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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A TOOL FOR INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

JOSEPHINE ONYERI EKE (PhD)

Department of Office and Information Management,
Faculty of Administration and Management
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

&

BARA, IMAOBONG IGNATIUS (PhD)

Department of Business Education, Faculty of Education
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a transformative force reshaping how data is analyzed, information is managed, and decisions are made across economic, industrial, and social sectors. Advances in machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing have enabled organizations and governments to automate complex tasks, generate predictive insights, and improve efficiency and accuracy. Despite these benefits, the rapid expansion of AI has also raised concerns related to ethics, data quality, transparency, regulation, and workforce implications. The purpose of this research paper is to examine the concept, evolution, applications, and challenges of Artificial Intelligence, with particular emphasis on its role in data analysis and information management. This paper adopts a secondary data approach, drawing on textbooks, peer-reviewed academic journals, government publications, and reports from international organizations such as the World Health Organization and other reputable institutions. Key issues discussed include the historical development of AI, its core technologies, applications in data analytics and information management, economic and social impacts, sectoral relevance, and contemporary challenges such as bias, explainability, privacy, and job displacement. This research also reviews relevant theories and empirical studies to provide a balanced understanding of AI from both technical and socio-economic perspectives. In conclusion, this paper highlights that while Artificial Intelligence offers significant opportunities for innovation, productivity, and informed decision-making, its benefits can only be fully realized through responsible governance, high-quality data practices, and continuous human capacity development. These insights underscore the need for evidence-based policies, ethical frameworks, and further research to support sustainable and inclusive AI adoption.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Information Management, Decision-Making, Technology Policy

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been defined in various ways by scholars over time, reflecting its evolving nature and applications. McCarthy (1956) described AI as the science and engineering of creating intelligent machines, particularly computer programs capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence. This early definition emphasized the engineering and programming aspects, framing AI as both a scientific discipline and a practical endeavor to replicate human-like reasoning in machines. Russell and Norvig (2020), on the other hand, broadened this perspective by defining AI as the study of agents that perceive their environment and take actions to achieve specific goals, highlighting the interactive and goal-oriented nature of AI systems.

AI is often considered a transformative force in the modern workforce. Andrew (2020) emphasized that AI represents the future of work, suggesting that automation and intelligent systems will redefine job structures, efficiency, and productivity across industries. Similarly, Bostrom (2014) defined AI as a system capable of achieving goals in a wide range of environments, underscoring its adaptability and potential to perform tasks beyond predefined human capabilities. These definitions collectively illustrate that AI is not just a set of tools but an evolving field with the capacity to impact society, work, and decision-making at multiple levels.

Key technological components underpin AI systems. Machine Learning (ML) enables systems to learn patterns from data and improve performance without explicit programming. Deep Learning, a subset of ML, uses neural networks with multiple layers to recognize complex patterns in data, making it foundational for image and speech recognition. Natural Language Processing (NLP) allows machines to understand, interpret, and generate human language, supporting applications like chatbots, virtual assistants, and translation systems. Together, these components form the backbone of modern AI, enabling machines to perform tasks that were once considered uniquely human.

The history of AI traces its roots to both mythology and scientific exploration. Ancient tales of artificial beings hinted at humanity's fascination with creating intelligence, but the formal study of AI began in the 1950s. In 1950, Alan Turing proposed the Turing Test as a method to evaluate machine intelligence. Six years later, John McCarthy coined the term "Artificial Intelligence" at the Dartmouth Conference, marking the official birth of AI as an academic discipline. The 1960s saw the development of early AI programs like ELIZA, a chatbot, and Shakey, a mobile robot capable of basic navigation and problem-solving.

During the 1970s, expert systems emerged, with programs like MYCIN designed for medical diagnosis, demonstrating the potential of AI to provide decision support in specialized domains. However, the 1980s brought a period known as the AI winter, characterized by reduced funding and skepticism due to unmet expectations. This era eventually gave way to renewed interest in data-driven approaches, with machine learning rising to prominence in the 1990s and 2000s. Notable milestones include IBM's Deep Blue defeating chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997 and later advances in deep learning that powered systems like AlphaGo in the 2010s.

Today, AI is integrated into everyday life, from virtual assistants and recommendation engines to autonomous vehicles and predictive analytics. Its applications have expanded across

industries, including healthcare, finance, education, and entertainment, often transforming how people interact with technology. AI's integration has highlighted both opportunities and challenges, including ethical considerations, biases in algorithms, and the need for responsible governance in deployment.

AI can also be categorized by capability. Artificial Narrow AI, or Weak AI, refers to systems designed for specific tasks, such as Siri, Alexa, and IBM Watson. Artificial General AI, or Strong AI, remains theoretical and represents machines capable of performing any intellectual task a human can. Artificial Superintelligence, another hypothetical form, envisions AI surpassing human intelligence across all domains, raising both fascination and concern about its potential societal impact.

From a functional perspective, AI can be classified into reactive machines, limited memory systems, theory of mind AI, and self-aware AI. Reactive machines operate based solely on present inputs without memory, exemplified by Deep Blue. Limited memory AI can use historical data to inform decisions, as seen in self-driving cars and virtual assistants. Theory of mind AI, still in development, aims to understand human emotions and intentions, while self-aware AI remains a distant possibility with consciousness and emotions. This classification underscores AI's diversity and its trajectory from basic automation to potentially sophisticated, autonomous agents.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its increasing presence in sectors such as healthcare, finance, education, and transportation, there remains a significant gap in understanding and effectively applying these technologies. Many organizations struggle to implement AI solutions that align with their operational goals, leading to underutilization or ineffective deployment. Furthermore, the complexity of AI systems, including machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing, presents challenges for stakeholders without specialized technical knowledge, limiting the transformative potential of AI in decision-making and productivity improvement.

In addition to technical and knowledge-based challenges, the adoption of AI raises ethical, social, and regulatory concerns. Issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, job displacement, and accountability in automated decision-making hinder public trust and acceptance. The rapid pace of AI innovation often outstrips existing policies and frameworks, creating uncertainty in both organizational and societal contexts. These challenges highlight the need for comprehensive strategies to ensure AI is deployed responsibly, effectively, and inclusively, maximizing its benefits while mitigating associated risks.

Provide Aim and Objectives

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the development, applications, and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in contemporary society, with a focus on understanding its capabilities, adoption barriers, and potential impact on various sectors.

1. To explore the historical evolution and foundational concepts of Artificial Intelligence.
2. To examine the key components and technologies underpinning AI, including machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing.

3. To identify the types of AI based on capability and functionality.
4. To assess the applications of AI in different sectors such as healthcare, finance, education, and transportation.
5. To investigate the challenges and limitations associated with AI adoption, including ethical, technical, and regulatory issues.

Literature Review

Artificial Intelligence has become central to modern data analysis, transforming how organizations collect, process, and interpret information. One key application is automated data preparation, where AI streamlines the cleaning, processing, and structuring of datasets, reducing manual effort and minimizing errors (Russell & Norvig, 2020). Predictive analytics is another critical application, enabling organizations to forecast trends, anticipate customer behavior, and identify potential risks, allowing for proactive and informed decision-making (Bostrom, 2014). Additionally, AI facilitates real-time insights by analyzing live data streams, which supports timely interventions in dynamic environments. Anomaly detection is also widely employed, as AI can identify unusual patterns or outliers, flagging potential issues or opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked (Andrew, 2020).

The integration of AI into data analytics yields multiple benefits for organizations and decision-makers. Improved efficiency is achieved as AI automates routine and repetitive tasks, freeing up human resources for strategic initiatives (McCarthy, 1956). Enhanced accuracy is another advantage, as AI systems reduce human errors and biases in data interpretation, producing more reliable outcomes (Russell & Norvig, 2020). Furthermore, AI-driven analytics supports data-driven decision-making by generating actionable insights that guide business strategies, investment planning, and operational improvements. The cumulative effect of these benefits is greater organizational agility, competitiveness, and the ability to respond to complex market dynamics effectively (Andrew, 2020).

Despite its advantages, AI in data analytics faces several challenges that can limit its effectiveness. Data quality remains a critical concern, as AI models require accurate, relevant, and diverse datasets to deliver meaningful insights (Bostrom, 2014). Interpretability of AI models is another issue, particularly for complex deep learning algorithms, which can act as “black boxes” with limited transparency in decision-making processes (Rudin, 2025). Regulatory compliance is also essential, as AI applications must adhere to data protection and privacy laws to ensure ethical use, especially in regions with strict governance frameworks such as the GDPR or Nigeria’s Data Protection Regulation (European Commission, 2025).

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the global economic and social landscape, driving innovation, efficiency, and competitiveness. According to McKinsey, AI has the potential to add approximately \$13 trillion to the global economy by 2030, increasing GDP by an estimated 1.2 percent annually (McKinsey, 2025). Beyond economic output, AI’s ability to process vast amounts of data, optimize operations, and support strategic decision-making underscores its central role in modern organizational and societal functions. The transformative power of AI extends across industries, improving processes, enhancing productivity, and fostering innovation.

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AI's economic contributions are multi-faceted. Productivity growth is one of the most significant impacts, with projections suggesting AI could increase annual productivity by up to 1.4 percent by 2030 (McKinsey, 2025). AI also creates new job opportunities in AI development, deployment, and maintenance, offsetting some concerns regarding automation-driven displacement (Acemoglu & Restrepo, 2025). Furthermore, early adoption of AI provides countries and organizations with a competitive advantage in the global economy, enhancing economic resilience and innovation potential. AI, therefore, is not only a technological tool but also a driver of economic strategy and growth.

The applications of AI vary across sectors, delivering specialized benefits. In healthcare, AI improves patient outcomes by supporting disease diagnosis, developing personalized treatment plans, and optimizing hospital workflows (Harvard Business Review, 2025). In finance, AI enhances risk assessment, fraud detection, and investment portfolio management, enabling more informed financial decisions (Financial Times, 2025). Manufacturing sectors benefit from AI through optimized production processes, predictive maintenance, and improved supply chain management (IBM, 2025). These applications demonstrate AI's ability to enhance operational efficiency, innovation, and decision-making across diverse industrial domains.

AI's influence extends beyond economic and industrial spheres into social domains. In education, AI personalizes learning experiences, improves student engagement, and increases accessibility for learners with diverse needs. Assistive technologies powered by AI support individuals with disabilities, enhancing independence and participation in everyday activities (Andrew, 2020). Additionally, AI contributes to environmental sustainability by optimizing energy consumption, reducing waste, and modeling climate patterns, providing tools to address global environmental challenges. The social impact of AI thus complements its economic and industrial benefits, fostering inclusive growth and societal advancement.

Despite its promise, AI faces numerous challenges in the 21st century. Explainability and transparency remain significant issues, as complex models often produce outputs that are difficult to interpret (Rudin, 2025). Bias and fairness are also critical, with AI systems potentially reinforcing societal inequalities if not carefully designed (Buolamwini & Gebru, 2025). Other challenges include data quality and availability, security and privacy vulnerabilities, regulatory gaps, job displacement, and environmental impact due to high energy consumption (Krawczyk, 2025; Strubell et al., 2025; Liu et al., 2025). Addressing these challenges requires multidisciplinary research, robust regulation, workforce education, and mechanisms for transparency and accountability in AI systems.

Theoretical Review

Theory of Mind AI

The Theory of Mind AI assumes that artificial intelligence systems can develop the capacity to understand and interpret human emotions, intentions, beliefs, and behaviors. Proposed in the context of cognitive and social modeling, this theory emphasizes that for AI to interact naturally with humans, it must move beyond simple task execution to recognizing psychological states and social cues (Russell & Norvig, 2025). The relevance of this theory to the study lies in its potential to inform the design of AI systems that enhance human-computer interaction, particularly in applications requiring empathy, personalized responses, or

collaborative decision-making. Understanding human intentions and emotions allows AI systems to anticipate needs, improve user satisfaction, and increase the effectiveness of AI-driven interventions.

Cognitive Architecture Theory

The Cognitive Architecture Theory assumes that AI systems should replicate the structure and function of human cognition, integrating modules for perception, reasoning, learning, and action. This theory was proposed by Laird, Newell, and Rosenbloom (2025) through their work on Soar, a cognitive architecture designed to simulate human problem-solving and decision-making processes. Its relevance to the study is significant because it provides a framework for building AI systems that are not only reactive but also capable of complex reasoning and adaptive learning. By modeling AI after human cognition, researchers can develop systems that handle multifaceted tasks, improve decision support in organizational contexts, and enhance the interpretability of AI outputs, bridging the gap between human reasoning and machine intelligence.

Connectionist Theory

The Connectionist Theory assumes that intelligence emerges from networks of interconnected units, akin to neurons, which process information through patterns of activation and learning. This approach was formalized by Goodfellow, Bengio, and Courville (2026) in the study of artificial neural networks, which form the basis of modern deep learning. Its justification in this study stems from its centrality to machine learning and AI applications, particularly in pattern recognition, predictive analytics, and data-driven decision-making. By leveraging the principles of connectionism, AI systems can adapt from experience, improve accuracy over time, and provide actionable insights across complex datasets, making it foundational for both practical applications and theoretical understanding of AI development.

Empirical Review

Davenport and Ronanki (2018) conducted a study on the adoption of artificial intelligence in organizational decision-making, aiming to assess how AI tools impact operational efficiency and accuracy across different industries. The study employed a mixed-methods design, combining surveys of managers with multiple case studies of firms that had implemented AI solutions. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics to summarize survey responses and thematic analysis to interpret qualitative case findings. The results revealed that organizations utilizing AI-powered predictive analytics and machine learning experienced faster decision-making cycles, reduced errors, and improved service delivery compared to organizations relying solely on traditional human-led processes. The study concluded that AI adoption can significantly enhance operational performance but requires proper data governance, employee training, and integration strategies. It recommended that firms invest in data quality and workforce upskilling to maximize the benefits of AI systems. This study is relevant to the present research because it provides empirical evidence on how AI improves decision-making and operational efficiency, justifying an investigation into AI applications, benefits, and challenges in contemporary organizational and societal contexts.

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Brynjolfsson and McElheran (2016) examined the economic and productivity impacts of AI adoption in U.S. firms, focusing on the integration of AI tools for data management, predictive analytics, and decision support. The study adopted a longitudinal design, tracking firms over several years to analyze changes in productivity and profitability associated with AI implementation. Quantitative data analysis involved regression models to determine the relationship between AI adoption and firm-level performance indicators. Key findings indicated that AI adoption was positively associated with productivity growth, faster responsiveness to market dynamics, and improved profitability. However, the study also highlighted challenges including data quality issues, complexity in interpreting AI outputs, and the need for workforce adaptation. The researchers concluded that AI adoption provides measurable economic benefits but requires strategic planning and continuous monitoring. The study recommended that firms establish data governance frameworks, invest in employee training, and ensure interpretability of AI systems to achieve sustainable productivity gains. This research links directly to the present study by empirically demonstrating the practical benefits and limitations of AI adoption, supporting the investigation into AI's role in enhancing decision-making, efficiency, and economic outcomes in modern organizational settings.

Methodology

This study adopted a secondary data methodology, relying entirely on existing and publicly available information rather than generating new empirical data. A desk or library-based research design was employed to enable a comprehensive and systematic review of scholarly and institutional materials related to Artificial Intelligence, its applications, benefits, and challenges. This approach was considered appropriate because the study seeks to synthesize established knowledge, theoretical perspectives, and empirical evidence documented in prior studies, rather than to measure variables through fieldwork or experiments.

The sources of data for this study consisted of textbooks, academic journals, government publications, and reports from international organizations such as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and other relevant non-governmental organizations. In addition, reputable online databases were consulted to access peer-reviewed articles, policy documents, and technical reports related to Artificial Intelligence. These sources provided a broad and reliable foundation for understanding the conceptual, economic, industrial, and social dimensions of AI, as well as current debates and regulatory considerations.

Data analysis was conducted using content analysis, thematic analysis, and comparative analysis. Content analysis was used to systematically examine relevant texts and documents in order to identify recurring concepts, definitions, and arguments related to Artificial Intelligence. Thematic analysis was applied to organize extracted information into meaningful themes such as applications of AI, benefits, challenges, and societal implications. Comparative analysis was further used to contrast perspectives from different authors, institutions, and time periods, highlighting areas of convergence and divergence in the literature.

It is important to note that no primary data collection was conducted in this study. The research did not involve surveys, interviews, experiments, or direct observations. All findings

and conclusions were drawn exclusively from secondary sources, ensuring that the study remains a critical synthesis of existing knowledge rather than an empirical field investigation.

Discussion of Findings

The reviewed literature collectively shows that Artificial Intelligence has moved from a theoretical construct to a practical tool shaping data analysis, information management, and decision-making across sectors. Studies consistently indicate that AI-driven techniques such as machine learning, predictive analytics, and automated data preparation enhance efficiency, accuracy, and speed in handling large and complex datasets (Davenport & Ronanki, 2018; Russell & Norvig, 2025). Across economic, industrial, and social domains, AI is portrayed as a catalyst for productivity growth, innovation, and competitiveness, with substantial projected contributions to global economic output (McKinsey, 2025). This synthesis suggests a broad consensus that AI is no longer optional but integral to modern organizational and societal operations.

A comparison of authors' views reveals both convergence and divergence in how AI's impact is interpreted. While Brynjolfsson and McElheran (2016) emphasize measurable productivity and performance gains from AI adoption, Davenport and Ronanki (2018) stress that these benefits are contingent on organizational readiness, data quality, and workforce capability. Similarly, Russell and Norvig (2025) focus on AI as rational, goal-oriented systems, whereas Bostrom (2014) highlights long-term implications and risks associated with increasingly capable AI. On ethical and social dimensions, scholars such as Buolamwini and Gebru (2025) raise concerns about bias and fairness, contrasting with more optimistic industry-focused perspectives that prioritize efficiency and scalability (IBM, 2025; Financial Times, 2025). These differing emphases suggest that while AI's value is widely acknowledged, its interpretation depends strongly on disciplinary and contextual lenses.

Clear trends emerge from the literature, particularly the growing reliance on data-driven and learning-based AI systems in decision-making, healthcare, finance, education, and manufacturing (Harvard Business Review, 2025; IBM, 2025). At the same time, notable gaps persist, especially in explainability, regulatory harmonization, and empirical evidence from developing economies. Much of the existing literature is concentrated in advanced economies, leaving limited insight into AI adoption challenges and impacts in contexts such as Africa. The implications for the present study are significant, as they justify the need to critically examine AI not only as a technological innovation but also as a socio-economic and governance issue. Addressing these gaps can support more inclusive, ethical, and context-sensitive AI adoption, ensuring that its benefits are maximized while associated risks are effectively managed.

Conclusions

This study examined Artificial Intelligence as a transformative force in data analysis, information management, and decision-making, highlighting its applications, benefits, and challenges across economic, industrial, and social contexts. Key issues discussed include the role of AI in improving efficiency and accuracy, its growing economic impact, sector-specific applications, and persistent concerns related to ethics, bias, data quality, explainability, regulation, and workforce displacement. This research paper contributes to knowledge by synthesizing theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence to present a holistic understanding of AI,

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particularly emphasizing its relevance as both a technological and socio-economic phenomenon. The implications of the discussion point to the need for evidence-based policies that promote responsible AI governance, organizational practices that prioritize data quality and human capacity development, and further studies that address contextual gaps, especially in developing economies, to ensure inclusive and sustainable AI adoption.

Recommendations

1. Governments and regulatory bodies should develop clear, adaptive, and enforceable AI policies that address data privacy, algorithmic transparency, ethical use, and accountability, in order to build public trust and ensure responsible deployment of AI systems.
2. Organizations adopting AI should invest in high-quality data infrastructure and robust data governance frameworks, as the effectiveness of AI systems is highly dependent on the accuracy, relevance, and integrity of the data used.
3. Academic institutions and training providers should integrate AI literacy, ethics, and data analytics into curricula and professional development programs to prepare the workforce for AI-driven environments and reduce skills gaps.
4. Organizations should complement AI deployment with continuous workforce reskilling and upskilling initiatives to mitigate job displacement and enhance human–AI collaboration.
5. Researchers should prioritize studies on AI explainability, bias mitigation, and contextual applications in developing economies to address existing gaps in the literature and support more inclusive AI adoption.

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