

## A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021

Yassir Nori Mohammed<sup>1\*</sup>, Husam Noori Mohammed<sup>2</sup>, Mustafa Abbas Fadel<sup>3</sup>, Abderrazek Hassan Elkhaldi<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer at Central library , University of Baghdad, Iraq, Ph.D. Candidate at Institut Supérieur de Gestion de Tunis, University of Tunis, Tunis

<sup>2</sup>University Council Secretariat, University of Baghdad, Iraq

<sup>3</sup>Laser Institute for Postgraduate Studies, University of Baghdad, Iraq

<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management of Sousse, University of Sousse, Tunis

### Abstract

This study aims to systematically analyze the existing literature of forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment, and thus determine the gap that exists in the forensic accounting literature, in addition to shedding light on the good qualities of forensic accounting from an ethical perspective in the era of the increasing accounting scandals, and thus the need for forensic accounting emerged. This study provides an overview of the literature review conducted in the field of forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment, which can be used by specialists, regulators, academics, researchers, practitioners of forensic accounting, etc., and the current study systematically analyzes a sample of (22) of research articles conducted in a wide field of forensic accounting, and the sample was selected from research articles published during the period from 2012 to 2021. Nevertheless, this study reached the most important results, which indicate the importance of integrating forensic accounting education into courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In addition, the forensic accountant must have skills in multidisciplinary areas. Likewise, knowledge of big data is essential to being a good accountant in forensic accounting. Accordingly, this study suggests several main areas for future research, namely; the importance of forensic accounting education, and how forensic accounting can be used to reduce financial meltdowns, the practical application of forensic accounting, and the role of the forensic accountant in light of the Corona pandemic. Due to the multidisciplinary and technical nature of the profession, forensic accountants are at great risk of confusing ethics and compliance with the law, and we suggest that understanding Virtue ethics and particularly the virtue of "The verdict" or practical wisdom will help forensic accountants maintain public confidence and quality in their services and provide practical guidance on the exercise of professional judgment.

**Keywords:** forensic accounting, auditing, accounting, fraud, ethics

## Introduction

Forensic accounting was created mainly because of the increasing number of corporate scandals in the world, as a result of the global collapse (Enron, World.Com, and Parmalat), and the need arose to establish procedures and controls designed by accountants and auditors in the field of fraud detection and for the purpose of preventing and treating them. Nevertheless, corporate scandals have eroded investor confidence in financial markets, with the number of incidents of fraud in accounting and financial statements in the global context reaching 28% during the biennium 2018 and 2019. In addition, the total reported losses as a result of fraud during 2018 and 2019 amounted to \$42 billion after the major corporate scandals at Enron.World.Com introduced several standards, rules, and regulations including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in 2002 to reduce or eliminate the occurrence of corporate scandals. Regardless of the efforts that have been made to prevent and investigate fraud, every day a new type of fraud emerges, and this has led to the need for forensic accountants and forensic accounting skills to emerge globally. Fraud detection and prevention were defined as part of the accounting function and internal or external auditors were supposed to detect and prevent fraud, however, later it was noted that auditors have no responsibility to prevent and detect fraud, and can only check the compliance of the company's financial statements with accounting and rules and other related regulations for financial reporting and, as a result, a new category of accounting has emerged which is "forensic accounting".

Furthermore, the objective of the emergence of forensic accounting is to detect fraudulent transactions that occur in business organizations, therefore, the application of investigative and analytical skills for the purpose of solving financial issues in a way that meets the standards required by the court is forensic accounting, in addition, forensic accounting is also described as the integration of specialized accounting knowledge and skills Improved and positive mental attitudes to solve legal problems. However, the main task of forensic accountants is to conduct investigations due to the emergence of criminals in the areas of fraud, white-collar crime, corruption, money laundering, computer fraud, diversion, and theft. Forensic accountants obtain an understanding of business information and financial reporting information, financial reporting systems, accounting and auditing standards and procedures, evidence gathering and methods investigation, and litigation processes and procedures in order to perform their work. Furthermore, forensic accountants play an important proactive role in reducing risk by serving as forensic audit specialists by designing and implementing extended procedures, serving as advisors to audit committees, assisting with investment analyst research, and when considering the role of a forensic accountant, they are experts in searching behind numbers and dealing with business situations and reality.

The problem of the research is because the jurisdiction of forensic accounting is an emerging field of interest for researchers in Iraq, and there are still many studies that have not been conducted in this field in the Iraqi environment, in addition to that, there

## **A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

are very few studies on this subject, as the literature was recorded only 22 study in conjunction with the events that occurred for a number of corporate scandals, especially in the field of contracts with fictitious companies.

The research derives its importance because forensic accounting is an important topic that must be discussed, in addition, since Iraq is in the process of economic transformation with the gradual development of the economy, accounting information has more value, in light of this situation, and the public must have greater confidence in accounting information which one party cannot do alone.

Since forensic accounting is an emerging field and there is a growing need for forensic accountants and forensic accounting, this study aims to determine whether this has been adequately addressed by the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment, and accordingly, this study attempts to analyze the existing literature on forensic accounting by incorporating the methodology of a systematic literature review. Although studies have been conducted in different fields under the term “forensic accounting”, there is no systematic review of the literature that has considered all the studies published under this comprehensive term, and since the main purpose of this study is to identify a research gap that exists in the field of forensic accounting, this study will be useful to future researchers in this field.

### **Methodology**

This study aims to systematically review the existing literature on forensic accounting. The analytical approach, which is used to review the literature on

specific fields, has the ability to explain the mechanism of its operations and cover the entire field of literature related to the field of studies. Below we review the studies of forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and according to their sequence. Historic.

### **Literature Review**

The study (Al-Jalili, 2012) referred to the developments that appeared in the field of accounting jurisprudence for the development of accounting and accounting information. The most prominent of them were those that called for linking between accounting and law on the one hand, and the judiciary’s needs for accounting information on the other. Therefore, calls have been launched and since 1982 in a number of developed countries about the need for forensic accounting services, and this new concept differs from legal accounting and external auditing. practiced by official government agencies or auditors’ offices and chartered accountants in the private sector, as Forensic accounting outputs are reports that guide judges in passing judgments against conflicting parties on financial issues, and the research problem emerged from that forensic accounting needs a set of multiple experiences because it covers an area has a wide range of specializations, including investigations, forensic information technology, litigation support, and dispute settlement and resolution. Therefore, this requires the accountant to have excellent accounting skills and developed skills, as the forensic accountant needs to be able to quickly capture ideas and intuitions, as the nature of the work requires that the forensic accountant have accounting knowledge, and it is also necessary to have a good understanding of legal procedures

and methods of investigation, and despite this particularity, as the methods and curricula of qualification for legal accountants in the Arab world in general and Iraq, in particular, are unable to provide the necessary requirements for qualification chartered accountants to carry out the functions of forensic accounting.

The study (Al-Jubouri Mohammed &, 2013) clarified the concept of forensic accounting and its role in fraud, as it is the science that deals with the application of knowledge in the fields of accounting, finance, taxation, and auditing for analysis, investigation, inquiry, examination, and testing of issues in civil and criminal law in an attempt to reach the honesty that enables the forensic accountant, through which he presents his expert opinion, as forensic accounting plays a major role through the availability of a range of important services in the field of fraud investigation and support for lawsuits, as one of the most important functions of forensic accounting is to verify the allegations alleged by the relevant parties, especially those allegations related to the existence of fraud, or quantifying some economic damages, as fraud has spread widely in many companies due to the chartered accountant's reliance on the sampling method when auditing financial statements and his lack of responsibility towards detecting fraud by employing a set of techniques that help in detecting fraud.

Also, the forensic accountant's achievement of his goals requires them to have a set of characteristics such as education, training, diverse experience in the field of accounting, auditing, and law, oral and written communication skills, and the ability to work in a team environment. The most important of his

recommendations is that forensic accounting in its work depends on a group of techniques, including Buford's law, audit tools using computers, data mining, and analysis ratios.

While the study (Abdul Qadir&Rafu, 2014) dealt with the role of education in preparing and developing the curriculum to meet the needs of the market and society and protect them from fraud, as the phenomenon of financial and administrative corruption has become rampant in many countries of the world, especially the developing ones, as it began to gnaw at the economies of those countries and their both social and human values, as a results of its devastating effects at all levels, hence the role of the concerned institutions to work as one cell and each according to its position to limit and eliminate this dangerous phenomenon, and since educational institutions are one of the concerned and important institutions in this process, it is incumbent upon them to prepare qualifying students who are able first to identify the forms of this financial and administrative corruption, the ways of its implementation, the reasons leading to it, and what are the previous and subsequent procedures and solutions to prevent or expose this process. Here comes the role of this institution in developing its curricula in line with the life of the labor market and society as a whole to provide qualified cadres for initial qualification to contribute to addressing this dangerous phenomenon.

Therefore, the research focused on introducing the subject of forensic and investigative accounting within the primary and higher accounting curricula in Iraq, as many recent studies have confirmed that forensic and investigative

## **A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

accounting have a great role in raising awareness and efficiency of accounting students and in all its branches towards fraud, financial fraud and economic crimes of all kinds. In addition, there are other studies that confirmed that the lack of training centers for forensic accounting in developing countries contributed to the high rate of financial crimes, including financial and administrative corruption, and this contradicts what has been reached in developed countries in the field of forensic and investigative accounting, which represents the merging of experience in the field of accounting and auditing, legal knowledge and experience in the field of investigation and investigation with regard to financial and economic crimes of all kinds.

- While the study (Mahmoud & Dawood, 2014) highlighted the need for accounting to keep pace with the variables as one of the social sciences and affect and be affected by the surrounding environment due to various economic, social, technical, legal, and other factors, the structural changes in the financial and business environment, the spread of business, the diversity of transactions between economic organizations and the expansion of scope trade in the world has left its clear traces. As a result of these variables, a new field of accounting has emerged called forensic accounting, which involves the use of multiple experiences that ultimately lead to the accounting profession, where forensic accounting covers a large area of specializations, including the strengthening of forensic rulings, investigations, detection of fraud and corruption, settlement and settlement of disputes, and over time, this field developed, and played an important role in activating the concept

of corporate governance, which increased interest in it following the recurring financial crises that led to the bankruptcy of many companies due to the spread of financial corruption due to the lack of application of accounting principles, lack of disclosure and transparency, and failure to show real data and information that It reflects the financial conditions of the economic units, which led to a loss of confidence in the accounting information contained in the financial statements, and consequently the loss of accounting information for the most important elements that distinguish it (with its quality). Therefore, corporate governance has become an effective tool to ensure the objectivity of financial reports, through a commitment to applying the principle of disclosure and transparency. All this confirms the existence of a closely related relationship between the application of the principles of governance and the quality of accounting information, as they are considered two sides of the same coin and are affected by the other.

The study (Ibrahim & Haroun, 2016) aimed to clarify the role of forensic accounting in addition to supporting its methods and mechanisms to limit the practice of earnings management, which is one of the most recent practices of accounting manipulation that is practiced by exploiting accounting flexibility without violating the accounting rules and principles. Nevertheless, in light of the successive developments of economic life, business organizations' interest in the necessity of combating financial and administrative corruption has increased in order to maintain continuity, survival, and security in today's ever-changing business environment. Therefore, financial and

administrative corruption is a major reason for the collapse of business organizations and the best witness to this is the collapse witnessed by major international companies such as Enron Company in 2001 and Dolecom Company. This is in addition to what the recent global crisis witnessed, as one of the most important reasons for it was the weakness of accounting and auditing mechanisms in discovering issues of financial and administrative corruption in companies, especially in the United States, and based on it and within the framework of what the researchers and accountants were concerned with, the ways and methods of mechanisms to detect and control financial and administrative corruption, such as activating internal and external audit mechanisms, using modern information technology mechanisms, using mechanisms to combat money laundering, activating corporate governance rules and mechanisms, or developing accounting and auditing standards for the purpose of adhering to the concepts and ethics of the accounting and auditing profession. Forensic accounting itself is one of the modern mechanisms and methods in the field of prevention and detection fraud and financial and administrative corruption, so the researchers address the role of forensic accounting in combating financial and administrative corruption in light of what is known as the practice of earnings management.

- The study (Saleh, 2016) attempted to address the problem of the shortcoming of the traditional methods used in auditing and controlling accounts in revealing creative accounting practices and limiting the effects they have on the financial statements, based on the premise that the

possibility of using forensic accounting in revealing creative accounting practices and limiting their effects on the financial statements of companies, there is a type of accounting that misleads the users of financial statements and another type of accounting that limits the effects that this misleading causes, both of which are attributed to the concept of accounting, but each of them works in a different direction from the other under the law, they are creative accounting and forensic accounting. The idea of the research stems from this contradiction in the use of the concept of accounting, as the process of misleading users of financial statements practiced by companies is called creative accounting, and the process of confronting the effects caused by misinformation is called forensic accounting, that is, the use of accounting in the face of legal accounting. However, this research comes within a group of researches that are concerned with studying the impact of environmental changes in the business world and the methods to confront these changes to maintain the balance and sustainability of business organizations, the research included three axes: the first dealt with the conceptual framework of creative accounting, and the second dealt with the conceptual framework of forensic accounting, while the third included some practical cases that employ forensic accounting techniques in limiting the effects that creative accounting practices have on the financial statements.

- The study (Barzan, &Khalaf, 2016) aimed to identify methods that lead to control over the performance of the external auditor and thus reduce the methods of accounting manipulation, as accounting leads to control over the

## **A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

performance of the external auditor and reduce the methods of accounting manipulation, as forensic accounting considers beyond the numbers to reveal facts and allegations through the interpretation of the concepts of fraud and accounting manipulation, and the concept of forensic accounting. The research hypothesis was tested through the use of a questionnaire, which was distributed to a sample of a group of accounting information users, and the factor analysis was used to show the importance of forensic accounting methods, and which of them are more important in the application, and the research results concluded that there are cases of fraud and manipulation in the financial statements. One of the most important recommendations is the necessity of assigning a forensic accountant.

- As for the study (Jassim, 2017), it aimed to clarify the concept of forensic accounting as a modern field of accounting and highlighted its importance and role in detecting fraud and scam cases and fighting financial and administrative corruption after this phenomenon became one of the rampant phenomena in state institutions and its effects are economically dangerous. Furthermore, the research shows the most important qualifications and characteristics of the forensic accountant, the mechanisms of his work and the areas in which forensic accounting can be applied, and the need for it by the Iraqi courts and other state institutions, after the other regulatory bodies became unable to detect and eliminate cases of corruption and fraud, the multiplicity of its forms and images.

- The study (Amin & Saeed, 2017) seeks to define forensic accounting, what its

procedures are, and how it contributes to providing financial information to the forensic authorities, which is provided by the financial expert (the forensic accountant), which has a direct impact on the decisions taken by the ruler or judge, and what are the concepts, characteristics, and importance that include Forensic accounting. A realistic case of embezzlement that occurred in one of the region's companies has been studied and constituted one of the cases brought before the courts of the Kurdistan region of Iraq. The research found that the employees in the courts of the Kurdistan region are aware of the importance of forensic accounting and its role to limit the manipulation of the financial statements, as well as the role that forensic accounting plays in giving credibility to the financial statements.

- While the study (Hussain, 2017) tried to focus on supporting the rules of ethical auditing for the work of the forensic accountant, and the extent to which it is possible to benefit from these originally applied rules. However, by studying the total correlation between them, it was found that it amounted to 97.3%, which is a positive correlation. Also, through regression analysis, it was found that there is a significant effect of the ethical rules of auditing on the variables of the requirements for the qualification of the forensic accountant, while this study shows that the confidentiality rule has no significant effect in supporting the qualifications of the forensic accountant.

- The study (Al Dulaimi & Tabishat, 2017) seeks to shed light on the concept and methods of forensic accounting and to clarify what is meant by financial fraud, that is, to explain the role of forensic

accounting in discovering financial fraud in industrial companies, and the researcher reached several conclusions, the most important of which is the study community as a whole, with its two samples. (Financial Managers and Certified Accountants) that the availability of elements of professional ethics is one of the most important axes in the skills required of Jordanian legal accountants to practice forensic accounting, then comes the axis of availability of leadership and work skills, and it recommends that everyone may be investigators or forensic accountants. Statutory auditors and accountants must be armed with forensic accounting technology to obtain acceptable and appropriate evidence for the purposes of the lawsuits, and there is a strong demand for forensic accountants with the increasing public needs for honesty, justice, and transparency in the financial report exponentially.

- The study (Obaid, 2018) revealed the relationship between forensic accounting and the quality of financial reports, and a set of conclusions was reached, the most important of which was the increasing demand for forensic accounting services at the present time due to the existence of real problems between management and stakeholders that require filing lawsuits in the competent courts. According to these conclusions, the research presented a number of recommendations related to the results of the analysis, including the need to spread awareness about the importance of forensic accounting and its methods and techniques among professionals, academics, and researchers.

The study (Saleh, 2018) considers that the role of forensic accounting is very important in enhancing the moral

commitment of those working in the field of auditing, considering that forensic accounting is one of the fields that is based on integrated knowledge in the basics of accounting and auditing, and it also represents the work of the auditor within the framework of the law that requires him to apply accounting principles, theories, controls, facts and assumptions within the framework of the law. Nevertheless, the main objective of the audit profession is to instill confidence in the information contained in the financial statements. The commitment of employees in the audit profession to the rules and ethics of professional conduct and adherence to technical standards is a recognition of the responsibility of the accounting and auditing profession as a whole towards society, clients, and their colleagues in the profession.

- As the study (Hashem & others, 2018) aimed to know the role of forensic accounting in combating and limiting financial corruption, and also to highlight the fraudulent methods that cause cases of financial and administrative corruption, as well as identifying forensic accounting procedures that contribute to combating it. Nevertheless, the research came out with a number of recommendations, the most important of which is the need to pay attention to the field of forensic accounting by including it in the curriculum of the accounting department in various Iraqi universities and institutes in order to increase awareness of forensic accounting and to show its importance in resolving disputes and lawsuits, as well as establishing a special unit for forensic accounting in each court, the Central Bank, the integrity Commission and the offices of the General inspectors to monitor



## **A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

suspicious financial operations in coordination with other government departments.

- The study (Amin, 2018) sheds light on the role of forensic accounting techniques in eliminating or reducing cases of money laundering and smuggling it outside the country, where this is done by people or groups by taking advantage of technological techniques to transfer money between countries, and the research found a set of conclusions, most notably, there is almost unanimity among the respondents that there is a role for forensic accounting techniques in limiting the phenomenon of money laundering and smuggling. In the end, the research presented some recommendations, the most important of which is the need for banks to apply these techniques because they have a role in eliminating this phenomenon, which affects the country's economy significantly.
- The study (Radi, 2018) focused on the importance of forensic accounting and the urgent need to activate and develop its role in Iraq to help solve many financial and forensic problems, and the results clearly indicate the urgent and necessary need at the present time to activate the role of forensic accounting in Iraq. Finally, this research concluded that forensic accounting should receive wide attention and emphasize the importance of including it within the educational curricula of Iraqi universities and institutes to develop the skills and capabilities of accountants in this field, as well as the importance of urging the various forensic and governmental oversight bodies to seek the assistance and reliance on experts and forensic accountants with regard to the investigation in financial corruption, fraud,

embezzlement, and other financial problems.

- A study (Nehme& Abdullah, 2019) investigated whether there is an impact of forensic accounting in enhancing the oversight role of the board of directors, and the research concluded through the theoretical and practical side, that forensic accountants have the ability and capabilities to examine the independence of the board members and its president and to select the board of members, and this, in turn, is reflected in the strengthening the oversight role of the Board of Directors.
- The study (Jassim, 2019) sheds light on the field of forensic accounting as it is a new field in accounting that has been given attention due to fraud cases in the business environment and clarification the role of forensic accounting in activating the goals of corporate governance while highlighting the corporate government in achieving the quality of accounting information. The results of the research revealed the existence of a correlation between stakeholders and the competitiveness of the institution (the study sample). The internal audit function in the institution (the study sample) enjoys independence in the performance of its tasks and has the material and financial capabilities necessary to perform its tasks, and the auditor enjoys the rules of professional conduct and contributes to the evaluation and improvement of the internal control system, promoting ethical culture, detecting errors and manipulation, and that it has an integration relationship with the external auditor, and that the work of the internal auditor is subject to an independent external evaluation.
- The study (Al-Khafaji&Diab, 2019) showed the role of forensic accounting in

strengthening forensic rulings, and the extent to which they can be applied in the Iraqi environment, because of the role of this practice in detecting cases of fraud, scam, financial and administrative corruption and tracking money laundering operations, and the following are the most important conclusions and recommendations, the necessity of directing scientific research in universities and institutes towards the wide and large field of forensic accounting for its importance in the lives of societies to enrich it in terms of application requirements in a way that defines the Iraqi environment, and qualifying specialized cadres in the field of forensic accounting through training programs inside and outside the country, and preparing forensic accountants according to the required requirements providing them with the necessary skills, experience and knowledge to help them understand the evidence and confirm the facts that contribute to strengthening forensic rulings.

- The study (Abbas, 2019) clarified the nature of the integrative relationship between forensic accounting and corporate governance and their role together in limiting creative accounting methods, and a significant effect was found between the use of forensic accounting and corporate governance in contributing together to reduce creative accounting methods through enhancing confidence in the information contained in the financial statements and strengthening the rule of law, in addition to enhancing confidence in the information contained in the financial statements.
- The study (Shakir&Thabet, 2020) aimed to demonstrate the importance of applying

forensic accounting and its impact in confronting cases of financial fraud in business, identifying the most important factors of financial fraud in business, their causes and ways to eliminate them, studying the most important global experiences and stating the pros and cons of applying forensic accounting In which. Nevertheless, the research reached results that strengthening the role of forensic accounting and its cooperation with the courts can establish a solid ground for combating various corruption methods and building a fraud-free society between regulations, rules, and standards.

- The study (Khalaf, 2021) aimed to identify the concept of tax evasion carried out by companies through manipulation of financial statements with the aim of evading the payment of tax amounts, and to indicate the role that forensic accounting can contribute to reducing tax evasion operations through the use of its methods. The research concluded a set of conclusions, including the weakness of material and human capabilities, the lack of expertise and training courses for tax officials, and the spread of corruption cases (bribery) among tax officials. The most important recommendations were the necessity of amending the Penal Code to be more severe in the case of bribery, and the necessity of spreading forensic accounting methods through courses and seminars.

### **Presentation and analysis of the results of literature review**

The number of Iraqi studies in the field of forensic accounting has reached (22) and is distributed according to the following table (1)

**A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

**Table (1) Distribution of the number of research by years**

Year	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
n	1	1	2	3	4	5	4	1	1

In 2018, it reached (5) studies, the following in 2019 and 2017 with four studies for each, and then in 2016 with (3) studies, and the remaining years for one study for each year.

However, to analyze the selected sample from the literature review that was conducted in the field of forensic accounting, within the selected sample (22) studies, which are researches on forensic accounting that focused on different areas under the term forensic accounting. And the study (Al-Jalili, 2012) concluded that the qualification methods and curricula for legal accountants in the Arab world in general and Iraq, in particular, are unable to provide the necessary requirements for qualifying certified accountants to carry out the tasks of forensic accounting, while another study indicated how forensic accounting plays a major role through the availability of a group of important services in the field of fraud investigation and legal support (Al-Jubouri Mohammed &, 2013).

As the study (Abdul Qadir&Rafu, 2014) confirmed that the lack of training centers for forensic accounting in developing countries contributed to the high rate of financial crimes, including financial and administrative corruption, and this contradicts what has been reached in developed countries in the field of forensic and investigative accounting, which represents a combination of accounting and auditing experience and legal knowledge.

While the study (Mahmoud &Dawood, 2014) highlighted the need for accounting to keep pace with the variables as it is one of the social sciences which affects and affected by the surrounding environment, and the role of forensic accounting by covering a large area of specializations,

including strengthening forensic rulings, investigations, detecting fraud and corruption, settling and resolving disputes, and playing an important role in activating the concept of corporate governance.

The study (Ibrahim & Haroun, 2016) dealt with the aspect of supporting its methods and mechanisms to limit the practice of earnings management, as it is one of the modern mechanisms and methods in the field of preventing and detecting fraud and financial and administrative corruption. The study (Saleh, 2016) included some practical cases that employ forensic accounting techniques to reduce the effects that creative accounting practices have on financial statements. While the study (Barzan, &Khalaf, 2016) sought to identify methods that lead to control over the performance of the external auditor and thus reduce the methods of accounting manipulation and the necessity of appointing a forensic accountant. While the study (Jassim, 2017) indicated the Iraqi courts' need for forensicaccounting and other state institutions after other monitoring bodies have become unable to detect and eliminate cases of corruption and fraud in its many forms and forms. And the study (Amin & Saeed, 2017) showed how forensic accounting can contribute to providing financial information to the forensic authorities, which is provided by the financial expert (the forensic accountant), which has a direct impact on the decisions taken by the ruler or judge, and it was reached through regression analysis that there is an effect Significance of the ethical rules for auditing in the variables of requirements for the qualification of a forensic accountant (Hussain, 2017).

While the study (Al Dulaimi&Tabishat, 2017) recommended that everyone can be a forensic investigator or accountants, accountants must be armed with the forensic accounting technique in obtaining acceptable and appropriate evidence for the purposes of the lawsuits, as there is a strong demand for forensic accountants, and there is a general need of honesty, justice, and transparency in the financial report, which it increases exponentially, and the demand for forensic accounting services has increased at the present time due to the existence of real problems between management and stakeholders that require filing lawsuits in the competent courts (Obaid, 2018), and that there is a very important role for forensic accounting in strengthening the ethical commitment of Those working in the audit profession (Saleh, 2018).

As the study (Hashem & others, 2018) recommended, establishing a special unit for forensic accounting in each of the courts, the Central Bank, the Integrity Commission and the offices of the inspectors general to monitor suspicious financial operations in coordination with other government oversight departments. The study (Amin, 2018) highlighted the role of forensic accounting techniques in eliminating or reducing cases of money laundering and smuggling abroad.

As the results of the study (Radi, 2018) clearly indicated to the urgent and necessary need at the present time to activate the role of forensic accounting in Iraq, and stress the importance of including it within the educational curricula of Iraqi universities and institutes, and that forensic accountants have the ability and capabilities to examine the independence of the members of the Council and its president and to choose the Council of the members, and this, in turn, is reflected in the strengthening of the supervisory role of the Board of Directors (Nehme& Abdullah, 2019), and the impact of forensic accounting in activating the

objectives of the corporate government, while highlighting the corporate government in achieving the quality of accounting information (Jassim, 2019), And the need to direct scientific research in universities and institutes towards the wide and large field of forensic accounting because of its importance in the lives of societies to enrich it in terms of application requirements to serve the Iraqi environment, and to qualify specialized cadres in the field of forensic accounting through training programs inside and outside the country, and prepare forensic accountants according to the required requirements and provide them with skills and the necessary expertise and knowledge to help them understand the evidence and confirm the facts that contribute to strengthening forensic rulings (Al-Khafaji&Diab, 2019), And it was found that there is a significant effect between the use of forensic accounting and corporate governance in contributing together to reduce creative accounting methods by enhancing confidence in the information contained in the financial statements and strengthening the rule of law in addition to enhancing confidence in the information contained in the financial statements (Abbas, 2019). Nevertheless, strengthening the role of forensic accounting and its cooperation with the courts can establish a solid ground for combating various corruption methods and building a fraud-free society (Shakir&Thabet, 2020), an indication of the role that forensic accounting can contribute to reducing tax evasion operations through the use of its methods (Khalaf, 2021).

As for the ethical aspect of forensic accounting, it has been addressed by several studies such as (Hussain, 2017), (Al Dulaimi&Tabishat, 2017), (Saleh, 2018), (Jassim, 2019). The study (Hussain, 2017) tried to focus on supporting the rules of ethical auditing for the work of the forensic accountant, and by studying the total correlation between them, it was found that it amounted to 97.3%, which is

## **A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

a good positive correlation. Also, through regression analysis, it was found that there is a significant impact of the ethical rules of auditing on the variables of requirements for the qualification of the forensic accountant.

(Al Dulaimi&Tabishat, 2017) It has played a very important role in enhancing the moral commitment of employees in the field of auditing, considering that forensic accounting is one of the fields that is based on integrated knowledge in the basics of accounting and auditing, and it also represents the work of the auditor within the framework of the law that requires the application of accounting principles, theories, authorities, facts, and assumptions within the framework of the law (Saleh, 2018), and they have a role in activating the objectives of the corporate government while highlighting the corporate government in achieving the quality of accounting information and the existence of a correlation between stakeholders and the competitiveness of the institution (the study sample). The internal audit function in the institution(the study sample) enjoys independence in performing its duties, it has the material and financial capabilities necessary to perform its tasks, and the auditor enjoys the rules of professional conduct, which contributes to the evaluation and improvement of the internal control system, the promotion of ethical culture, and the discovery of errors and manipulation, and that it has an integration relationship with the external auditor, and that the work of the internal auditor is subject to an external evaluation Independent (Jassim, 2019).

### **Findings and Recommendations**

Based on the results of the literature review that was conducted during the period starting from 2012 to 2021, several important conclusions can be reached, including the necessity of integrating forensic accounting into education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as Iraqi universities should pay attention to

this field, and forensic accounting supports the ethical commitment of those working in the audit profession. Moreover, knowledge about traditional accounting practices alone does not create a good forensic accountant, as a chartered accountant must have knowledge in various disciplines and these areas include; Auditing, accounting, statistics, information technology, legal rules, and human skills. However, most of the studies focus on the practical aspects of forensic accounting, while this can be identified as a good trend, but the focus should be more on frauds, and there are several areas of forensic accounting. Forensic accounting to meet industry demand while practitioners can enhance their knowledge of forensic accounting, forensic accounting education, forensic accounting, and financial meltdowns, application of forensic accounting in the real world, and forensic accounting in drug and food manipulation under the corona pandemic. Based on the literature review, several recommendations can be made. First, forensic accounting education should be introduced at the undergraduate or postgraduate level. And second, forensic accounting education curricula must be designed in a way that has the ability to create a forensic accountant with skills in multidisciplinary areas and put them into practice. And third and last, future research can be conducted in several areas, including; The importance of forensic accounting education, and how forensic accounting can be used to reduce financial collapse, the practical application of forensic accounting, and the role of the forensic accountant under the Corona pandemic, especially in light of the monopoly of medicines, foodstuffs and vaccine contracts.

### **Resources**

1. Miqdad .A. A. (2012). Judicial accountability and its applicability in TANMIAT AL-RAFIDAIN, 34(107 special issue).

2. Nassif J. A., & Salah H. M. (2013). The role of forensic accounting in detecting financial fraud.
3. Obaid, Z. N. (2018), The Role of Forensic Accounting in Improving the Quality of Financial Reporting, *Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences*, 2018, Volume 24, Issue 107, Pages 670-682
4. Khalil I. A, & Rama B. T. (2017). Judicial accounting and its role in discovering financial fraud in Jordanian public shareholding industrial companies. *The islamic college university journal*, (42).
5. Shakir, A. E. and Thabet, H. (2020), The Role of Forensic Accounting in Reducing Financial Fraud in Business, *Journal of Techniques*, 2020, Volume 2, Issue 2, Pages A29-A37
6. Donia J. (2019). The use of judicial accounting and its impact on the corporate governance of Iraqi companies, a study in the National Company for Chemical and Plastic Industries in Iraq. *Journal of University of Babylon*, 27(3).
7. Basheer K. A. (2019). The possibility of achieving integration between judicial accounting and corporate governance to contribute to limiting creative accounting methods - an analytical study. *Muthanna Journal of Administrative and Economic Sciences*, 9(2).
8. Maytham M. R. (2018). The necessity of activating and developing the role of judicial accountability in Iraq. *Muthanna Journal of Administrative and Economic Sciences*, 8(4).
9. Nehme, I. S. and Abdullah, F. N., (2019), Strengthening the Oversight Role of the Board of Directors under Forensic Accountability, *Tikrit Journal of Administration and Economics Sciences*, 2019, Volume 15, Issue 46 Part 1, Pages 1-15
10. Barzan, S. B. and Khalaf, K. M., (2016), The Role of Forensic Accountability Methods to Reduce Fraud and Manipulation, *Journal of Administration and Economics*, 2016, Volume , Issue 108, Pages 221-236
11. Jassim ,F. A. H. (2017). The importance of judicial accountability in detecting financial violations and determining responsibility for them, "A case study in an Iraqi court". *Journal of Misan Researches*, 13(25).
12. Ibrahim ,H. A. M., & M. H. (2016). Judicial accounting and its role in limiting the practice of profit management, the money market in Khartoum. *AL-Mostansiriyah journal for Arab and international studies*, (55).
13. Saleh, M. H., (2016), The use of forensic accounting techniques in revealing creative accounting practices and their effects on financial statements, *AL-dananeer*, 2016, Volume 1, Issue 8, Pages 581`-610
14. Saleh ,M. N. (2018). Judicial accounting and its role in enhancing the moral commitment of workers in the accounting and auditing profession, a study of a sample of auditors in the city of

**A systematic review of the literature on forensic accounting in the Iraqi environment and what are the good qualities from an ethical viewpoint of the profession: a literature review for the period from 2012 to 2021**

Mosul. Journal of Baghdad College of Economic sciences University, (55).

15. Hashem, H. H. and Saeed, H. S. and Dawud, Ikhlas Abd Ali, (2018), The Effectiveness of Forensic Accounting Procedures in Retaliating Financial and Administrative Corruption - A Survey Study, Journal of Administration and Economics, 2018, Volume 4, Issue 117, Pages 257- 271

16. Amin ,D. K. H. (2018). The role of forensic accounting and its techniques in limiting money laundering and smuggling operations, an exploratory study in a sample of Erbil banks. Tikrit Journal of Administration and Economics Sciences, 14(42 part 1).

17. Al-Khafaji, A. A. K. and Diab, S.A., (2019), The extent of the need for judicial accountability in strengthening judicial rulings and the extent to which they can be applied in the Iraqi environment, Journal Of AL-Turath University College, 2019, Volume, Issue 27, Pages 299-318

18. Amin, S. Z. and Saeed, Y. A., (2017), The Role of Forensic Accounting in Raising the Degree of Credibility in Financial Statements A Case Study in Courts in the Kurdistan Region, Journal of

Techniques, 2017, Volume 30, Issue 4, Pages A363-A386

19. Mahmoud ,Bakr Ibrahim, & Dawood ,Ekhlas Abd Ali. (2014). The role of forensic accounting in governance and its implications for the quality of accounting information. Journal of Accounting and Financial Studies, 9(28).

20. Khalaf , Q., (2021). The role of judicial accounting to reduce tax evasion operations / a field study in the General Tax Authority. AL-dananeer, 1(23).

21. Abdul Qadir, A. Z. and Rafu, R. N. J., (2014), The Development of Accounting Education Curricula in Iraq and its Role in Reducing Financial and Administrative Corruption - An Introduction to Forensic and Investigative Accounting, AL-Anbar University journal of Economic and Administration Sciences, 2014, Volume 6, Issue 12, Pages 511-528

22. Hussain, W. N.(2017), The Role of Audit Ethics in Supporting Forensic Accountant Qualification Requirements A Survey of the Opinions of a Sample of Financial Advisers in Iraqi Courts, Tikrit Journal of Administration and Economics Sciences, 2017, Volume 13, Issue 40 part 2, Pages 235-259