

**THE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF XBRL AMONG  
ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE LECTURERS IN UNIVERSITI UTARA  
MALAYSIA (UUM)**

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**THE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF XBRL AMONG  
ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE LECTURERS IN UNIVERSITI UTARA  
MALAYSIA**

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Universiti Utara Malaysia

By

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I certify that the substance of this thesis has not been already been submitted to any degree and is not currently being submitted for and other degree qualification.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis and all sources used have been acknowledged in this thesis.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ACCA	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
AIS	Accounting Information Systems
CFA	Chartered Financial Analyst
CMA	Certified Management Accountant
CPA	Certified Public Accountant
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
IT	Information Technology
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MIA	Malaysian Institute of Accountants
SSM	Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia
UUM	Universiti Utara Malaysia
XBRL	Extensible Business Reporting Language
XML	Extensible Markup Language

## **Abstract**

Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) is an important new technology for the electronic communication of business and financial data. XBRL will be more important in the future because of the many advantages it offers. Academic and professional researchers are getting more interested to investigate issue relating to XBRL. However, research results from South Africa, Australia and the USA showed unacceptably low levels of awareness and understanding of XBRL among practitioners. This study examined the levels of awareness and understanding of XBRL among accounting and finance lecturers in Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). Findings from the study indicate a low level of XBRL awareness and understanding among accounting and finance lecturers in UUM. Results from the survey show that, while 75% of respondents said “they have heard” of XBRL, only 27% of them are fully aware of this technology. Despite that, a majority of the respondents acknowledged the fact that it was necessary for them to investigate issues relating to XBRL in the near future.

## **Key words**

Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), lecturers, financial reporting, information technology

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Internet and Information Technology (IT) are playing important role in our business life. Implementing new technologies, using new software, bringing, adopting new innovations to the business is helping companies to make effective business decisions. Using Internet as a tool for communicating corporate information is becoming increasingly popular in companies. These companies are reporting their financial statement through the Internet as information to the various groups of external users and sharing information with them. Nowadays one of the new tools for reporting financial statement through the Internet is Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).

XBRL is an electronic communication of business and financial data language developed to present financial statement on the Internet. The key advantage of this new "language" is that an identifying tag is applied for each individual item of data instead of treating them as a block of text.

Since the financial data is now tagged, it thus can be recognized by the recipient party's computer. Accountants, auditors, regulators and financial analysts use XBRL technology to present financial information in variety of ways in a fraction of a second. This technology eliminates the possibilities of human error during the re-keying of financial data. XBRL also allows flexibility while enhancing transparency and timely dissemination of relevant financial information.

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