

Accounting Software Skills Mentorship and Business Education Students Employability in Rivers State University

Godpower, Yiraodi Joel

yiraodi.godpower@ust.edu.ng

+2348062760556

Department of Business Education
Faculty of Education, Rivers State University,
Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt

DUSON, Kate Tamakara

kate.duson1@ust.edu.ng

Department of Business Education
Faculty of Education, Rivers State University,
Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt

NMERUKINI, Ogonda Chinwe

chinwe.nmerukini@ust.edu.ng

Department of Business Education
Faculty of Education, Rivers State University,
Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to determine the relationship between accounting software skills mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University. The study adopted correlational design. Two research questions were posed and two corresponding null hypotheses were formulated to guide the conduct of the study. The population of the study comprised of 215 final year students of Business Education in Rivers State University which also formed the sample size. The researcher employed the services of two experts for the validation of the instruments. Reliability level for the instruments was established using a test-retest method. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to analyse the Two sets of questionnaires were developed by the researchers titled Questionnaire on 'accounting software skills mentorship (QASSM) and Questionnaire on 'Business Education students employability in Rivers State University (QBESE). The instrument was test-retest using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) and reliability quotients of 0.71 and 0.82 for the two research questions were obtained. This was done by administering the instrument to 18 final year students of Business Education who were not part of the study sample and population. The instruments were administered to the respondents at their various institutions. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used for answering the research questions testing of the hypotheses at 0.05% level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that there is a positive relationship between QuickBooks and Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers

State University. The researcher recommended that The teaching of accounting software skills should be encouraged to link the gap between theory and practice to give Business Education Students competitive advantage in the labour market and mentorship should be encouraged among students.

Keywords: *Accounting Software Skills, Peachtree, QuickBooks, Mentorship, Business Education Students, Employability.*

Introduction

The field of accounting offers courses that prepare students to constantly meet the demands of the labor market. Godpower (2024) Accountancy Education is a programme of instruction in the Department of Business Education that prepares its graduates to become professional accountants, entrepreneurs and teachers after graduation. Accounting software is one of the most required skills for present day employment as many organizations have moved from the traditional record keeping to digital system (Godpower, 2024). Modern Accounting software has taken over the traditional methods of records keeping in recent times. In line with the modern trend in the field of accounting, Business Education is taking a new shape due to the persistent changes in technological, this calls for Business Educators, Policies makers, Administrators, Managers, Accountants to move alongside with the continuous global trend (Okiridu & Godpower, 2020). Employers of labour of present days look out for graduates that have competency in accounting software skills such as Sage Business Cloud, QuickBooks, Wave and Spread Sheet packages (Umoru, 2020). A curriculum that recommends the use of emerging technologies such as accounting software prepares students for employability because there is an increasing attention being paid to emerging technologies by employers of labour. Accounting software skills is “designed to develop special emphasis on marketable accounting software skills and techniques in fields like accounting, business, secretarial, clerical, stenographic, sales or distributive occupations. Knowledge of accounting software skills is having software skills like QuickBooks, Spread sheet or Excel, Wave, Sage Business Cloud, Zip books, Fresh book and other theoretical accounting knowledge that build graduates with the right attitudes, competencies and knowledge necessary for a successful employment after graduation (Nwokike, 2010; Ekwe & Abuka, 2014). It has been estimated that 90 million of the population of Nigerian youth lack jobs and the lack of jobs is not the problem but the lack of the acquisition of software skills. Some higher institution of “learning does not have accounting software in the curriculum while others that have the accounting software packages in the curriculum fails to teach the practical aspect of the content for immediate employment (Oyesola, 2013). Also, several misconceptions and obstacles are barriers for accountancy graduates to becoming globally minded such as, out-dated accounting curriculum content in some university, absence of software packages in the curriculum needed for graduates employment, lack of information, lack of relevance, limiting scope of international experience, lack of role models, incompetent lecturers, students unaware of study opportunities, lack of career planning within organizations, unaware of work opportunities and not including international experience as an option ” (Jude, 2010). Accountancy Education “Curriculum Content in Botho University consists of six themes that include; financial accounting, cost and management accounting, taxation, audit and assurance, business environment and practical key

skills like QuickBooks, Spread sheet, Sage pastel accounting packages (Machera & Machera, 2021). The professional accountant should have adequate knowledge of various accounting software to identify and post various items in ledgers, which comes under financial statements, and to ensure fairness of financial statement (Mustafa, 2020). The accountant needs “additional knowledge of accounting software and generalized enterprise resource plan (ERP), this will aid the users to record the companies or organisations accounts as required as well as comply with the applicable accounting standards. Therefore, “there is a need to learn how to use specialized accounting software and gain a broad understanding on financial accounting and commercial segments even within an international context. Professional accountant should also have adequate practical experience on the use of generalized accounting software such as Tally, Peachtree and QuickBooks (Okiridu, Godpower & Kire, 2023).

Quick Books is accounting software package used by organizations to process accounting transactions and this software provides the user with the following features: chart of accounts, customised invoices, track accounts payable, track accounts receivable, profit and loss statement, balance sheet and manage cash flows. It can be used by small businesses and medium sized entrepreneurs and provides the Quick Payroll Software which is used in processing employee salaries (Machera & Machera, 2021). Small business owners are usually busy and need accounting software to pay their bills, collect money from customers, track income and expenses.

Peachtree is an accounting application for small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) made by Sage Software. Peachtree enables controllers and managers to automate and manage numerous accounting tasks like reconciling accounts payable and receivable, creating financial statements, check invoices, tracking banking transfers and payroll, importing and manipulating spreadsheets, integrating scanned documents such as checks, receipts and invoices, eliminating paper from the accounting process. Peachtree accounting software was created by Sage Software and it comes in five different versions, there is Pro, Complete, Premium, Quantum, and Accountant version. Peachtree Pro is the base version that has basic functionality and is the cheapest. Peachtree Premium adds additional functionality with advanced budgeting functionality and a few other tools. Peachtree Quantum is what is used at the manufacturing company to take care of our corporate books. Quantum adds more functionality geared more towards accountants and larger businesses

Mentorship is quickly becoming a worldwide and very successful method of human resource development. Many organizations, including schools, businesses, churches, mosques, the health sector, and the political sector, have undergone or are now undergoing substantial upheaval. Because of the high degree of trust and mutually respectful that exists between mentor and mentee, mentoring is an effective tool for businesses to help individuals in attaining their full potential. It is widely accepted that mentoring is a critical component of an organization's capacity-building efforts. The benefits of mentorship according to St-Jean and Audet (2019) include an increase in management knowledge and skills, constructive feedback, inspiring mentee, improved vision for their business venture and identifying new opportunities. Amaewhule (2014) argues that mentorship is a process that helps individuals become more self-reliant by empowering them to make decisions and take responsibility for their own actions. It is possible to learn and explore in a safe environment thanks to mentors who are

willing to help each other analyze their triumphs and failures, as well as their own, in order to find opportunities to learn and gaps in each other's knowledge.

Employability refers to a group of important skills instilled in each individual in order to produce productive workforce. It is also a person's capability for gaining and maintaining employment. Employability is a form of an active adjustment of individuals towards certain occupations until they could identify and recognize existing career opportunities in the work place. It takes a skill for a job seeker to be able to identify opportunities where others could not identify. The responsibility of institutions of higher learning is to always conduct critical review before deciding the requirements for any course content so as to prepare students for employability after graduation. Employability is concern with developing graduates with the required competencies and skills to be able to use various accounting software when employed in organization (Akpomi & Ikpsu, 2020). Employability incorporates the dual aspects of supply and demand of labour to show that advancing one's position in the labour market by gaining credentials is partially dependent on structural factors outside the individual's control (Imeokparia, & Ediagbonya, 2018).

Statement of the Problem

Business Education is meant to produce competent, skilful and dynamic individuals such as accountants, auditors, administrators and consultants. Graduates who do not acquire the adequate accounting software skills required for gainful employment will keep roaming the streets in search of white collar jobs. Business Education graduates without adequate skills especially accounting software skills, which is a thing of great concern to employers of labour and the society at large. Most industries, government and private organizations lament over the inability of Business Education graduates to perform efficiently especially in the use of accounting software skills when employed. These challenges have made organizations to engage the services of consultants to train the new accounting graduates on the practical application of modern accounting software packages for a period of time of which only selected few persons will only be taken out of many as a result of not meeting up with company's requirements for employment after the training. Considering the "cost and time spent in training these graduates without acquiring the adequate accounting software packages skills; gaining employment in the industries is a herculean task, if employed the industries will commit huge resources in retraining the personnel. Many researchers and stakeholders have attributed these problems to the inability of higher institutions that are saddled with these responsibilities has failed with respect to teaching and training of these graduates on the practical application of modern accounting software packages during the course of their training. The study investigated accounting software skills mentorship and business education students employability in Rivers State University due to the mismatch of what the graduates learn in school and the reality they faced when employed in organizations. Accordingly, there exists a research-based knowledge gap regarding how well, QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Peachtree accounting software mentorship. This study will empirically fill that gap.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between accounting software skills mentorship and Business Education students' employability in Rivers State University. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Determine the relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education students' employability in Rivers State University.
2. Determine the relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students' employability in Rivers State University.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is the relationship QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University?
2. What is the relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University?

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.
2. There is no significant relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.

Methods

The design used for this study was a correlational survey research design, Correlational survey design basically involves the extraction of information from respondents through the distribution of questionnaire. The study was carried out in the department of Business Education Rivers State University. The population for the study consists of 215 final year students of Business Education from Rivers State as respondents. There was no sample nor sampling technique employed hence the researcher used the entire population for analysis of the study. The adoption of the entire population for the study is because the researcher considered it small and manageable for the study. Two sets of questionnaires were developed by the researchers titled Questionnaire on 'accounting software skills mentorship (QASSM) and Questionnaire on 'Business Education students employability in Rivers State University (QBESE). The instrument was test-retest using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) and reliability quotients of 0.71 and 0.82 for the two research questions were obtained. This was done by administering the instrument to 18 final year students of Business Education who were not part of the study sample and population. The instruments were administered to the respondents at their various institutions. The researcher did this by visiting the institutions concerned. On the spot retrieval was made for those who filled their questionnaire, while those who could not fill on the spot the researcher went back two days

after for retrieval and collection. Data collected was analysed using Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) to answer the two (2) research questions and hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The decision rule was that, the null hypotheses were accepted when the critical r value is greater than the calculated r value and were accepted when the critical r value is less than the calculated r value.

Results

The results of the study were presented below:

Research Question 1

What is the relationship QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University?

Table 1.1: Calculated r of the Relationship exists between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.

(N= 215)						
S/No	Variables	Responses	$\sum XY$	r-cal	r-crit	Decision
1	QuickBooks accounting software mentorship (X)	3,106				Positive Relationship
			44,985	0.70	± 0.1476	Exist
2	Business Education students employability (Y)	2,813				

Source: Researcher’s Field Survey (2025)

Table 1.1 The table showed that the calculated r was 0.70 with the table value of ± 0.1476 . This means that since the calculated r is higher than the table value, a positive relationship exists between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student’s employability.

Research Question 2

What is the relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University?

Table 1.2: Calculated r of the Relationship exists between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.

(N= 195)						
S/No	Variables	Responses	$\sum XY$	r-cal	r-crit	Decision
1	Peachtree accounting software package mentorship (X)	3,635				Positive Relationship
			53,126	0.70	± 0.1476	Exist

- 2 employability requirements of 2,813 Business Education graduate students (Y)

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Table 1.2 The table showed that the calculated r was 0.70 with the table value of ± 0.1476 . This means that since the calculated r is higher than the table value, a positive relationship exist between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability.

Hypotheses Testing

The hypotheses for this study were tested as follows:

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers State University.

Table 1.3: Summary of calculated r of Significant Relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University

S/No	Variables	$\sum XY$	r-cal	t-trans	t-crit	Decision
1	QuickBooks accounting software mentorship	44,985	0.70	3.76	± 1.645	Positive Relationship Exist
2	Business Education student's employability					

N= 215 Df= 213 P>0.05 * = Significant

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Table 1.3 shows the calculated coefficient (r) value of significant relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers State University. With N= 215, Df= 213, P>0.05, the calculated r was 0.70 with critical t value of ± 1.645 at P>0.05 level of significance and since the calculated r value was statistically greater than the table value, the null hypotheses therefore was rejected and the conclusion is that there is a relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers State University.

Table 1.3 further showed a t-transformation value of 3.76 with a critical t value of ± 1.645 . This means that since the t-transformation value is statistically greater than the table value, there is a strong relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers State University. The value of r was therefore accepted, which indicated that there is significant relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers State University.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University

Table 1.4: Summary of calculated r of Significant Relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University

S/No	Variables	$\sum XY$	r-cal	t-trans	t-crit	Decision
1	Peachtree accounting software mentorship					Positive Relationship
		53,126	0.74	3.76	± 1.645	Exist
2	Business Education students employability					

N= 215 Df= 213 P>0.05 * = Significant

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2025)

Table 1.4 shows the calculated coefficient (r) value of significant relationship between the Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University. With N= 195, Df= 193, P>0.05, the calculated r was 0.74 with critical t value of ± 1.645 at P>0.05 level of significance and since the calculated r value was statistically greater than the table value, the null hypotheses therefore was rejected and the conclusion is that there is a relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.

Table 1.4 further showed a t-transformation value of 3.76 with a t-critical value of ± 1.645 . This means that since the t-transformation value is statistically greater than the t-critical table value, there is a strong relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University. The value of r was therefore accepted, which indicated that there is significant relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.

Summary of Findings

Major findings from the research work are as follows:

1. The result shows that there is significant relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability in Rivers State University.
2. The result shows that there is significant relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability in Rivers State University.

Discussion of Findings

Relationship between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student's employability.

The second findings revealed that QuickBooks accounting software mentorship prepares graduates to know the financial position of an organization, how to customised invoices to make daily posting of transactions easier, its helps to track accounts that are payable and receivable, manage small, medium and large enterprises for daily business transactions, how to use customised payroll and time tracking for daily business transactions. The finding is in

line with the work of Machera and Machera (2021), QuickBooks is used by small businesses and medium sized entrepreneurs and provides the Quick Payroll Software which is used in processing employee salaries, Small business owners are usually busy and need accounting software to pay their bills, collect money from customers, track income and expenses. The conclusion was that there was positive relationship knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software and employability of Business Education students.

Based on the first findings, a “hypothetical test was conducted that indicated there was statistically significant exist between knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software package and employability of Business Education graduates in Rivers State Universities. The test further revealed that in line with the work of Tim (2021) the knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software mentorship enhances graduates’ competencies and also equip them for future employment. The study concluded that there is a significant relationship statistically exist between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and employability of Business Education students since the calculated of the correlation coefficient (r) value was statistically greater than the table value $P>0.05$ level of significance, the null hypotheses therefore, was rejected at $P>0.05$ of significance. The strength of the relationship was determined with a t-transformation test which was concluded on the calculated correlation coefficient value (r), which indicated that a statistically significant relationship exist between QuickBooks accounting software mentorship and Business Education student’s employability.

Relationship between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability.

The first findings revealed that Peachtree accounting software mentorship prepares graduates for bank reconciliation, creating financial statements, tracking banking transfers and payroll, reporting of financial information, importing and manipulating of spread sheet and integrating of scanned documents like receipts and invoices. The findings is in line with the work Eric (2020), Peachtree is a fully functional accounting system that allows you to issue invoices to your customers, receives payments, enters payables to your vendors, print checks, pays your employees, tracks expenses, enters journal entries, and much more. It is packed with all kinds of different preloaded reports. Peachtree also will perform an internal accounting review that will identify common transaction mistakes. The conclusion was that there was positive relationship Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability.

Based on the first findings, “a hypothetical test was conducted which also indicated that statistically significant exist between knowledge of Peachtree accounting software package and employability of Business Education graduates in Rivers State Universities. The test further revealed that in line with the work of Eric (2020) Peachtree enables controllers and managers to automate and manage numerous accounting tasks like reconciling accounts payable and receivable, creating financial statements, check invoices, tracking banking transfers and payroll, importing and manipulating spread sheets, integrating scanned documents such as checks, receipts and invoices, eliminating paper from the accounting process. The study concluded that there is a significant relationship statistically exist between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability since the calculated of the correlation coefficient (r) value was statistically greater than the table value $P>0.05$ level of significance, the null hypotheses therefore, was rejected at $P>0.05$ of significance. The strength of the relationship was determined with a t-transformation test

which was concluded on the calculated correlation coefficient value (r), which indicated that a statistically significant relationship exist between Peachtree accounting software mentorship and Business Education students employability.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the critical role of accounting software skills mentorship and business education in enhancing students' employability, by equipping students with practical knowledge of industry-standard accounting tools and business concepts, we bridge the gap between academic learning and workplace demands. The mentorship component ensures that students receive personalized guidance, real-world insights, and hands-on experience, which significantly improves their job readiness.

Furthermore, this initiative fosters confidence, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability key attributes for thriving in today's competitive job market through continuously updating our approach to align with technological advancements and industry trends, we ensure that students remain well-prepared for diverse career opportunities.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher made the following recommendations:

1. The teaching of accounting software skills should be encouraged to link the gap between theory and practice to give Business Education Students competitive advantage in the labour market.
2. Curriculum planners should be encouraged to add some accounting software skills in Business Education curriculum to enable Business Education graduates acquire the requisite skills that will enable them to be employable after graduation.
3. Programme of Business Education should encourage yearly mentorship of accounting students, this will enhance their productivity capacity when employed.

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