

Green Accounting and Firm Performance: A Bibliometric Literature Review

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Abstract : Green accounting is a growing topic of interest. Indeed, nowadays, most firms affect the environment; therefore, companies are seeking the best way to disclose environmental information. Furthermore, companies are increasingly committed to improving the environment, and the topic is gaining more importance to the public, governments, and policymakers. Green accounting is a type of accounting that considers environmental costs and their impact on the financial performance of firms. Thus, the motivation of the current research is to investigate the state-of-the-art literature on the relationship between green accounting and firm performance since the birth of the topic of green accounting and to investigate gaps in the literature that represent fruitful terrain for future research. In doing so, this study provides a bibliometric literature review of existing evidence related to the link between green accounting and firm performance since 2000. The search, based on the most relevant databases for scientific journals (which are Scopus, Emerald, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and Econlit), returned 1917 scientific articles. The articles were manually reviewed in order to identify only the relevant studies in the field by excluding articles with titles and abstracts out of scope. The final sample was composed of 107 articles. A content analysis was carried out on the final sample of articles; in doing so, a classification system has been proposed. Findings show the most relevant environmental costs and issues considered in previous studies and how green accounting may be linked to the financial and non-financial performance of a firm. The study also offers suggestions for future research in this domain. This study has several practical implications. Indeed, the topic of green accounting may be applied to different sectors and different types of companies. Therefore, this study may help managers to better understand the most relevant environmental information to disclose and how environmental issues may be managed to improve the performance of the firms. Moreover, the bibliometric literature review may be of interest to those stakeholders who are interested in the historical evolution of the topic.

Keywords : bibliometric literature review, firm performance, green accounting, literature review

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