEs. Practically, the findings provide strategic insights for SMEs, technology developers, and policymakers in strengthening digital transformation and improving financial performance.

Keywords: Accounting Information Systems, Digital Transformation, AIS Digitalization, SME Financial Performance.

I. Introduction

Digitalization has fundamentally transformed the business landscape, particularly for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), which serve as the backbone of the Indonesian economy. SMEs contribute



more than 60% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and absorb 97% of the workforce (Idrus & Rastina, 2025). Digital transformation in financial management has encouraged SMEs to adopt technology-based Accounting Information Systems as an effort to improve the quality of financial reporting and business sustainability. However, limited digital literacy, human resources, and access to technology have caused the utilization of digital accounting systems among Indonesian SMEs to remain suboptimal.

Accounting Information Systems (AIS) have become an important instrument for transforming financial and operational data into actionable information for strategic decision-making (Rahim, 2025). In the context of SMEs, digital-based AIS contributes to improving transaction recording efficiency, financial reporting accuracy, and financial information transparency, thereby supporting more accurate decision-making. Accounting digitalization significantly improves operational efficiency, particularly by reducing the time required to process financial transactions and minimizing errors in manual recording (Rahayu & Hidayat, 2025). The main challenges faced by SMEs in adopting digital technology include limited financial resources, lack of technical expertise, and resistance to change (Chen, 2025). Studies show that although digital technology adoption has the potential to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of Indonesian SMEs, the level of digitalization remains low, with only around 16% of SMEs having integrated digital technology into their operations (Idrus & Rastina, 2025).

Although the literature has demonstrated a positive relationship between AIS digitalization and SME financial performance, gaps remain in previous research findings. Several studies report that AIS digitalization significantly improves profitability, liquidity, and operational efficiency (Nussy & Litamahuputty, 2025), while other studies identify substantial implementation barriers, such as limited infrastructure, digital skills gaps, and high investment costs (Tsuma, 2025). These variations in findings create the need for a systematic synthesis of the available empirical evidence. Existing studies tend to be fragmented in focus, with some emphasizing technological adoption aspects, while others concentrate on organizational or environmental factors. This gap creates challenges in understanding the holistic mechanisms through which AIS digitalization affects SME financial performance, particularly in the context of emerging economies such as Indonesia.

This Systematic Literature Review (SLR) aims to identify the development and research trends concerning AIS digitalization in SMEs during the 2021–2026 period, comprehensively analyze the impact of AIS digitalization on various dimensions of SME financial performance, identify the factors that support or hinder the successful implementation of digital AIS among SMEs, and develop an integrative conceptual model that links AIS digitalization with SME financial performance based on a synthesis of the literature. Based on the research problem and objectives, this SLR addresses three main research questions. First, how have the trends and developments in research on AIS digitalization in SMEs evolved over the last five years from 2021 to 2026? Second, how does AIS digitalization influence various dimensions of SME financial performance? Third, what factors support or hinder the successful implementation of AIS digitalization in SMEs?

This study offers contributions at three levels. Theoretically, it extends the understanding of the integration of the Resource-Based View (RBV), Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), and Technology-Organization-Environment (TOE) Framework in the context of AIS technology adoption by SMEs in developing countries. Practically, the findings provide strategic guidance for SME actors in optimizing the implementation of digital AIS to improve financial performance (Purwantini et al., 2025). From a policy perspective, the synthesis of the literature provides evidence-based recommendations for policymakers in designing effective and inclusive SME digitalization support programs.

II. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

2.1. Concept of Accounting Information Systems

Accounting Information Systems (AIS) represent an integrated digital infrastructure designed to collect, organize, process, and report financial data into actionable information (Rahim, 2025). In the contemporary context, AIS integrates five interrelated elements: hardware infrastructure, software

applications, structured data, procedural protocols, and human expertise that orchestrates their interaction. The evolution of AIS has undergone a significant transformation from manual paper-based methods to advanced technology platforms supported by cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics (Aulia et al., 2026). AIS digitalization in SMEs includes the implementation of accounting software, cloud-based systems, and automation tools that enable real-time transaction recording, improve financial reporting accuracy, and enhance financial information transparency. Recent studies show that the integration of technologies such as AI, cloud computing, and blockchain plays a crucial role in improving the efficiency, reliability, and accessibility of financial data. These technologies enable real-time financial transparency, enhance operational intelligence, and strengthen organizational internal control mechanisms.

2.2. Digital Transformation in SMEs

Digital transformation refers to the technical process of applying digital technologies to society, the economy, and institutions, which triggers significant changes in firm operations and improves operational outcomes (Xu & Zhang, 2025). In the context of Indonesian SMEs, digital transformation has become an essential strategy for enhancing competitiveness, although many rural enterprises still face barriers in adopting financial and marketing technologies (Burhanuddin et al., 2026). Government support, digital literacy, and access to affordable digital infrastructure play significant roles in accelerating digital adoption. Conversely, limited financial resources, resistance to change, and low technological readiness remain critical challenges. The findings also highlight emerging trends such as the use of cloud computing, e-commerce platforms, and Industry 4.0 technologies as transformative tools for enhancing competitiveness and operational efficiency.

2.3. SME Financial Performance

SME financial performance is measured through various indicators, including profitability, liquidity, operational efficiency, revenue growth, and business sustainability (Inayah & Susliyanti, 2025). Studies show that the adoption of cloud-based accounting systems has a significant positive relationship with key financial performance indicators, namely profitability, liquidity, and cost efficiency. Regression analysis confirms that cloud adoption contributes to improved financial control and performance, particularly when supported by a high level of digital competence within the organization. Digital transformation has been shown to improve performance through various mechanisms, including expanded market access and operational efficiency. However, studies also identify that the adoption of green technologies may have a negative short-term effect on financial performance due to high initial costs and integration challenges, highlighting the complex trade-off between environmental innovation and profitability among SMEs in emerging markets.

2.4. Theoretical Foundation

The Resource-Based View (RBV) considers digital AIS as a strategic resource that can provide SMEs with sustainable competitive advantage (Inayah & Susliyanti, 2025). This theory emphasizes the importance of technological capabilities as unique assets that are difficult for competitors to imitate. Research confirms that cloud-based accounting systems function as strategic assets when supported by organizational digital readiness, consistent with the RBV perspective on valuable, rare, and inimitable resources. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) explains digital AIS adoption through perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Empirical studies indicate that technological experience and perceived usefulness significantly influence adoption readiness, whereas digital literacy and perceived ease of use do not show significant effects in certain SME contexts. These findings underline the critical role of direct technological experience and belief in practical benefits as key drivers of adoption. The Technology-Organization-Environment (TOE) Framework provides a comprehensive framework for understanding technology adoption within organizations. This framework integrates technological factors, such as perceived usefulness; organizational factors, such as top

management support; and environmental factors, such as competitive pressure and government regulation, which significantly influence the adoption of big data analytics and other digital technologies by SMEs.

2.5. Relationship Between AIS Digitalization and Financial Performance

The literature demonstrates a consistently positive relationship between AIS digitalization and SME financial performance. A study using a modified UTAUT2 approach involving 300 SMEs across various industries in Indonesia revealed a statistically significant relationship between AIS and critical financial performance metrics, including revenue growth, cost efficiency, and profitability (Hargiyanto et al., 2025). Accounting digitalization also produces measurable improvements in financial indicators, including increased net profit margins, improved current ratios, and reduced operating costs (Nussy & Litamahuputty, 2025). The mechanism underlying this relationship is explained through improvements in accounting information quality, which facilitate better decision-making. Computerized Accounting Information Systems (CAIS) have a positive influence on accounting information quality, which in turn significantly improves financial performance (Al-Hashimy et al., 2025). Accounting information quality serves as a partial mediator in the relationship between CAIS and financial performance, while top management support strengthens this relationship.

III. Research Method

3.1. Research Design

This study employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach to synthesize empirical evidence regarding the impact of AIS digitalization on the financial performance of SMEs. The SLR approach was selected because it enables the identification, evaluation, and interpretation of all available relevant studies to answer the research questions comprehensively and with minimal bias. This approach integrates findings from various studies to provide a holistic overview of the research topic.

3.2. Review Protocol

This review follows the PRISMA 2020 guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) to ensure transparency and reproducibility. The PRISMA protocol provides a structured framework for reporting each stage of the review process, from literature identification to the synthesis of findings, thereby ensuring high-quality standards in conducting the SLR.

3.3. Literature Search Strategy

The literature search was conducted using four major academic databases: Scopus (n = 624 records), Web of Science (n = 412 records), ScienceDirect (n = 387 records), and Google Scholar (n = 424 records). Additional searches were conducted through citation searching (n = 67 records), reference checking (n = 42 records), and grey literature searching (n = 18 records).

3.4. Search Keywords

The search string was developed using a combination of Boolean operators with the following main keywords: ("Accounting Information System" OR "AIS" OR "Digital Accounting" OR "Cloud Accounting") AND ("Digitalization" OR "Digital Transformation" OR "Technology Adoption") AND ("SME" OR "MSME" OR "Small Medium Enterprise" OR "UKM" OR "UMKM") AND ("Financial Performance" OR "Business Performance" OR "Profitability")

3.5. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria consisted of peer-reviewed articles published between 2021 and 2026, studies focusing on AIS digitalization or digital accounting transformation, studies conducted in the SME/MSME context, empirical studies using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods approaches, articles written in English or Indonesian, and studies with full-text availability. The exclusion criteria included articles that did not focus on AIS or digitalization (n = 67), studies outside the SME context (n = 48), non-empirical or purely conceptual studies (n = 32), studies outside the 2021–2026 publication period (n = 21), and articles written in languages other than English or Indonesian (n = 12).

3.6. Article Selection Stages

The article selection process followed the four stages of PRISMA. From a total of 1,974 identified records, 726 duplicates were removed, resulting in 1,248 records for screening. After title and abstract screening, 1,026 records were excluded, leaving 222 articles for full-text eligibility assessment. A total of 180 articles were excluded based on the established criteria, resulting in 42 studies included in the final review.

3.7. Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis was conducted using three integrated approaches.

- a. Simple bibliometric analysis was used to map publication characteristics, including year distribution, country of study, research methods used, and publication journals.
- b. Thematic analysis was conducted to identify the main themes emerging from the literature related to the impact of AIS digitalization, supporting factors, and barriers to implementation.
- c. Content analysis was employed to extract and synthesize specific findings regarding the relationships among research variables in order to develop an integrative conceptual model.

IV. Results and Discussion

4.1. Characteristics of Selected Articles

Table 1. Characteristics of Selected Articles

Characteristic	Category	Number (n = 42)	Percentage
Publication Year	2021	4	9.5%
	2022	5	11.9%
	2023	7	16.7%
	2024	9	21.4%
	2025	12	28.6%
	2026 (Jan–Apr)	5	11.9%
Country of Study	Indonesia	19	45.2%
	China	5	11.9%
	Vietnam	3	7.1%
	Malaysia	3	7.1%
	UAE/GCC	3	7.1%
	Nigeria	2	4.8%
	Others	7	16.7%
Research Method	Quantitative (SEM-PLS)	26	61.9%
	Qualitative	6	14.3%
	Mixed Methods	5	11.9%

	SLR/Bibliometric	5	11.9%
Sample Size	< 100	8	19.0%
	100–200	15	35.7%
	201–400	12	28.6%
	> 400	7	16.7%

4.2. The Impact of AIS Digitalization on Financial Performance

a. Operational Efficiency

Consistent findings indicate that the implementation of digital accounting systems in SMEs significantly improves operational efficiency, particularly by reducing the time required to process financial transactions and minimizing errors in manual recording (Rahayu & Hidayat, 2025). Studies on SMEs in Indonesia reveal that the implementation of accounting software and automated recording is closely associated with faster report preparation, improved data accuracy, and reduced operational costs. Accounting digitalization results in a significant improvement in transaction recording efficiency, with digital technology accelerating the distribution of accounting information and potentially reducing fraud risk by up to 85 percent (Aulia et al., 2026).

b. Financial Reporting Accuracy

Digital transformation has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting accuracy, with a path coefficient of 0.318 (Riesmiyantiningtias & Hidayat, 2026). Efficiency was also found to mediate the effect of digital transformation on reporting accuracy. This finding confirms the important role of digital transformation in improving the overall quality of financial information. Cloud-based accounting systems, supported by top management, positively influence AIS effectiveness, which in turn improves the quality of financial information and affects the usefulness of financial information in decision-making (Michael et al., 2025).

c. Internal Control

AIS digitalization strengthens internal control mechanisms through process automation and digital audit trails. Research shows that blockchain technology can revolutionize accounting processes and improve transparency (Chen, 2025). AIS adoption significantly enhances financial transparency by improving the accessibility, accuracy, and timeliness of information, while simultaneously strengthening corporate governance structures through improved accountability and decision-making processes (Hasbi, 2025).

d. Decision-Making

AI-based accounting systems and the quality of financial reporting have a significant positive effect on cost information quality and decision-making efficiency. Cost information quality demonstrates a strong mediating effect, reinforcing the view that reliable cost information serves as a critical mechanism linking technology adoption and information quality with managerial decision performance. The findings suggest that SMEs with higher levels of AI adoption and superior reporting quality can achieve better cost accuracy, faster decision cycles, and stronger managerial confidence.

e. Profitability and Business Growth

Comprehensive studies show a statistically significant relationship between the use of digital accounting and improvements in profitability, cost effectiveness, and transparency (Sadri, 2025). Digital transformation significantly enhances profitability, operational efficiency, and growth capability (Hu, 2025). These effects arise not only from direct investment in digital technology but also from indirect factors such as information system maturity and employees' digital skills, which help firms utilize resources more effectively and improve business processes.

Table 2. Synthesis of the Impact of AIS Digitalization on Financial Performance

Performance Dimension	Indicator	Main Finding	Study Support
Operational Efficiency	Processing time, error reduction	Significant positive (+)	18 studies
Reporting Accuracy	Financial information quality	Significant positive (+)	15 studies
Internal Control	Audit trail, transparency	Significant positive (+)	12 studies
Decision-Making	Speed, decision quality	Significant positive (+)	14 studies
Profitability	ROA, profit margin	Significant positive (+)	16 studies
Revenue Growth	Revenue growth	Significant positive (+)	13 studies

4.3. Supporting Factors for Implementation

a. Human Resource Competence and Digital Literacy

Digital literacy has a significant influence on sustainable business practices. Studies show that digital literacy significantly affects sustainable business practices. This finding emphasizes the importance of value-based digital literacy programs in fostering trust, ethics, and sustainability in SME digital transformation. Digital entrepreneurship and digital literacy have positive and significant effects on SME performance (Muhtadin et al., 2026). Both variables significantly influence digital technology adoption, which in turn has a strong positive impact on business performance. Among these variables, digital literacy shows a stronger influence on technology adoption, highlighting the importance of digital skills in driving digital transformation.

b. Management Support

Top management support strengthens the relationship between CAIS and accounting information quality, as well as the relationship between accounting information quality and financial performance, confirming the strategic importance of management support (Al-Hashimy et al., 2025). Research also shows that top management support is one of the organizational factors that significantly influences the adoption of big data analytics among SMEs.

c. Technological Infrastructure

Digital readiness significantly moderates the relationship between the use of cloud-based accounting systems and financial performance outcomes (Inayah & Susliyanti, 2025). Firms with adequate technological infrastructure are able to maximize the benefits of digital system adoption. Digital transformation capability fully mediates the relationship in technology-intensive subsectors (Hidayat et al., 2026).

d. Government Support and Regulation

Government support plays a significant role in shaping fintech adoption (Irawan et al., 2026). Financial literacy, government support, trust, perceived usefulness, and perceived ease of use significantly shape fintech adoption, while user innovation does not show a direct relationship. The findings highlight the importance of coordinated government policies and financial literacy initiatives in promoting fintech-based sustainability among SMEs.

4.4. Barriers to Implementation

a. Investment Costs

Although AIS implementation has clear benefits, the analysis identifies inherent limitations such as a lack of technical expertise and high costs (Hargiyanto et al., 2025). Small businesses face various challenges during transformation, including technological and resource constraints, organizational and cultural barriers, and integration problems (Chen, 2025). High implementation costs remain a major barrier for SMEs with limited resources.

b. Human Resource Limitations and Technical Skills

Common challenges such as poor internet connectivity, limited technical skills, and resistance to change are also identified as barriers to successful implementation (Nussy & Litamahuputty, 2025). The skills gap among accounting personnel represents a significant challenge that hinders technology adoption among SMEs. Systematic studies reveal that the accounting profession remains constrained by regulatory inertia, skills gaps, limited technological infrastructure, and weak professional enforcement mechanisms.

c. Resistance to Change

Organizational barriers, including resistance to adopting new systems, have been noted in various contexts (Almarri et al., 2025). Research on AIS adaptation in the UAE aviation industry identifies limited employee competence and resistance to adopting new systems as major challenges. This resistance is often rooted in fear of changing work roles and a lack of understanding of the benefits of new systems.

d. Data Security

Although cloud-based systems offer many benefits, studies also highlight cybersecurity threats, vendor lock-in risks, and regulatory compliance challenges. The findings suggest the existence of a transparency-risk paradox that depends on technological readiness and organizational governance. Overall, the benefits of transparency appear to dominate, but their effectiveness requires stronger security controls and adequate digital governance.

Table 3. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in AIS Digitalization Implementation

Category	Supporting Factors	Inhibiting Factors
Human Resources	Technical competence, digital literacy, continuous training	Limited skills, resistance to change, lack of training
Organization	Management support, innovation culture, digital readiness	Rigid organizational structure, lack of leadership commitment
Technology	Adequate infrastructure, system integration, cloud accessibility	High investment costs, integration complexity, data security
Environment	Government support, conducive regulation, fintech ecosystem	Limited national infrastructure, regulatory uncertainty

4.5. Synthesis of Research Findings

The literature synthesis reveals a strong consensus regarding the positive impact of AIS digitalization on SME financial performance. Of the 42 studies reviewed, 38 studies (90.5%) reported a significant positive relationship between digital AIS adoption and at least one dimension of financial performance. The main mechanisms identified include improvements in accounting information quality, operational process efficiency, strengthened internal control, and support for data-driven decision-making. The critical factors influencing implementation success can be categorized within the TOE framework. Technological factors include system usefulness and ease of use; organizational factors include management support, human resource competence, and digital readiness; while environmental factors include government support, competitive pressure, and national digital infrastructure.

4.6. Discussion

a. Interpretation of Main Findings

The main findings of this review confirm that AIS digitalization has a substantial and consistent positive impact on SME financial performance. This result is consistent with the growing literature on digital

transformation in the SME sector (Nurachmad et al., 2025). The adoption of digital-based management information systems has a statistically significant positive effect on all dimensions of SME performance, including financial, operational, market, and innovation performance. Among these dimensions, operational performance shows the strongest relationship, highlighting the role of digital AIS in improving process efficiency and operational control. The magnitude of the impact of AIS digitalization varies depending on the implementation context. Firms with higher levels of digital maturity experience stronger financial gains, emphasizing the role of internal readiness in maximizing the benefits of digital tools (Nussy & Litamahuputty, 2025). This finding suggests that accounting digitalization can function as a strategic recovery mechanism for SMEs, provided that adequate digital infrastructure and training support are available.

b. Alignment with Theory

The findings of this review strongly support the Resource-Based View perspective that digital AIS represents a strategic resource capable of generating competitive advantage (Inayah & Susliyanti, 2025). The results show that digital tools function as strategic assets, consistent with theoretical models such as the Technology-Organization-Environment (TOE) framework and the Resource-Based View (RBV). Normatively, the findings support the direction of global policies advocating digital transformation among SMEs as a pathway toward greater transparency, competitiveness, and inclusion in the formal economy. The integration of the TAM and TOE frameworks has proven effective in explaining digital AIS adoption. Anchored in the Technology-Organization-Environment (TOE) Framework, Innovation Diffusion Theory (IDT), Decision Usefulness Theory (DUT), and Resource-Based View (RBV), the reviewed studies show that the synergy between AI-based accounting systems and financial reporting quality significantly improves decision-making efficiency through enhanced cost information quality.

c. Implications for Indonesian SMEs

The Indonesian context presents unique challenges and opportunities in AIS digitalization. The average level of financial literacy among Indonesian SME actors is only 38%, leading to poor financial management and limited access to formal financing (Idrus & Rastina, 2025). On the other hand, only 16% of SMEs have integrated digital technology into their operations, although those that have done so report a significant improvement in operational efficiency of 40% and an increase in profitability of 23% (Idrus & Rastina, 2025). These findings imply that digital AIS adoption can serve as a transformation catalyst for the Indonesian SME ecosystem. Practical implications for Indonesian SMEs include the need for structured digital literacy programs and consistent government support. The government can facilitate the transition through tax incentives for technology adoption, subsidies for human resource training, and regulatory frameworks that support data security. Collaboration among technology providers, SME associations, and financial institutions can create an ecosystem that enables the dissemination of best practices and access to affordable technological solutions.

d. Implications for Accounting Information System Development

The results of this review indicate that accounting information system developers need to design solutions by considering the varying levels of technical capability among SME users. Systems should balance advanced features with intuitive and easily adopted interfaces. The integration of AI-based automation and real-time analytics into AIS can improve the quality of financial reporting and support strategic decision-making. AIS development for SMEs also requires attention to system scalability and flexibility. Cloud-based and modular solutions can enable SMEs to start with basic features and expand according to business growth. Continuous technical support, user training, and active user communities are critical elements in the successful implementation of digital AIS.

e. Conceptual Model Based on Literature Synthesis

The literature synthesis produces a conceptual model that integrates theoretical perspectives with empirical findings in AIS digitalization for SMEs. This model shows that SME financial performance is

determined by the dynamic interaction among three main dimensions: the technological dimension, including system capability, data integration, and process automation; the organizational dimension, including human resource competence, management support, and digital culture; and the environmental dimension, including regulation, competition, and access to technical support. Each dimension has a significant influence on financial information quality and decision-making effectiveness, which in turn improves profitability, operational efficiency, and business growth (Inayah & Susliyanti, 2025). This model provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the complexity of digital AIS implementation and identifying the most effective areas of intervention to support successful digital transformation in SMEs.

V. Conclusion

The main findings indicate that the digitalization of Accounting Information Systems has a significant positive impact on SME financial performance, particularly in improving operational efficiency, financial reporting accuracy, and decision-making quality (Inayah & Susliyanti, 2025). However, successful implementation is highly dependent on organizational readiness, human resource competence, and the availability of adequate technological infrastructure (Idrus & Rastina, 2025). The theoretical contribution of this review lies in the integration of a conceptual framework that combines the Resource-Based View, Technology Acceptance Model, and Technology-Organization-Environment Framework within the specific context of AIS digitalization in SMEs. The practical contribution includes the identification of critical success factors for implementation and strategic recommendations for SMEs, technology developers, and policymakers. The policy contribution emphasizes the need for coordinated government support to facilitate digital transition in the Indonesian SME sector. The findings of this review provide practical guidance for SMEs in designing a holistic digitalization strategy, including investment in human resource training, the selection of technological solutions that align with specific business needs, and the development of an organizational culture that supports digital innovation. For information system developers, these findings emphasize the importance of designing AIS that are user-friendly, scalable, and integrated with other business solutions. For governments and supporting institutions, this review highlights the need for structured support programs, fiscal incentives, and regulatory frameworks that are conducive to the adoption of digital technology.

The limitations of this review include its geographical focus, which is largely based on studies conducted in developing countries with economic contexts that differ from Indonesia; therefore, the generalization of findings should be made with caution. The methodological heterogeneity of the reviewed studies, including variations in the operational definitions of variables, financial performance measurements, and study periods, makes the synthesis of findings complex. In addition, most of the analyzed studies used cross-sectional designs, meaning that the long-term impact and causality of digitalization on financial performance still require further investigation using longitudinal research designs (Nussy & Litamahuputty, 2025). Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that track the evolution of digital AIS implementation and its impact on SME financial performance over the long term (Nussy & Litamahuputty, 2025). In-depth qualitative research is needed to understand organizational change mechanisms, implementation barriers, and adaptation strategies developed by SMEs within the specific Indonesian context. Furthermore, further investigation into the role of emerging technologies, such as blockchain, IoT, and advanced analytics, in improving the transparency and reliability of SME financial reporting should become a priority. Finally, cross-country and cross-industry comparative studies can provide richer insights into the contextual factors that influence the success of AIS digitalization in SMEs across different settings

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