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Effect of Determinants of Financial Reporting Timeliness on Reporting Timeliness: An Empirical Study of Nigerian Banks

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ABSTRACT

This study assesses the relationship between the determinants of financial reporting timeliness of Nigerian banking industry. Specifically, the study ascertains the effect of bank age on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks; examines the effect of the size of audit firm on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks. Ex-Post Facto research design was adopted. The population of the study will consists of deposit money banks quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The study covered eleven years of annual reports and accounts of these companies from 2011 to 2019. Data were extracted from annual reports and accounts of the sample population. Hypotheses formulated for the study were tested using the Regression analysis with aid of E-view version 9 software package. From the test conducted, the study found that the age of the bank has a significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting. The size of an audit firm significantly influences the timeliness of financial report because auditors cannot change the timeliness of financial report without the corporation of their client. To mitigate the problem of reporting lag in financial reporting in the Nigeria banking sector, there should be harmonization of the various conflicting provisions regarding timeliness as currently contained in the various enactments.

KEYWORDS: *Financial Reporting Timeliness, Age of a bank, and Size of audit firm*

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1. INTRODUCTION

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) regard timeliness as one of the prominent aspects of financial statements. Accounting information tends to become stale over time. In the competitive business environment, stale accounting information is less relevant to creditors and investors. In the business environment, timely reporting of financial statements significantly decreases insider trading and information asymmetry between firm management and shareholders (Leventis & Weetman, 2004). Therefore, research into factors affecting the timeliness of corporate financial reporting helps regulatory agencies formulate new policies that enhance the efficiency of financial markets (Ahmet, 2019).

Reporting is a way of Companies' communication through divulging any financial or nonfinancial information with the annual reports to a wide range of users. In particular, financial statements play a major role for the parties with purposes in decision making. High-quality and useful accounting information requires qualitative characteristics, such as the relevance of information, comparability, reliability, and understandability (Ömer, 2017). Timeliness is one of the main determinants of financial reporting quality and transparency of which is attributed to governance principles.

Late information may result in misallocation of resources (capital) where outside shareholders and creditors face serious adverse selection and moral hazard problems (Leventis & Wetman, 2004). Timeliness is a necessary qualitative characteristic of relevant financial information and is thus receiving increased attention from accounting regulators and listing authorities around the world (Abdelsalam & Street, 2007). There exist extant literatures on the timeliness of financial statements because timeliness is an important aspect of financial reporting has been identified by the Accounting Principles Board (APB) in the United States as one of the qualitative attributes of financial reporting (McGee, Tarangelo & Gelman; 2009).

However, there is a dearth in kinds of literature on the determinants of the timeliness of corporate reports in Nigeria. Similarly, there are scanty studies that have focused on the corporate reports of financial institutions in Nigeria. This is relevant because companies in this sector are high performers on the stock exchange. For instance, in 2006, bank shares were ranked as the most active.

In-spite of the existence of the various enactments, there however been a number of criticisms (Okike, 2004) from various groups, including the World Bank, concerning perceived inadequacies in the financial reporting outcome of firms in Nigeria. For instance, the World Bank, in its Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSE) conducted in 2004, noted that the accounting and auditing standards in Nigeria suffer from "institutional weaknesses in regulation, compliance and enforcement of standards and codes." Timeliness in financial reporting is one of the requirements to be enforced and complied with by firms in Nigeria (Iyoha, 2012). Besides, the studies on the timeliness of financial reporting in the context of Nigeria were limited. On this note, this study set out to determine the effect of financial reporting timeliness determinants on timeliness reporting of Nigerian banks.

The main objective of this study was to assess the relationship between the determinants of financial reporting timeliness of the Nigerian banking industry.

1. To ascertain the effect of age of bank on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks.
2. To examine the effect of the size of audit firm on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Timeliness of Financial Reporting

An important characteristic of financial information is the timeliness of reporting. Annual reports that are reported sequentially provide relevant information for users of financial statements. The timeliness of the financial statements can increase the relevance which is a qualitative characteristic of financial reporting regulated by the International Accounting Standards Board (FASB, 2009). Information asymmetry between management and shareholders can be minimized by timely financial reporting by providing information on company performance in Indonesia.

Growing capital markets and other factors, such reducing insider trading, leakage, and rumours of timely financial reporting are important issues (Owusu-Ansah, 2000). Companies in capital markets in developing countries, such as Indonesia, tend to provide late and less information when releasing their annual reports than companies in developed countries (Errunza & Losq, 1985). Because financial reporting has the aim of providing information to external users in making decisions, creditors and investors, when making predictions and decisions, use the financial information. Therefore, the company ensures the availability of current information and provides financial information to the public as quickly as possible. The company makes financial reports to convey information to the users of the financial statements about the resources it has and the company's performance and shows the results of the accountability of the resources used by the management. The benefits of the information contained in the financial statements diminish with time. Therefore, the timely delivery of the financial statement is very important. The faster it is delivered, the more the information contained therein is useful, and users of the financial statement can make better decisions, both in terms of quality and timeliness (Noegrahini, 2020).

In extant literatures, the timeliness of financial reporting has been defined from different perspectives. McGee (2007) defined it as the period between the company's year-end and the date that the financial report was released for public view. Karim, Ahmed and Islam (2006) remarked that the timeliness of financial reports include audit delay, which is the number of days between the financial position date and the date the external auditor's report was signed; financial statement issue delay, which is the number of days between the financial position date and the date of declaring the notice of the annual general meeting (AGM); and the AGM delay, which is the number of days between the date of the financial year-end and the AGM (Efobi & Okogbuo, 2015).

Subsequently, it became increasingly pressure on the external auditors to reduce the time it takes to issue their auditing report and then financial reports; because external auditor's reports are considered one of the most important factors that affect the issuance of the annual financial report Akle (2012). Where Auditing is considered the communication tool that investors and stockholders use it to know the financial position of firms, as well as, it uses to be as an indicator about the performance of a firm's management (Omar & Ahmed, 2016). Therefore, the delay in issuing an auditing report leads to delaying in issuing an annual financial report, and not providing the financial information of the firm in suitable time. And then the financial report will lose its usefulness and convenient which have a negative effect on the decisions of investors and financial reports users require 30-249 days, while Iyoha (2012) observed that in Nigeria, companies in the banking sector require about 82 days, insurance sector (153 days), food/tobacco and beverage sector (144 days), petroleum sector (137 days), the health sector (145 days), agriculture (96 days) and conglomerates (119 days).

Furthermore, Leventis, Weetman, and Caramanis (2005) assert that in emerging market economies, timeliness in reporting of otherwise non-publicly available financial statement information remains, for the most part, the only means by which outside shareholders and investors keep themselves informed of the firms' performance. In the present economic scenario, this concern for timely reporting becomes more acute as emerging market economies face greater uncertainties as they combat the ongoing global financial crisis. One of the reasons advanced by Awoyemi (2009) for the crises in some Nigerian banks had to do with inaccurate financial reporting. It was adduced that some loss-making financial institutions not only declared profits but paid dividends using depositors' funds. The multiplier effect of such actions on the future financials of a firm is negatively affecting the economy at large.

2.1.1. Financial reporting

Financial reporting is the best method to satisfy the needs of accounting information users. It accurately describes the economic events that have affected the companies' activities during a year. As well as, it helps in financial predictions and planning that considers as an alarm to all users whether external or internal users to avoid potential bankruptcy. Therefore, the timeliness of issuance of financial reporting have more interest of both professional and academic groups around the world, especially in USA and UK (Fadel & Noor, 2006).

Financial disclosure includes net income of past year, mainboard meeting, profit dividends on common stockholder whether cash profit and free shares and a lot of information that can affect investor's decision regarding shares holding, purchase or selling. Therefore, because of this many information that was offered in financial markets, the rumors that usually precedes the material financial information disclosure, which is aimed at increasing competition to enhance the demand on the shares (Qaqesh & Batayna, 2006).

Financial Reporting can be described as the means of communicating the organization's financial status to users of financial reports such as management, investors, government and other stakeholders. It is a set of financial statements and reports through which the financial performance and health of an entity is communicated to both internal and external users. Corporate financial reporting practice entails the compilation, auditing, publication and presentation of audited annual reports and accounts to the stakeholders at the annual general meeting (Oladipupo & Izedomi, 2013). The objective of general purpose financial reporting is to provide information about the reporting entity that is useful to existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors in making decisions about providing resources to the entity, (International Accounting Standard Board[IASB], 2010). The annual financial reports published by companies are considered one of the most important sources of information due to the diversity of information contained in these reports (Al-Tahat, 2015b). The frequency of financial reporting varies, often quarterly, semi-annually and annually. The product of financial reporting is often in the form of periodic report and accounts published by companies.

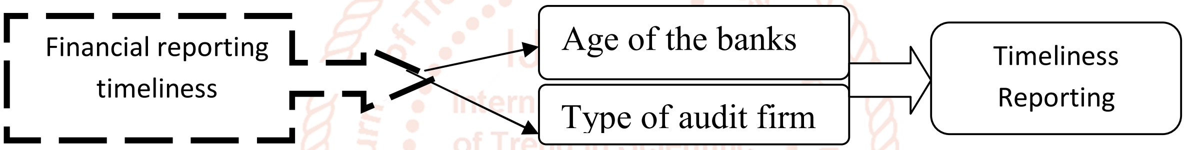
Age of Company

The age of a company has been identified in prior literature as an attribute having likely impact on the quality of accounting practice in terms of timeliness. The older the firms, the more likely they are to have strong internal control procedures. Thus, fewer control weaknesses that could cause reporting delays are expected in older firms. Similarly, younger firms are more prone to failure and have less experience with accounting controls (Hope & Langli, 2008). That is, age has the potential to reduce reporting lag. However, Owusu-Ansah (2005) employs a two-stage least square regression model and finds size, profitability and company age as significant determinants of reporting lags of Zimbabwean listed companies. It is inferred from these studies that the older a firm is, the more likely that its financial reports would be timely. Thus, a negative sign between timeliness of financial reporting and age of company is hypothesized.

Size of Audit Firm

The larger an audit firm is in terms of partners, audit personnel, facilities and international affiliations, the chances are that it would complete an audit assignment faster and more accurately than a smaller audit firm would. For instance, Iman, Ahmed and Khan, (2001) argue that larger audit firms are expected to complete audits more quickly than smaller firms because they have more resources in terms of staff and experience in auditing listed companies. The large audit firms are also expected to be more thorough in their audit assignments due to the availability of the right caliber of personnel and resources and thus spend less time on the audit assignment. Therefore, a negative association between audit firm size and reporting delay (timeliness) is posited in this study.

Figure 2.1 Conceptualization Model of the relationship between forensic accounting and economic stability



Source: Researcher's Conceptualization Model, 2021

2.2. Review of Related Studies

Aktas and Kargin (2008) explored the association between the timeliness feature and profitability of the company and come up with the result that higher positive earnings per share are effective and has a significant effect on early reporting. Turel (2010) focused on reporting lead time with the firm and auditor specific determinants for the Turkish listed firms. The study examines 211 non-financial companies with five different hypotheses related to size, industry, the sign of income, auditor type and opinion. According to the results, 59% of the firms publishing individual financial statements and 66% of the firms publishing consolidated financial statements prepare their reporting earlier than the regulatory deadline. Besides, while firms with positive income publish financial statements earlier, companies audited by the big four reports later. Size is not statistically significant. Hashim and Rahman (2010) examined the association between corporate governance mechanisms and audit report lag among 288 companies listed at Bursa Malaysia for a period ranging from 2007-2009. The result of this study revealed that there was no significant relationship between board diligence, board independence and board expertise and audit report lag. Akle (2011) carried out a study on the relationship between the timeliness of corporate financial reporting and corporate governance for companies listed on the Egyptian stock exchange from 1998 – 2007. They found out that Egyptian publicly listed firms have been less time in their annual financial reporting since the application of the corporate governance principles. Al-Shwiyat (2013) examined the Amman Stock Exchange with 120 sample companies with several factors such as the company's age, return on assets, return on equities, dividends and earnings per share. 111 days is the average reporting time which is a long period when comparing to the other developing countries. While the leverage and the firm size have a significant positive impact on timeliness, earnings per share ratio has a significant negative relationship. Efobi and Okougbo (2015) explored the factors that can influence the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigeria using a sample of 33 financial institutions (2005-2008). The Generalized Least Square (GLS) regression method was used for the estimation and the results reveal that on the sampled companies used 122 days after the year-end for the release of their financial reports. The size, leverage and performance of the companies have a negative significant relationship with the timeliness of their financial reports while the age of the company has a positive significant impact. Corporate governance plays a complementary role with some of the explanatory variables to explain financial reporting timeliness in Nigeria. Ibadin and Afensimi (2015) examined the determinants of audit report lag in Nigeria. They used panel data extracted from annual reports and accounts from 2005 to 2012 of 37 quoted companies on the Nigeria Stock Exchange. They found a positive and a significance relationship between leverage and financial reporting timeliness. Mouna and Anis (2016) investigated the relationship between the timeliness of the financial reporting and the corporate governance proxies for companies quoted on the Tunisian stock exchange during 2009. They collected secondary data from corporate annual reports downloaded from the Tunisian Stock Exchange website. The data were analyzed using correlation and Multiple Regression Analysis. The cross section data covers only 2009. Firm with good news tend to publish report earlier, (Mouna & Anis, 2013). Found negative and statistically significant relationship between profitability and financial reporting timeliness in quoted Tunisian companies. Adebayo and Adebiyi (2016) investigated the timeliness of financial statements among the Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria. For the study, they selected a sample of 15 Deposit Money Banks listed by the Nigeria Stock Exchange between 2005 and 2013. The data were analyzed and results estimated using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) Regression which was complimented with the panel data estimation technique. The findings reveal that most of the banks now comply with regulations that enhance timely reporting of financial statements in Nigeria. Omar and Ahmed (2016) ascertained of the factors that affect the timeliness of annual financial reporting. The sample of study includes 180 corporations listed on the Palestinian and Amman Stock Exchange which achieve study's conditions. A Multi-regression test was used to examine the study hypotheses that consist of three groups; internal auditing committee factors, external auditor independence, and demographic factors. The study found that many listed companies issue their financial report within legal time. Mutiara, Zakaria, and Anggraini (2018) examined the effect each of company size, company profit, solvency and the size of public accountant has on audit report lag for the infrastructure, utility and transportation sectors listed on the Indonesian Stock Exchange. Data were obtained from a purposive sample size of nineteen companies. The data were from 2013 to 2015. The data were analyzed using double regression analysis. They found a negative but statistically insignificant relationship between leverage and timeliness of financial reporting. Oshodin and Ikhatua (2018) investigated the effect of IFRS adoption on the timeliness of financial information in Nigeria. Data were collected for 30 companies over the periods of 2009 through 2016 and were analyzed using the ordinary least square regression method. The regression result shows a positive relationship between timeliness and a firm's size, suggesting that a high volume of work in larger firms can lead to delay in financial statement presentations by large firms in Nigeria. Wulandari (2018) examined the effect of financial ratios, firm age, firm size, and auditor's opinion on the timeliness of publication of banking financial statements listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX). They used secondary data extracted from the annual reports of 29 quoted in Indonesia during the period 2010-2012. Data were analyzed using the logistic multiple regressions and descriptive statistics. They found a negative and significant relationship between profitability and financial reporting timeliness. Raweh, Kamardin and Malek (2019) focused on providing empirical evidence on the association between audit committee characteristics and audit report lag. Their sample comprises of all companies quoted in the Muscat Securities market from 2013 to 2017. Data were extracted from the published financial reports of 119 companies quoted in the Muscat Securities market from 2013 to 2017. The data were analyzed using Descriptive statistics, correlation and simple regression. They found that leverage has positive and statistically significant relationship with financial reporting timeliness. Their findings indicated that highly financed by debt need more audit effort and time due to their business risk and/or volume of work. Surachyati, Abubakar and Daulay (2019) examined the influence profitability, leverage, liquidity, company size, auditor opinion and audit firm reputation partially on the timeliness of the submission of financial statements to transportation companies quoted on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. Studied 30 transportation companies quoted in the Indonesia Stock Exchange in the period of 2011-2015. Secondary data were obtained from the annual reports and accounts of the selected companies and were analyzed using descriptive and logistic regression. They found no significant relationship between leverage and financial reporting timeliness. Chukwu and Nwabochi (2019) examined the effect of the characteristics of audit committee on timeliness of corporate financial reporting in the Nigerian insurance industry. Used ex post facto research design, and used secondary data extracted from the annual reports of 15 insurance firms quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange during the period 2012 to 2015. Data were analyzed using the Ordinary Least Square method of multiple regressions. They found negative but insignificant relationship between leverage and financial reporting timeliness. Savitri, Raja, and Surya (2019) examined the effects of profitability, leverage, firm size, outsider ownership, the reputation of the public accounting firm and financial risk on the timeliness of financial report submissions. Data were analyzed using the logistic multiple regressions and descriptive statistics. Found negative but not statistically significant relationship between leverage and financial reporting timeliness. They used purposive sampling technique in selecting a sample of 78 companies from the trade, services and investment companies listed in Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2014-2016. They concluded that companies do not consider leverage as something that will affect their public image so it can be concluded that leverage does not affect the timeliness of financial reporting.

Though prior empirical studies examined the timeliness of financial reporting and its determinants, little information exists on the reporting lag of corporate financial statements in emerging economies. Besides, the studies on the effect of bank's attributes on the timeliness of financial reporting in the context of Nigeria were limited. This however forms the significance of this study.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Design

Ex-Post facto research design was adopted for the study. This is appropriate because the study aims at measuring the relationship between one variable and another in which the variables are not manipulated. This involves use of financial accounts of organizations to generate the financial analysis that will determine the significant difference.

3.2. Population and Sample Size of the Study

The population of the study consists of deposit money banks quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The study covered nine year's annual reports and accounts of these banks from 2011 to 2019. The banks are as stated below:

Access bank plc	Unity bank plc
Diamond bank plc	Eco bank plc
First bank plc	Union bank plc
FCMB plc	Skye bank plc
GTB plc	Stanbic IBTC
Zenith bank plc	Standard Charted bank plc
Sterling bank plc	Fidelity bank plc
UBA plc (M)	Wema bank plc

3.3. Method of Data Analysis
Hypotheses formulated for the study were tested with the Regression analysis with aid of E-view version 9 software package.

Decision rule:
Using SPSS, 5% is considered a normal significance level. The accept reject criterion was based on the p-value, alternative hypothesis will be accepted.

Model specification
$FREPTIM_{it} = a_0 + \mu_i + \beta_1 Age it_{it} \sum_{it}$ ………………………………………….(i)

$FREPTIM_{it} = a_0 + \mu_i + \beta_3 AUDTYP_{it} \sum_{it}$ ……………………………………….(ii)

Where:
FREPTIM: (Dependent variable) the timeliness of the financial report, measured as the audit reporting lag;
AGE_i: (Independent variable) the age of the firm, measured as the number of years since the company was incorporated;
AUDFTYP: (Independent variable) the type of external auditor engaged by the company. This is a categorical variable where 1 represents the engagement of any of the 'big four' audit firms (Price Waterhouse Coopers-PWC, Akintola Williams Deloitte, Ernst and Young and KPMG) and 0 otherwise.

β1…6 coefficients of the independent variables, which are expected to reflect the sign and magnitude of the explanatory variables

it individual firm and the period identifiers.

4. DATA PRSENTATION AND ANALYSIS
4.1. Data Analysis

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
TIMNESS	134	34.00	356.00	88.2313	44.94088
AGE	134	3.00	155.00	50.0970	40.33373
AUDTYP	134	.00	1.00	.7015	.45932
Valid N (listwise)	134				

Table 1 shows the mean (average) for each of the variables, their maximum values, minimum values, and standard deviation. The results in table 1 provide insight like the Nigerian banking industry that was used in this study. It was observed that on the average over the nine (9) years periods (2011-2019), the sampled quoted Nigerian conglomerate companies were characterized by improved timeliness =88.23. The gap between the maximum and minimum value of the timeliness of financial reporting and it determinants (bank age, audit type, bank size and firm performance) showed that these determinants really determine the level of timeliness of financial reporting of the banks.

4.2. Test of hypotheses
Hypothesis One
Ho1: Age of bank has no significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks.

Table 2: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.203[a]	.041	.034	44.17220

Table 3: ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	11061.647	1	11061.647	5.669	.019[b]
	Residual	257556.182	132	1951.183		
	Total	268617.828	133			

a. Dependent Variable: TIME
b. Predictors: (Constant), AGE

Table 4: Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	76.904	6.099		12.610	.000
	AGE	.226	.095	.203	2.381	.019

a. Dependent Variable: TIME

Table 2 above shows that the Model revealed the value of $R^2 = 0.041$ and Adjusted R^2value is .034, this suggests that the model explains about 4% of the systematic variations in the dependent variable. This means that the regression explains 4% of the variance in the data.

In table 3, it reveals that the F-stat (5.669) and p-value (0.019) indicates that the hypothesis is statistically significant; hence f-sat is greater than the p-value.

In table 4, the regressed coefficient correlation result shows that an evaluation of the timeliness of the explanatory variable (Beta Column) shows that bank age is significant (Sig.= -0.095). Therefore, we reject null hypotheses and uphold alternative hypothesis which state that age of bank has significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks.

Hypothesis Two
Ho2: Audit firm type has no significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks.

Table 5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.049[a]	.002	-.009	45.05682

Table 6: Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	84.875	7.124		11.914	.000
	AUDTYP	4.785	8.506	.049	.563	.575

a. Dependent Variable: TIME
b. Predictors: (Constant), AUDTYP

Table 7: Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	84.875	7.124		11.914	.000
	AUDTYP	4.785	8.506	.049	.563	.575

a. Dependent Variable: TIME

Table 5 above shows that the Model revealed the value of $R^2 = 0.041$ and Adjusted R^2value is .034, this suggests that the model explains about 4% of the systematic variations in the dependent variable. This means that the regression explains 4% of the variance in the data.

In table 6, it reveals that the F-stat (11.914) and p-value (0.000) indicates that the hypothesis is statistically significant; hence f-sat is greater than the p-value.

In table 7, the regressed coefficient correlation result shows that an evaluation of the timeliness of the explanatory variable (Beta Column) shows that audit firm type is significant (Sig.= -0.049). Therefore, we reject null hypotheses and uphold alternative hypothesis which state that audit firm type has significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks.

4.3. Discussion of Findings
Having tested the formulated hypotheses, the study found that there is a significant effect between the timeliness determinants used in the study.

Hypothesis 1 shows that the age of bank has a significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks. The result is in line with Iyoha (2012) whose study revealed that the age of the bank is the major company attribute that influences the overall quality of timeliness of financial reports in Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2 found that the audit firm type has significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting in Nigerian banks. This finding is in line with Turel (2010) whose study revealed that positive income published financial statements earlier, companies audited by big four reports later not statistically significant. Omar and Ahmed (2013) found that there is a significant relationship between age, audit report timeliness, sector type, auditor type and financial report timeliness.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations
5.1. Conclusion
From the result, there was evidence that Nigerian banks used on a period of 3 to 5 months (122 days) to release their financial reports. The banking industries performed better with an average financial reporting time of about 2 months (59 days) compared to those who reported 5 months (153 days).

From the test conducted, the study found that the age of the bank has significant effect on the timeliness of financial reporting. The sign and significance of performance were also positively significant. The audit type did significantly influence the timeliness of financial reports because auditors cannot change the timeliness of financial reports without the corporation of their client. The managerial implication of this study is that sound corporate governance practice can influence corporate attributes (performance) to enhance the timeliness of financial reporting.

5.2. Recommendations
Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:
1. To mitigate the problem of reporting lag in financial reporting in Nigeria among industrial sectors, there should be harmonization of the various conflicting provisions regarding timeliness as currently contained in the various enactments.
2. Banks need awareness of the importance of annual financial reporting issuing to provide all financial information to different users within a suitable time.

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