Journal of Economics and Business Research,
ISSN: 2068 - 3537, E – ISSN (online) 2069 – 9476, ISSN – L = 2068 – 3537
Year XIX, No. 1, 2013, pp. 219-236

Factors influencing Complexity in Financial Report preparation - Evidence from the Banking Sector in Kenya

A. Mutiso, C. Kamau

Agnes Mutiso, Charles Kamau
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology,
Nairobi, Kenya

Abstract
The current developments in the business environment as well as in the accountancy profession have significantly affected the way the financial reports are prepared. This study sought to assess the factors influencing complexity of preparing financial reports in the banking sector in Kenya. The objectives included assessing whether disclosures, adoption of International financial Reporting Standard, regulations and lack of competence by the preparers have contributed to the complexity of preparing financial statements. Using a descriptive study design, data was collected from ten banks registered in the Nairobi Capital Market. The study found out that the identified variables positively contributed to complications in the preparation of financial reports. Management interference, lack of guidance on interpretations and frequent updates of the standards were identified as the main challenges in preparing financial reports. Several recommendations were given to help simplify the process of preparing financial statements.
Keywords: disclosures, regulations, complexity, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), competence

Introduction

One of the main responsibilities of management is to prepare financial reports which show the true and fair view of the company affairs and which are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework. The purpose of management reporting is to inform the users of the financial information about the financial performance, financial position as well as the sources and uses of funds within a given period of time, so as to assist them in making informed economic decisions. Due to the increasing number of corporate scandals, it is evident that the financial reports have not been successful in providing users with information which could shield them from significant losses due to company collapses. The Accounting profession has been in intense scrutiny by regulators, investors and the general public, with the profession the regulators - both global and local - have taken significant measures in order to make the financial statement more relevant and reliable to the users. Such measures include increased regulation, new and changed accounting standards and increased disclosure requirements. While additional guidance and disclosure is often beneficial to the preparation and understanding of the elements within a company's financial statement, the current state of corporate reporting has become too long, detailed and extremely complex, as the preparers purpose to comply with the increasing demands of the regulatory framework of the standard setters

Complexity has been defined in different ways depending on the different stakeholders. The Advisory Committee on Improvements to Financial Reporting (CIFiR) defined complexity as the difficulty of the preparers to properly apply the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and communicate the economic substance of a transaction or event and the overall financial position and results of a company. This definition is adopted for this study because it focuses on the preparers of the financial reports. The wave of globalization which was experienced in the 21st century has seen Africa being the trade target of many developed countries. This has increased inter-global transactions which demanded the need for a reporting framework that can portray the results of operations from all the countries where the global company has interest. This has led to the need for uniformity in financial reporting hence the advent of IFRSs. Madawaki (2012) identified that adoption of IFRS in developing countries has particular benefits which include increased quality of financial reports, attracting foreign direct investment, reduction in the cost of doing business, increased cross border listing as well as making information more comparable thereby enhancing evaluation and analysis by global users. Despite of all these, benefits adoption of IFRS increased the demands for more and high quality information. This has led to the regulators increasing the requirements for the preparation of financial reports with an attempt to achieve the goal of providing the much needed quality information hence extra efforts are required from the preparers.

In Kenya, the institute of certified public accountants of Kenya decided to adopt the international accountancy standards (IAS) later known as IFRS (1999). Such a decision meant that the companies prepare their financial statements in accordance with the requirements of IFRSs. Adoption of these new standards meant that they had to comply with regulatory requirement, disclosure requirements and adoption of new standards which are as dynamic as the business environment. The United Nations Conference on Trade and development carried out a review of practical implementation issues of IFRSs in Kenya (2006). The results of their study shows that the level of compliance was very low indicating that the preparers were facing challenges in implementing the new requirements. Despite of all these complexities in the field of financial accounting there is need for the financial report to remain relevant and achieve their primary goal of providing user with information that is useful for making their resource allocation decisions and assessing management's stewardship. Thus this research is aimed at assessing the factors contributing to the complexity of preparing financial reports in Kenya.

Statement of the problem

Complexity of financial statements has become a critical issue not only in developing countries, but also in developed countries due to the dynamics of the complex business environment. According to Grant (2007-2008), 70% of CEO's felt that the financial reports have become too complex for common investors to understand them. Transparency of financial information is a key concept in accountability for good corporate governance. The financial reports are seen as the eye through which stakeholders can see the acts of management and be able to assess their accountability for the company affairs. The financial statements need to be detailed enough to help users in analyzing and evaluating the results of the company's performance as well as financial position so as to make informed economic decisions. On the other hand, they need to be as simple as possible so that the users can be able to understand them in order to rely on them for their decisions.

The preparation of the financial reports is guided by the requirements of the regulatory frameworks being used in the country. In Kenya, The Institute of Certified Public Accountants (ICPAK) is responsible for the oversight of the accountancy profession. After the adoption of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) in 1999 as a requirement of ICPAK, all entities in Kenya are required to comply with the requirements, in the preparation of their financial reports, with an exemption of small and medium enterprises (UNCTD, 2006). In an attempt to comply with the requirements of the international standards, the financial reports have grown both in volume and complexity, due to the increased disclosure requirement, strict regulation and complex standards, while the competence of the preparers may not be improving at the same rate. Thus, there is need to identify the specific factors influencing complexity of preparing financial reports and give recommendation on the way forward in order to make the process more simpler and effective.

Objectives and research questions

Generally, this study is aimed at identifying the factors influencing complexity of financial reporting; specifically the study was aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To identify whether increased disclosure requirement has any significant effect on complexity of financial reports preparation
2. To identify whether adoption of international accounting standards have complicated the preparation of financial reports
3. To assess whether increased regulations have any effect on complexity of financial report preparation
4. To examine whether competence of the accountants has any significant effect on complexity of financial reports preparation
5. To identify other causes of complexity in the preparation of financial reports.

Hypotheses of the study

The study tested the following Null hypotheses

1. Increased disclosure requirement has no significant effect on the complexity of preparing financial reports

2. Adoption of IFRSs has no significant effect on complexity of preparing financial reports
3. The regulations have no significant effect on complexity of preparing financial reports
4. The competence of the accountants has no significant effect on complexity of preparing financial reports.

Significance of the study

Complexity of financial reports has become a critical issue in business discussion among the accounting professional. A lot is expected to be done in an effort to simplify the financial report for them to continue being relevant. This study is expected to contribute greatly on the issue of complexity of financial reporting in Kenya and the world, in general. It is expected to provide literature from Kenyan perspective on the factors influencing complexity of financial reporting. This will assist the regulators in their struggle of making financial reporting more simplified and relevant for the users. It will also assist AICPAK to understand the challenges faced by accountants hence provide a basis for training materials. It will also assist the regulators in identifying the gap between theory and practice hence improve on their professional training curriculum.

Scope of the study

This study is aimed at assessing the factors influencing complexity of financial reporting in Kenya. It is focused on banks listed in Nairobi stock exchange in Kenya because they are expected to comply with the requirements of IFRSs by the regulatory bodies.

Limitation of the study

This study was focused on only banking sector specifically on those banks which are listed on the Nairobi Stock Market by the end of 2011. Thus it does not include those other banks which are not listed. It also focused to obtain data only from those who participate in the preparation of the financial reports.

Literature review

Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature related to complexity of financial reporting with the aim of identifying the existing gaps on the field of financial reporting from previous studies. The concept of complexity of financial reporting has gained relevance over the last few years. Several studies have been carried out on the relevance of financial reporting with the majority targeting on the quality of financial information, (Barth & Schipper 2008, FASB 2008, Leuz & Wysocki 2008). Other studies have specifically focused on complexity of financial reporting, Grant (2008) carried out a survey on chief finance officers and identified that 70% of them thought that the financial statements were too complex to be used by an average investor. ACCA carried out a survey on the same complexity of financial reporting brought about by complex business environment and identified the specific standards which are considered by the preparers of the financial reports as complex.

Complexity brought about by Disclosures

Due to the adoption of IFRS, there is an increased requirement on disclosures with the aim of making the financial statements more understandable. While additional guidance and disclosure is often beneficial to preparing and understanding of the elements within the company's financial statement, the increased disclosure requirements add to the volume of the annual reports which lead to high risks of errors and compliance failure. A survey carried out by KPMG on Disclosure overload and complexity identified that disclosure by 25 fortune 100 companies expanded by 16% during the 6 years under review while the footnotes disclosures grew by 28% over the same period. In their conclusion, increased disclosure was identified as a key factor leading to complexity in financial reporting.

The aim of disclosures is to make the financial statements more complete, clear and concise so that users are able to understand and rely on them in making decisions. Due to the complexity of the business environment the preparers of financial reports try to make sure that they add disclosures to make the financial statements more understandable and simpler for the stakeholders, in the process of simplifying the reports the volume of the disclosures has increased significantly raising a question of whether these disclosures actually add or reduce value of the reports. Dagiliene (2009) identified that the adoption of IFRS allows for a piece meal approach to disclosures which has led to continuously expanding volume of disclosure notes in the financial reports. In addition, the move to the use fair value accounting has led to increased disclosures because of the need to disclose all valuation assumptions related to the use of fair value accounting. The preparers of the financial statements are required to comply with the IFRS disclosure requirement. These disclosure requirements are based on professional judgment of the preparers to determine the extent of the disclosures, because the accounting standards only provide guidance to the minimum disclosure requirement (Miller, 2010). The accounting profession has not provided any professional judgment framework which can assist the preparers in the use of judgment in a more consistent manner, leaving the preparers with no proper basis of determining how much of the disclosures should be enough to allow understandability of the financial reports.

Complexity caused by international financial reporting standard

The quality of accounting information is affected by many factors among which accounting standards have been identified as an important factor. The quality of accounting standards influences the users' perception of the financial information (Khanagha, 2011). Although, adoption of IFRS has been associated with particular benefits; there is evidence that at times those benefits may not be realized by companies (Barth 2008, Miller 2010, Chen, Tang, Jian and Lin 2010). A study carried out by Outa (2012) in Kenya concluded that adoption of IFRS is not consistent with the benefits promised by international Accounting Standard Board. According to the CIFiR report, complexity in financial reporting includes unnecessary difficulties imposed by a financial reporting regime that creates uncertainty in identifying, interpreting and applying the relevant IFRSs. The international standard setters design the standards based on the developed countries which have different operating environments, which makes their applicability too difficult for implementers in developing countries which are characterized by undeveloped regulatory systems to enforce the use of global standards. A common concern in research literature is that these accounting standards are too complex in structure to be understood by the most preparers of financial reports.

Complexity brought about by the professional regulation

Due to the global scandals, the regulatory bodies have embarked on constant assessment on how they can make the financial reporting more reliable and relevant to the users, as well as the preparers.

According to Glassman (2006), the regulators in their role as standard setters have issued more than 200 new documents in the form of emerging issues task force (EIFT), consensuses, accounting standards, staff accounting bulletin and financial reporting releases as well as interpretive guidance in letters and speeches. All these new documents come with new requirements which are expected to be complied with by the preparers of the financial statements. According to Miller (2010), some users and preparers of financial information argue that over time, financial reporting has become a burdensome compliance exercise with decreasing relevance to investors. Similar reactions were echoed by Hassan (2008), who assessed the impact of market regulation on the usefulness of financial information. His conclusion was that the regulators have made financial reporting too complex both the preparers and users in Asia.

Competence of the preparers of financial reports

Due to the changes of the business environment the aspect of financial reporting has not been left behind. The regulatory frameworks have changed thus requiring similar change to occur in the way financial reports are prepared. The adoption of IFRS requires that the preparers report the economic substance of transactions rather than their legal basis. This requires the accountants to be able to analyses the economic substance of a business events consistent with current definitions of the elements of the financial statements. A general short coming cited by CIFIR is that the accounting education for both graduate and undergraduate programs has traditionally concentrated on the understanding of mechanics and rules rather than the full understanding of relevant principles. Hence, it is importance for the preparers to continuously update their knowledge in line with current developments in the business environment. A study carried out in Kenya by the United Nations identified that majority of the Kenyan accountants complete the required KASNEB exams but do not register for membership yet it is through the members where ICPAK provides the current guidance pertaining new standards. This implies that most of the preparers do not have up to date information concerning developments in the profession (Outa, 2011). This implies that the preparers have knowledge short fall which may affect the accuracy of the reports hence making the preparation a cumbersome exercise for them.

Theoretical framework

This study is based on the Agency theory. The theory models the relationship between the principal and the agent. An agency relationship arises whenever one or more individuals, called principals, hire one or more other individuals, called agents, to perform some service on behalf of the agent (Jensen and Mecling, 1976). In a company setting the shareholders are the principals who are the owners of resources while the management is the agent to whom the responsibility of controlling the resources has been delegated. It is important for the managers to give accountability on how they have carried out their stewardship responsibility. These calls for the need to communicate to the shareholders in a clear, precise and simple manner in which the shareholders who may not be competent in the technical language of business can understand. If the reporting exercise becomes too complex there is likelihood that the reports prepared will not be understood by the shareholders hence the need to reduce complexity in whatever form from the financial reports so as to enhance the communication between the principle and the agent.

Conceptual framework

A conceptual framework is a visual or written representation that explains graphically or in narrative form the main factors, concepts and variables and their presumed relationships among them (Maxwell, 2005). It shows the independent and the dependent variables used in the study and how they relate to each other. The variable that the researcher wishes to explain is the dependent variable while the variables that causes changes or influences the dependent variable are the independent variables. In this study, the dependent variable is the complexity of preparing financial reports while the independent variables are the increased disclosure requirements, adoption of international financial reporting, increased regulations and competence of accountants.

Methodology

Research Design

This research seeks to assess the factors that influence complexity of preparing financial reports with key emphasis on listed banks in Kenya. The influencing factors which have been identified from an in depth study of literature are transformed into measurable figures so as to assess whether there is any significant relationship between the independent variables and complexity of preparing financial report. Thus, this study uses the quantitative study design. According to Hopkins (2008) quantitative research designs are used when in quantitative research the aim is to determine the relationship between one thing (an independent variable) and another (a dependent or outcome variable) in a population. Quantitative designs are of two types, descriptive where the subjects are measured once and experimental where the subjects are measured before and after the experiment. In this study the aim is to test whether the identified factors have contributed to financial reporting complexity and such it adopts the descriptive design.

Target Population and Sample

The purpose of this study is to identify the factors that influence the complexity of financial reports among the banks listed in Nairobi Capital market. In this study, complexity is assessed from the preparers perspective thus it focused to get information from those involved in the financial reporting roles in the level of Assistant accountants, Accountants, Senior Accountants, chief finance officers and Chief Executive Officers who are working in the banking sector. The choice for the banking sector is that they deal with financial instruments which have been identified from literature as the most complex area of preparing financial statements (Aswath, 2006). 40 questionnaires were randomly distributed among the 10 banks listed in Nairobi Capital Market; out of these 32 were replied implying 80% response rate.

Data collection methods

Primary data was collected by means of a structured questionnaire directed to the preparers of financial reports. The questionnaires were administered personally to minimize non-response. The questionnaires had two sections, Section A included the personal profile of the respondents, while section B included general questions which were based on the research objectives. Section B included both - open and closed ended questions - which were based on a five point Linkert scale. A pilot study was conducted at one bank to test the validity of the instrument. Cronbach's Alpha (α) which is an instrument among others was used to determine the coefficient of reliability using the following formula;

α= k/k-1 * (1-$\sum S_I$ /S^2)
α =5/ 5-1 * (1- 0.324198/ 0.762056) = 71.82%

According to Kline (1999), a rule of thumb in using Cronbach's Alpha indicates that a coefficient of between 70% and 80% is acceptable. The researcher therefore concluded that the data collected using the questionnaire was statistically suitable based on the above results.

Research Model

The research had one dependent variable (complexity) and four independent variables which included adoption of IFRS, disclosures, regulation and competence. The study adopted a simple regression model based on the dependent variable and IFRS which was expected to have significant influence on complexity. The other independent variables were eliminated in model to control the effect of multicolliniarity. The model was specified as follows:

$C = a + b_1 * F + e$

where,

C - Complexity

F - IFRS

E - Error term

a & b_1 - regression coefficients

Thus from the regression table results the model can be expanded to

C = 1.64 + 0.63* F + e

If F has the highest value of (5) in the scale then C= 1.64 + 0.63* (5) = 4.79 which implies that preparing financial statement is a very complex exercise. While if F has a low value of 1, C= 1.64 + 0.63 (1) = 2.3 which implied that the process of financial report preparation was not complex.

Data processing and analysis

Data collected was processed using window 07 Excel work sheets as well as descriptive statistics. The filled questionnaires were given numbers 1-32 so as to enhance the quality of the data entry. The filled questionnaires were tabulated using windows Excel data analysis tools. The company profile, the personal profile of the respondents as well as objective five where analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages and frequency counts because they are descriptive in nature.

Regression Analysis

The researcher regressed IFRS on complexity and the following were the results:

Table 1. Regression Statistics

Multiple R	0.631520543
R Square	0.881818196
Adjusted R Square	0.377347417
Standard Error	0.212663495
Observations	30

The coefficient of determination (R square) of 0.88 showed that Adoption of IFRS is a strong determinant of complexity in preparing financial statement. This is also explained by the regression results from the ANOVA table, which gives a very low P value of almost zero (0.00018), while the F value of 18.57 is high.

Table 2. ANOVA results

	Df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Significance F*
Regression	1	0.840065	0.840065	18.57493	0.000182165
Residual	28	1.266321	0.045226		
Total	29	2.106387			

Hypothesis testing

The researcher used the correlation analysis to test hypothesis. Since the sample size used in analysis was 32, normal probability distribution statistic was used in the analysis. All the data were analyzed at a significant level of (alpha) $\alpha = 0.05$. For all the four hypotheses the decision criteria was as follows.

The null hypothesis (H_0) was rejected for observed z values which were greater than |1.96|.

Hypothesis one

The Null hypothesis stated that Increased disclosure requirement has no significant effect on complexity of preparing financial report ($H_{0:}$ $Y_{comp,}$ dis= 0). The observed Z value for disclosure was (32.38) greater than

1.96 the null hypothesis ($H_{o)}$ was rejected and the Alternative hypothesis (H_1) was accepted. Thus the researcher concluded that the increased disclosure requirement complicated the preparation of financial reports.

Hypothesis two

The second null hypothesis stated that adoption of IFRSs has no significant effect on complexity of preparing financial reports. (H_o: $Y_{comp,}$ ifrs = 0). The observed Z value was 21.05 which is greater than 1.96 hence the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative (H_1) was accepted. The researcher concluded that adoption of IFRS has complicated the preparation of financial reports.

Hypothesis three

The third hypothesis stated that increased regulations have no significant effect on complexity of preparation of financial reports ($H_{o:}$ Ycomp, reg = 0). The observed Z value was 30.0 which is greater than 1.96 thus the null hypothesis that increased regulations has no significant effect on complexity of financial reporting was rejected hence the alternative was true thus accepted. The researcher concluded that increased regulations have increased the complexity of preparing financial reports.

Hypothesis four

The fourth hypothesis stated that the competence of the accountants has no significant effect on complexity of preparing financial reports. (H_o: Ycomp, com= 0). The observed Z value was 31.39 which are greater than the critical value (1.96) hence the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative was accepted. The researcher concluded that the level of competence of the preparer has a significant effect on the complexity of preparing financial reports.

Research findings and discussions

The researcher identified that the variables under study had significantly affected the complexity of preparing financial reports. The disclosure requirement measure by the increased number of pages, completeness and difficulty in preparing have been proved to add to the difficulties experienced in preparing financial statement. The number of pages on average of the annual report was 178, with the majority of respondents (75%) indicating that they experienced difficulties in determining which disclosures are relevant to be included in the financial reports. 69% of the responded felt that the disclosures were too many which increased the time required for preparing the financial reports. This is in line with other studies concerning to volume of disclosures, (Dagiliene, 2009). Another concern which was raised is that some of the managers interfere with the disclosure requirements where they are opposed to full disclosure and want to influence what is disclosed and to what extent it should be disclosed.

Concerning the adoption of IFRSs, 45% of the accountants, 62% of senior accountants, 58% of CEOs and 20% of the assistant accountants felt that the preparation of financial statements using IFRSs has become a very complex exercise due to the complex nature of the standards. The low percentage of the assistant accountant may be due to the limited involvement in the use of IFRS. A general concern was that the standards are difficult to interpret and at times they are not clear as to what extent they should be applied. This is in line with previous studies which questioned the clarity of the standards and their interpretations (Miller, 2010). 43% of the respondents raised concerns that the managers do not appreciate the adoption of IFRS hence they are reluctant to organize trainings or sponsor their accountants to attend seminars organized by ICPAK. Further, this study has identified that the most complex standards are the financial instruments, share based and performance based payments, Provision and taxes especially in banks operating in more than one country and consolidation of overseas branches.

With regard to the effect of regulations, the study has identified that they have a significant relationship with the complexity of preparing financial reports, even though the majority (63%) of respondents said that they receive information concerning the new standards this information is not very clear as to the requirements hence it leads them to seek guidance from the regulatory bodies. This is in conformity with the work of Glassman (2006), who found out that companies follow multiple regulatory bodies which provides overlapping regulations which complicates the preparation of the financial statement. Another concern raised was that the revision to the standards is extremely frequent such that the preparers do not have time to familiarize themselves with the new standards. 48% of the respondent were concerned that they do not receive the updates on the revised standards through formal means instead they get to know of the revisions from peers working in other bank.

Regarding the competence of the preparers, this study has identified that there is a strong positive relationship between the competence level and the complexity of preparing financial reports. The accountants with higher experience and qualification expressed high concerns that preparing financial reports have become very complex. This could be due to the fact that those who are more qualified are given the responsibility of preparing reports using IFRS because they are considered difficult, (45% of the accountants, 62% of senior accountants, 58% of CEOs and 20% of the assistant accountants). Some of the preparers especially those with experience in preparing financial statements for a long period of time expressed concerns that they do not understand some of the standards and hence did not see any value which the new standards have brought to the financial reports. Instead they have expressed concerns that using IFRS with no proper guidelines has increased the probability of errors and manipulation of the financial reports

Conclusions and recommendations

This study was aimed at finding out the factors which determine the complexity in preparing financial reports in the banking sector. It found out that the level of disclosures as measured by the number of pages, completeness and difficult in preparing disclosures has a significant relationship with complexity of preparing financial reports interference from management in determining what to disclose also posed a dilemma for the preparers. It further identified that adoption of IFRSs has complicated the preparation of the financial reports due to difficulty in interpreting and applying the standards as well as lack of clarity in the formulation of the standards. The regulations also were found to contribute significantly to the complexity of preparing financial reports due to unclear information provided on the interpretations, lack of guidance as well as frequent changes to the standards. The competence of the preparer of the reports was raised as an issue which may have made the reporting exercise difficult. This is because the respondents expressed concerns that the training seminars organized by ICPAK are too expensive for individuals to afford hence they fail to develop their skill and knowledge in line with current developments of the profession. Similar concerns were expressed that the education system in the country does not prepare graduates fully for the accounting practice because it is too theoretical and it is not updated in line with the current developments in the accounting profession. Other concerns which were raised as causes of complexity included lack of clear guidance from the profession, lack of participation by the preparers in standard setting process, increased number of standards which makes the standards appear as if they are rule based instead of principle based, a very fast rate in which the standards change and lack of monitoring tools for compliance with the reporting standards.

In conclusion, disclosures, adoption of IFRS, regulations and lack of competence have been identified as some of the factors influencing the complexity of preparing financial reports by the banking sector in Kenya. From the above findings several recommendations have been made

-ICPAK should try and reduce the charges for accounting seminars especially those concerned with use of IFRS to give a chance for all accountants to upgrade their knowledge;

- The accounting curriculum should be amended to incorporate current developments of accounting profession;

- The regulators should be empowered by the company act to monitor compliance with requirements of preparing financial statements

- The companies should take the initiative for developing their accountants by organizing in house training seminars;

-The IASB should continue with the efforts of simplifying the preparation of financial reports.

Future Research

This study focused on the factors influencing complexity of preparing financial statements by banking sector. A similar study can be carried out focusing on other stakeholders to assess whether similar conclusions can be made. It focused on listed companies who are expected to be more qualified to apply IFRS, similar study can be done based on SME to identify whether they share the same perceptions.

Bibliography

Barth, M., Landsman, W., Lang, M. (2007). *International accounting standards and accounting quality,* Journal of Accounting Research (46) pp 467-728

Barth, M. E., Schipper, K. (2008). *Financial reporting transparency:* Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance Vol. 23 (2)

Chalmers, K. Clinch, G., Godfrey, J. M. (2008). Adoption of International financial reporting standards: Impact on the Value

Relevance of Intangible Assets. Australian Accounting review, (18) 237-247

Chen, H. Tang, Q. Jian, Y., Lin, Z. (2010). The role of international financial reporting standards in accounting quality: Evidence from European Union. Journal of international financial management and accounting Vol. 21: (3) 220-278.

FASB. (2008). Financial Accounting series No. 157-100 Exposure draft, Conceptual framework for financial reporting: The objective of financial reporting and qualitative characteristics and constraints of decisions.

Francis, J., Schipper, K. (1999). *Have financial statements lost their relevance?* Journal of Accounting Research. 37 (2) 319-352

Glassman, C. A. (2006). Speech by SEC commissioner: "Complexity in Financial Reporting and Disclosure Regulations". Remarks before 25th annual USC Leventhal School of Accounting SEC and Financial Reporting Institute Conference, June 8, 2006

Grant, T., LLP. Archived press release (2007-2008) available at www.grantthornton.com

Hopkins, W. G. (2008). Research design: choosing and fine tuning a design for your study: AUT University, New Zealand.

Hung, M. Accounting Standards and Value relevance of financial statements: An international Analysis: Journal of Accounting and Economics (30) 401-420.

Jensen, M., Mecling, W. (1976). 'Theory of the firm, managerial behavior, agency costs and ownership structure'. Journal of Financial Economics Vol. 3 pp 305-360

Khanagha, J. B. (2011). International Financial reporting standards and value relevance of accounting information: Evidence from Bahrain and United Emirates stock markets. African Journal of Social Sciences Vol. (1) 101-114

Kline, P. (1999). *The handbook of psychological testing,* 2nd ed. London: Rutledge

Leuz, C., Wysocki, P. (2008). Economic consequences of financial reporting and disclosure regulations: A review and suggestion for future research, working paper series, SSRN-id1113192.

Li, F. (2008). Annual report readability, current earnings and Earning persistent. Journal of Accounting and Economics: 221- 247

Madawaki, A. (2012). Adoption of international financial reporting standards in developing countries: The case of Nigeria.

International journal of Business and Management. 7 (3) 152-162

Maxwell, J. A. (2005). *Qualitative research design: an interactive approach.* California, USA: Sage Publications Inc.

Outa, E. R. (2011). The impact of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) adoption on the accounting quality of listed companies in Kenya. Journal of Accounting and financial reporting. (1) 1 212-241

UNCTD (2006). Review of Practical Implementation Issues of International Financial Reporting Standards: Case study of Kenya. 23rd Session Geneva. TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/33/ADD/5

Yu, H., Zhang, X. (2009). Financial reporting complexity and investors under reaction to 10-K information: Review of Accounting studies, 14: 559-586.