

The Factors Affecting in Narrowing the Audit Expectations Gap from the Viewpoint of the Investors in Jordan

Dr. Hasan Flayyeh Al qtaish,
Isra university, P.O Box 22, code 11622, Amman – Jordan.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the nature of the audit expectations gap and analyzing the factors that may affect in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan, and then make the recommendations to constrict such a gap through measuring and analyzing the factors that influence the gap. A questionnaire has been developed to achieve the objectives of this study. The questionnaire included (34) questions, distributed to 60 investors in stock market, who are the sample of study. 57 responded questionnaires were collected. All had been analyzed; one sample t-test and test of (ANOVA) were used to test the hypotheses of the study. The study concluded a set of results, including: the factors that influence audit expectations gap, which are: the efficiency of the auditor and his professional care, the auditor's responsibility for the certified accounting numbers, the verification of the auditor on the level of the disclosure in the financial statement, improvement of communication with the users of the financial statements, the auditor's commitment to integrity and honesty, and the independence of the Auditors. It was found that the effect of these factors was high and uneven. Finally, the study proposed several recommendations, most important: the necessity to enhance communication, information and the education of the users of the financial statements on the functions of auditing, responsibilities and duties of the auditor, management responsibilities, and the expansion of the auditors responsibilities to meet the reasonable expectations, and to adopt the detailed auditor's report to mitigate the audit expectations gap.

Key words: audit expectations gap, performance gap, ignorance gap, reasonable expectations, unreasonable expectations.

1- Introduction:

The audit profession has encountered a crisis of responsibility, credibility and loss of confidence in the recent years as a result of the growing international financial and economic crisis, which led to the bankruptcy of many companies and banks collapse. The complicity of deliberate accounting and auditing companies with corporate administrators, as what occurred to Andersen Auditing Company, one of the largest audit companies around the world, but the first in terms of size and prevalence, which was accused of the collapse of the giant Enron Group, one of the largest corporation in the world operating in gas and energy (Al Qashi, 2011 p 4). This collusion led to question raised by many people about the reason made the auditors to refrain giving warning signs about the economic situation of these companies. The broad criticism to Auditors worldwide clearly indicates a significant gap between public expectations and the actual performance of the Auditors. The researchers refer the existence of this gap to two reasons (Al-Omari, 2003, p. 10): either the public expectations of Auditors is unreasonable according to auditing standards, so this requires lowering public expectations, or the expectations of the performance of the Auditors are reasonable and within the limits of what is required from them, according to the auditing professional standards, but the actual performance of the Auditor is not adequate, due to his unfamiliarity of his duties and responsibilities or because of the lack of efficiency or both. There is mystery about the audit career pertaining to the auditor's duties and responsibilities and the objectives of audit, or what is so-called the audit expectations gap, resulting from the existence of divergent expectations of the users of the financial statements about the duties and responsibilities of the auditor and the auditor's commitment to his responsibilities. The preparation of financial data is the responsibility of the company management, while the auditor's role is giving credibility to the data declared (Daraghmeah and 'Aqil, 2011, p 10). Solving the problem of audit expectations gap requires an effective action to reduce such a gap. Therefore, this study is considered as a contribution to this trend by highlighting the nature of the expectations gap, key components and analysis the factors influencing in narrowing the audit expectations gap.

1-1 Problem of the Study:

- 1- Is there an effect to the independence of the auditor in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan?
- 2- Is there an effect to the efficiency of the auditor and his professional care in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan?
- 3- Is there an effect to the commitment of the auditor to integrity and honesty in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan?
- 4- Is there an effect to the verification of the auditor on the level of disclosure in the financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan?

- 5- Is there an effect to the responsibility of the auditor towards the creditability of accounting figures in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan?
- 6- Is there an effect to improve communication with the users of financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan?
- 7- Is there a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the factors affecting in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan due to the difference of the academic qualifications and the degree of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies in investment decision making?

1-2 Objectives of the Study: The objectives of the study focus on:

- 1- Identify the environment, nature, and component of the audit expectations gap.
- 2- Determination the factors have impact upon narrowing the audit expectations gap.
- 3- Defines the relative importance of the factors effect in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 4- Develops the recommendations in order to contribute to the constriction the expectations gap and find out the necessary solutions by the different parties to enhance the confidentiality of the financial statements users done by the auditors as well as their reports.

1-3 The Importance of the Study: the importance of the study emerges from the importance of the subject we discuss, represented by finding out some solutions to constrict the audit expectations gap. This study serves multi parties: it serves the professional and competent agencies by taking their role through testing the regulations, rule and criteria govern audit profession, in addition to making the necessary amendments to meet the reasonable expectations for the users of the financial statements and strengthen the independence of the auditors. The study also contributes in draw the care of audit offices towards the development of the quality control and supervision on the auditor works and revises them; let the auditors to hold responsibility for their works. Moreover, the study enhances the confidentiality of the public and beneficiaries, including the investors, in the auditor reports and the financial statements, through meeting the reasonable expectations of the users of the financial statements and corrects the unreasonable expectations.

1-4 Hypotheses of the Study:

- 1- There is no effect to the independence of the auditor in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 2- There is no effect to the efficiency of the auditor and his professional care in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 3- There is no effect to the commitment of the auditor to integrity and honesty in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 4- There is no effect to the verification of the auditor on the level of disclosure in the financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 5- There is no effect to the responsibility of the auditor towards the creditability of accounting figures in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 6- There is no effect to improve communication with the users of financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 7- There is no differences of statistically significant at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the factors affecting in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan due to the difference of the academic qualifications and the degree of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies in investment decision making.

1-5 Previous Studies: This section provides some of the literature related to the structure and components of the expectations gap and methods of constriction: The study conducted by (Kamau1 2013) aimed to determine audit Expectation Gap: Evidence from Limited Companies in Kenya, the study concluded that: Expectation gap is defined as the difference between what the public as well as financial statement users believe auditors are responsible for and what auditors actually believe their responsibilities are. And The key role of the auditor is to provide objective assurance as to whether the books of accounts and the resulting financial statements represent a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organization. In other words the auditors are supposed to confirm to the shareholders and other users of accounting information that the financial statements presented by the management are free from any material misstatements. Public and in particular users of accounting information however has high expectations from auditor as compared to their actual role thus giving rise to audit expectation gap.

The study of (John,2013) aimed to ascertain the role of the auditing profession in narrowing the audit expectation. The study concluded a set of results, most important: the public appears ignorant of what is

expected of the auditors as enshrined in the statute books and other documents issued by regulatory and professional bodies. This public's lack of knowledge no doubt is responsible for their unreasonable expectations from the auditors. This work shows that it is necessary to educate the public the more to enhance their understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the auditor and thereby reduce their unreasonable expectations from the auditors, it was recommended, 1. the public need to be educated more on the duties and responsibilities of the auditor to improve their understanding of the work of the auditor, 2. The standard auditor's report should be expanded to include disclaimer clauses clearly showing that it is not a certificate or guarantee of the financial soundness of the auditee.

The study of (Daraghmeah and 'Aqel, 2011) aimed to provide empirical evidence regarding the unreasonable expectations for users of financial statements about the profession, its objectives, and responsibilities of the auditor in Palestine. The most important findings of the study were that the unreasonable audit expectations gap severely exists in the Palestinian environment. It turns out that utmost cause of such gap was the variable of ignorance about the responsibilities of the audit, then followed by the variable ignorance about the profession in general, and comes next the variable of ignorance about the benefits and objectives of the audit. The results also indicate that external users of financial statements are the most important factors that contribute in the existence of the audit expectations gap. It was also found that the financial managers did not have any role in existence of unreasonable audit expectations gap, while accountants had a little role in the emergence of the expectations gap. The results indicate that there are differences of statistical significance in the average of the viewpoint users in relation to the financial statements with respect to unreasonable expectations about the profession, where it was observed that the external users have unreasonable expectations about the responsibilities of the auditor, the audit objectives, benefit of audit and the profession in general more than internal users. The study of (Bogdanovičiūtė, 2011) aimed to analyze the extent of an audit expectation gap among auditors and users of audited financial statements. The results confirm that audit expectation gap exist in Lithuanian business environment, especially in the areas related to auditors reliability and responsibly, fraud detection and liability to third parties. Nevertheless, the results also show that auditors themselves have different perception regarding fraud prevention and detection, assurance and usefulness of the audited financial statements. This may be attributable to increased attention from the government and regulatory bodies regarding the role and supervision of auditors in order to regain investors trust and confidence after the corporate scandals and financial crisis.

The study conducted by (Al-Omari, 2003), aimed to identify the expectations gap between investors and Auditors in Jordan in respect of the reliability of the accounting figures and the responsibilities of the Auditor regarding the discovery of misleading financial statements and his responsibility for assessment the company's ability to maintain continuity and the level of disclosure in the financial statements. The study concluded a set of results, most important: the expectations gap concentrated on: the Audit Office so long without change by the company, the provision of services by the auditor other than auditing to the clients adversely affects the independence of the Auditor. It was found by the study that the expectations gap between investors and auditors focused on the company's ability to maintain continuity and credibility of the accounting numbers in the financial statements. The results included that there were no doubt by the investors in the professionalism of the auditors and his attempts to perform his responsibilities and duties, but they believe that the auditor complies with the wishes of the management. A study conducted by (Ghali, 2001), which was in theoretical framework aimed to provide some proposals to narrow the audit expectations gap. The study concluded that among the methods of constriction the expectation gap are: improvement of communication with users of financial statements in order to correct their unreasonable expectations, and this can be achieved by both the management report and the auditor's report in order to define the responsibilities of the management and the responsibilities and duties of the auditor as well. The study also pointed out the need to support the independency of the auditor and expand his responsibilities in addition to the compulsory change of the auditors. Moreover, the relevant agencies should test the accounting standards and the external assessment of the financial statements. The study of (Hajeir, 2001) mainly aimed to verify the extent of expectations gap between the auditors and investors in viewpoint of shareholders in Jordan, as well as the acquaintance of the factors effect the expectations gap. The study concluded several results, most important: The existence of expectations gap between the auditors and the investors in Jordan, and found that the major factors are the level of disclosure in the financial statements and the financial facts by the auditor, the unreasonable expectations by the investors, the efficiency of the auditor and the grade of his professional performance. The study also found that there is a relationship between the independence of the auditor and the expectations gap. The rank of auditor professional performance and efficiency has stronger affect on the gap, while the unreasonable expectation by the investors has the weakest effect on the gap.

2 -The Theoretical Framework

2-1 The Nature of the Audit Expectations Gap: The expectations gap has a long history although official use of expectation gap can be attributed to the Cohen Committee in the United States. At the beginning of the 21st

century, with the growing criticism of the quality of the Auditors performance, the US Congress adopted (Sox Act) Sarbanes-Oxley. The heart and hub of the Act is represented by creating the Accounting Oversight Board on public companies. The Board aims to restore the confidence of the investors and society, in general, in all the independent auditors of public companies (Lutfi, 2010, pp: 76-77). Also (Issa, 2008, p. 6) pointed out that the quality of auditing, as a regulator means, is linked to the level of information contained in the financial statements, which describes the audit capability to detect and report fundamental errors in the financial statements, thereby protecting the interests of shareholders. The reason is due to fact that the financial statements have been audited by the high quality Auditors rarely contain fundamental errors. There are a set of accounting scandals have drawn major lines and prompted most of the regulatory authorities in the advanced capital markets aiming to adopt laws that would enhance the role of Auditors in the society. One of the components of the gap between what the Auditors perform and the users expect is represented in several raised questions; for example, what is the responsibility of the Auditors for material fraud, violations and poor management? Most of the financial community expect from the Auditors to discover all material fraud in the companies, it is important to focus on the social responsibility of the independent authority and ensure that audits meet the needs of the community (Lutfi, 2001, p. 78-79). In this concern, (Thunaibat 2010, p.16) pointed out that the concepts related to the duties and responsibilities of the auditor contribute to forming a gap among the users of the auditor report, leading to what called audit expectations gap. There is no one specific definition of the expectations gap. It is so defined by some as the gap of ignorance, because of its link with the community's awareness of the role of the Auditor, therefore the focus was to educate and inform the community about the role and responsibilities of the Auditor in order to address this gap. Some mentioned more expansive definition; as divided the gap into two major sections, namely: reasonable gap, which is associated with the gap of ignorance, and the performance gap, which is due to the shortfall in audit standards and weak performance of Auditors (Thunaibat p. 17). According to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) in 1992, the expectation gap could be defined as "the difference between what the public and financial statement users believe auditors are responsible for and what auditors themselves believe their responsibilities are. (<http://lexicon.ft.com /Term?term=audit-expectation-gap>)

2-2 Components of the expectations gap: expectations gap consists of two main parts (Daraghme & Aqil, 2011, pp: 19-20):

First: the unreasonable expectations gap which arises as a result of the disparity between the expectations of the society (beneficiary of audit services) from the auditors to accomplish and what the auditor can reasonably accomplish according to the audit standards and legislations, i.e. result from ignorance of the society about the real responsibilities and duties of the auditor according to the auditing standards and legislations.

Second: The gap of inability of performance arises as a result of variation in the reasonable expectations in the part of the community for what the auditor must do and the actual performance of the auditor. Performance gap is divided into two parts: A) the failure gap in standards of auditing that occurs as a result of the lack of standards to determine some objectives of auditing, and the reasonable duties and responsibilities of the auditors as exercised in reality. B) Failure gap in the performance of the auditor as a result of variation between the assumed performance according to auditing standards and the prevailing legislations and the actual performance.

2-3 Means of narrowing the audit expectations gap: due to the nature of the expectations gap and its components, it is hard to eliminate completely, and because of the effect of expectations gap on both the users of the financial statements and the audit profession, it is necessary to work to narrow such gap. After reading the literature and previous studies, we can say that it is possible to reduce the audit expectations gap through several ways, including:

1- **Improve communication with users of financial statements:** aims to correct the unreasonable expectations of the users of financial statements. This can be achieved by both the management report and Auditor's report (Ghali, 2001, pp: 33-38).

A. Management report: this report will lead to the clear out misunderstanding among users of financial statements with respect to the responsibility for preparing the financial statements. It will help to improve management practices pertaining to the preparation of the financial statements based on the recommendations of the Ryan Commission and Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS). It is necessary for the report to include the following: The recognition of management its responsibility for preparing the financial statements, and of whether such statements give a fair image of the financial position of the project and its results, as well as refer to the accounting estimates prepared by the management in preparing the financial statements, and the adequacy of the accounting system in the establishment, in addition to the effectiveness of the internal control system applied therein, and the appropriateness of imposing continuity as a base to prepare the financial statements.

B- -Audit report: audit reports are a means of improving communication with the users of the financial statements. The Cohen Committee pointed out the respective responsibilities of both the management and the auditor must be defined clearly, step away from using the typical language in the report. The Treadway Committee also recommended the necessity of the auditor report to include reference that auditing is planning to

give a reasonable assurance, but not absolute, that the financial statements include no significant distortions due to fraud or mistake, in addition to describe the scope of test and assessment of the external auditor to the internal auditing system. Cadbury Committee declared their support to the expansion of the audit report, stating that it should include more information on the scope and nature of the audit work and the results in addition that the report should be written in a style easy understood to the non-specialists people.

2- Strengthen the independence of the external auditor: emphasizes the professional conduct of the auditor on the importance and necessity to keep the independence of the auditor, so that audit would not lose its importance, because suspicion of the auditor independence is one of the important factors that led to audit expectations gap (Ghali, 2001, p. 38) and stresses the General Acceptable Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)) that all topics related to the audit work, all auditing staff must be, independent in fact and in appearance, free of the personal, external and organizational barriers to their works (GAO, 2003, p 51). The regulatory authorities, as well as their auditors, should maintain their independence in all phases of the audit process, both in the planning of the audit, examination, execution or writing reports and reporting (Dunn, 1996, pp: 20-21). This includes the auditor's independence on exercising his career as an auditor; that is to be free from any bias to affect neutrality (Bhatia; 2001, p. 33.).

The researcher believes that the integrity of both the auditor and the Audit Office is linked to the ethical aspect, which is the primary factor of pressures resistance that may affect the independence of the auditor.

The auditor's independence could be strengthened through the following (Ghali, 2001, p. 38):

- **The Audit Committee:** the Audit Committee consists of three to five and up to seven non-executive members of the Board of Directors (Arens, 2006, pp:83- 84) and the Audit Committee should be responsible for supporting the neutrality of the auditor and his independence from management (Arens et al. 2003, p.84). The Committee could play a role in strengthening the independence of the auditor through the implementation their responsibilities, which some are related to the nomination and appointment of external auditor and determine his fees and discussion the auditing report.

- **Compulsory Change of Auditors:** some studies have recommended that joint stock companies must change auditors' partners every successive seven years. Changing auditors and assigned auditors is worthwhile because it helps in strengthening the independence of the auditor. The Audit Committee must examine the plan of Audit Office to change assigned Auditors and assess its effectiveness (Ghali, 2001, p. 38 -42). Also (Al-Tamimi, 2005, p. 64) pointed out that auditing officer of certain company (for example in charge partner), who remain for a long time may affect his independence. Therefore, the auditing establishment must appoint another in charge partner after 5-7 years.

- **Examination of accounting standards:** one of the fundamental weaknesses in the reparation of the financial reports, as Cadbury Committee highlighted, is represented in the multiplicity of accounting alternatives that can be applied to the same data, which lead to different results or different financial centers. Thus, the preparation of fraudulent financial reporting is due to the failure of the auditor to discover manipulation, but due to the failure of the accounting principles, which is due basically to the failure of their drafting.

3- Expansion of auditor's responsibilities: The American Council of Certified Accountants endorsed a recommendation stating that the Accounting Standards Board has to develop a guidance to assist auditors in assessing the possibility of administrative fraud, that may affect the financial information, and identify additional auditing procedures in case of increasing the possibility of administrative fraud. Cadbury Committee also recommended that the government authorities have to issue legislations allow the auditors in the different establishments to report, in reasonable degree, suspicious fraud cases to the appropriate authorities (Ghali, pp: 46 - 47).

4- The external evaluation of the financial statements and the Auditors ' opinions: (Ghali, 2001, p. 48) believes that an external evaluation to the financial statements must be done and the auditors views must be taken on such statements, in order to ensure compliance with professional standards and applicable laws. Dearing Committee suggested the formation of a Committee to examine the non-compliance cases with accounting standards. And (Abu Hain, 2005, p. 52) pointed out that following a quality control system on auditing gives reasonable assurance that services and works performed by the Audit Office are in line with professional requirements and generally accepted auditing standards, and leads to a high level of credibility of the audit work. Also (Ghali, 2001, p. 52) recommended to form committees in this respect by the professional organizations, provided that their authorities should include the determination of the establishments, which their financial statements and auditor reports will be subject to test, and refer those violate the applied professional standards and laws to the appropriate authorities to take the necessary actions, as well as to prepare the annual reports on the results of their works.

5- The auditor's commitment to honesty and integrity: (Lutfi, 2010, p. 79) pointed out that the audit gap is associated with the hub issues of the role of the Auditor. It is expected that auditors would retain their professional integrity and objectivity as well as their commitment to their professional ethics to constrict a part

of the gap occurred due to inadequate performance. Honest and integrity are deemed, according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the most important principles of professional conduct (Arens & Loebbacke, 2000, p. 83) (Boynton & Johnson, 2006, p. 106). Also, Josephson Institute pointed out one of the most important of the fundamentals of ethical conduct is honesty and Integrity (Arens, 2012, p. 132). (Juma'ah, 2011, p. 78) classified it under one of the professional conduct. The auditor should be objective, free from conflicts of interest and his professional judgments should not be affected by others when performing his professional work (Messier et al, 2006, p.756).

6- Upgrading the level of auditors' professional performance: One of narrowing the expectations gap means is the need to improve the general level of auditors through training and continuing education. It was found that one of the reasons causes this gap is incompetence and professional performance of the auditor (Hajier, 2001. P. 17). Also (Al-Omari 2003, p. 18) pointed out that the lack of professionalism of the auditor and the low quality of his professional performance are affecting factors in the audit expectation gaps and thus dissatisfaction of the community. The auditor should possess the efficiency, skills, professional knowledge and experience of providing the professional service carefully, caution and appropriately (Hays et al, 1999, p.73). This requires that the auditor should follow up the technical professional and ethical rules and keep seeking to improve the efficiency and quality of the service he provide as well as the implementation the professional responsibilities to maximum as possible (Arens & Loebbacke, 2000 p. 83). The intosai standards confirm that regulators should follow policies and procedures to appoint appropriately qualified employees, rehabilitate and train then to be able to perform their duties effectively (INTOSAI, 2001, p. 30).

7- Level of disclosure in the financial statements and their reliability: One of the reasons behind the audit expectations gap is the ignorance of the community about the real duties and responsibilities of the auditor as dictated by auditing standards and legislation (Dharaghmeah and Aqil; 2011, p. 19), as well as their ignorance in management responsibilities. The management is responsible for preparing the financial statements fairly representing the financial position of the company and its results, while the auditor is responsible for verifying the credibility of the financial statements prepared by the company, and assessing the policies and accounting estimates used.

3- The Study methodology:

3-1 The Sample and Community of the Study: the community of the study consists of the investors in Jordan stock market. The questionnaires were distributed on (60) investors, who are the sample of this study. 57 questionnaires were collected, all were subject to analysis at 100%.

3-2 The Tool of the Study: A tool was developed to achieve the purposes of the study by reviewing the theoretical literature of the audit expectations gap and relevant previous studies. The developed tool was based on Likert scale quintet. Rating of the questionnaires paragraphs were calculated as follows:

1- Paragraphs (1-6) measure the impact of the independence of the auditor, paragraphs (7-11) measure the impact of the efficiency and professional care of the auditor, Paragraphs (12-16) measure the impact of the auditor's commitment to integrity and honesty, paragraphs (17-20) measure the impact of the level of disclosure in the financial statements, paragraphs (21-24) measure the impact of the auditor's responsibility to the credibility of the accounting numbers and the paragraphs (25 - 34) measure the impact of the communication with the users of the financial statements.

3-2-1 Reliability and validity of the study tool: Study tool is presented to a number of colleagues of university professors in accounting departments and specialists in the field of auditing and audit standards for judging them and give their opinions about the correctness of the formulation, the correlation of the paragraphs and belonging to the purpose it is developed for.

Computing Cronbach's coefficient alpha of the internal consistency of the paragraphs measurement shows that the Cronbach's coefficient value was (0.900) on the 34 questionnaire paragraphs. Table (1) shows the Cronbach's coefficient of internal consistency of the paragraphs and its six areas, which indicate the reliability of the tool.

Table 1
 Cronbach's Coefficients of the Internal Consistency

Area	Cronbach's Coefficients Value
Auditor's independence	0.720
The auditor's efficiency and his professional care	0.715
The auditor's commitment to integrity and honesty	0.853
The level of disclosure in the financial statements	0.710
The auditor's responsibility for the credibility of the accounting figures	0.702
Improvement communication with the users of the financial statements	0.794
Total	0.900

3-3 The Statistical Methods Used:

For the purpose to answer the questions of the study, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) has been used in performing the analysis through using the following statistical methods:

- 1- Descriptive Statistic Measures: represented in the averages, standard deviations, repetitions and percents.
- 2- One sample t-test.
- 3- Test of ANOVA
- 4- Cronbach's Alpha of internal consistency.

The following degrees were adopted to define the agreement:

Average of answers	Degree Used
1- 2.33	Weak
2.34-3.66	Medium
3.67- 5.00	High

3-4 Characteristics of the Study Individuals

Table (2)

The characteristics of the study individuals according to: academic qualification, experience in investment area, age, number of the companies invested in, extent of using the annual reports of joint stock companies in investment decision making:

(N= 57)

Variable		Number	Percent
Academic qualifications	Diploma of community College and less	14	24.6
	Bachelor	16	28.1
	Postgraduate Studies	27	47.3
Experience in Investment	Less than 3 years	24	42.1
	3- less than 7 years	19	33.3
	7- 10 years	6	10.6
	More than 10 year	8	14.0
Age	Less than 25 years	8	14.0
	25 - less than 36 years	29	50.9
	36- 50 years	17	29.8
	More than 50 years	3	5.3
Number of companies	1- 5	27	47.4
	6- 10	22	38.6
	11- 15	7	12.3
	More than 15	1	1.7
Extent of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies	Too much	16	28.1
	Much	25	43.9
	A few	14	24.5
	Rarely	2	3.5

It is obvious from the data in Table (2) the increase of the educational level of the members of the study. The percentage of Master and Doctoral Certificates holders is (47.3%), and holders of BA degree is (28.1%) while only 24.6% of the study individuals have diploma or less. In terms of experience in investment, we note that the highest percent of the individual study have less than three years is (42.1%), and the lowest percent refers to those of 7- 10 years experience (10.6%). In respect of the age, we find that the highest percent is for age group 25 – less than 36, representing 50.9%, while the lowest group is for the category 50 years and above, representing (5.3%). The table data shows the distribution of the study individuals according to the number of the companies they invest in; we note that the highest percent (47.4%) are investing in 5 companies or less, and only (1.7%) invests in more than 15 companies. For the extent of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies on taking investment decision, we note that the highest percent (43.9%) use them much, and (28.1%) are using them too much, while (24.5%) use them few, and only 3.5% use them rarely. The above data reveals to the researcher that the study sample have adequate academic qualifications, as most of them hold doctoral and BA , as well as most of them have more than 3 years experience in investment , and most of them are investors in six companies or more, also most of them use the financial reports much or too much , therefore, it is expected from the sample to answer the questions of the study appropriately.

3-5 The Statistical Process:

3-5-1 Arithmetic averages and standard deviations.

1- The Auditor's Independence:

Table (3)

The Arithmetic Average and Standard Deviations and the Degree of Agreement on the paragraphs of the auditor's independence in narrowing the audit expectations gap:

(N = 57)

No	Paragraph	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	Rank	Degree of Agreement
1	The auditor's independence, in fact and in appearance, is the cornerstone of the narrowing the expectations gap.	4.30	0.84	1	High
2	The auditor should be impartial and free of interest conflicts and his judgment should not influenced by others.	3.86	0.72	6	High
3	The auditor should not have a financial relation, direct or indirect, with the establishment he audits.	3.93	0.73	4	High
4	Change the auditor and never keep him for a long time to perform auditing for the auditee.	3.93	0.75	5	High
5	The competent Professional Association and Auditing Committees should play their role in the improving and supporting of the independence of the auditor	4.07	0.75	2	High
6	The auditor should be free of barriers to his independence and objectivity (such as, lawsuits with the client or unpaid fees)	4.02	0.81	3	High
	TOTAL	4.02	0.50	---	High

The data in table (3) above show that a high degree of agreement on the impact of the auditor's independence in narrowing the audit expectation gap, as the average of the total answers of the scale is (4.02) with standard deviation (0.50). for all the paragraphs, it is noted that the degree agreement was high. It seems to the researcher this conclusion is logical and can be construed that the independence of the auditor is deemed an essential corner and substantial factor to the auditor in performing his professional work in all stages of the audit process. The auditor should not bias to any party, but free of the conflict of interests, as well as free of any barriers to his independence and objectivity.

2- The auditor's Efficiency and Professional Care:

Table (4)

The Arithmetic Average, Standard Deviation and Agreement Degree on the Paragraphs of the Auditor's Efficiency and Professional Care in Narrowing the Expectations gap

(N = 57)

Ser	Paragraph	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
7	The necessary efficiency, academic qualification and appropriate training to the Auditor	4.21	0.80	4	High
8	The performance of the auditor to his job accurately in line with the career ethics, laws and organization standards of the profession.	4.30	0.76	3	High
9	The auditor has to plan for his work, use adequate documented evidence to perform his job appropriately	4.44	0.68	1	High
10	The adequate understanding of the auditor to the nature of the corporation business he audits	4.11	0.86	5	High
11	Activation the Penal and Professional laws to improve the performance of the auditor	4.40	0.73	2	High
	Total	4.29	0.52	---	High

Table 4 shows that there is high degree of agreement on the effect of the auditor's efficiency and professional care in narrowing the audit expectations gap. The total average of scale is (4.29), with standard deviation (0.52). It has been noted that the agreement degree on all the paragraphs was high. This can be construed that the efficiency, professional skills and knowledge, experience, academic qualifications and training are essential

requirements, as mentioned in the criteria of auditing and rules of career conduct to improve the quality of the service provided by the auditor, which work on mitigate the auditing performance gap.

3- The Commitment of the Auditor to integrity and Honesty:

Table (5)

The Arithmetic Average, Standard Deviation and Agreement Degree on the Paragraphs of The Commitment of the Auditor to Integrity and Honesty in Narrowing the Expectations Gap (N = 57)

Ser	Paragraph	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	Rank	Degree of Agreement
12	The commitment of the Auditor to reliability, honesty and integrity	4.18	0.76	1	High
13	The auditor should work on condition that his name must not be linked to any report, information contain corrupted, misleading data or accounts prepared in negligence or incomplete	4.07	0.86	4	High
14	The auditor should not accept gifts or grants that detract of his integrity and objective professional judgment.	3.95	0.83	5	High
15	The Auditor must be fair, capable to admit his mistake and treat people equally	4.07	0.82	3	High
16	The Auditor must keep the information he acquainted due to performance of his job confidential except for lawful, professional or ethical requirements.	4.11	0.77	2	High
	Total	4.07	0.64	---	High

Table (5) shows that the agreement degree on the commitment of the Auditor to integrity and honesty in narrowing the audit expectations gap is high. The total average of the scale is 4.07, with standard deviation 0.64. The agreement degree on all the paragraphs was high. The researcher believes that this result is logical and can be explained that the auditor commitment to integrity and honesty, reliability, trusted and deal fairly with others, in addition to his commitment to the audit career is the way to prevail confidence for the users if the financial statements, maintain the dignity of the auditor and the dignity of the profession, so it is considered a effectual factor in narrowing the audit expectations gap.

4- The Verification of the Auditor on the Level of Disclosure in the Financial Statement:

Table (6)

The Arithmetic Average, Standard Deviations and the Agreement Degree on the Paragraphs relevant to the Verification of the Auditor on the Level of Disclosure in the Financial Statements in Narrowing the Audit Expectations Gap (N = 57)

Ser	Para	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
17	The auditor has to emphasize the level of disclosure in the financial statement he audited to the concerned company	4.11	0.75	3	High
18	The auditor has to emphasize the level of disclosure by the management in the notes, guidance attached to the financial statement	4.51	0.71	1	High
19	The Auditor has to verify that the management of the company disclosed all the financial facts of relative importance.	4.04	0.63	4	High
20	The Auditor has to verify fraud and material mistakes as well as the illegal business being done by the company he performs auditing for.	4.14	0.81	2	High
	TOTAL	4.20	0.53	---	High

Obviously, the data of Table (6) reveals that there is a high degree of agreement on the effect to the verification of the auditor on the level disclosure in the financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap. The total average scale answers is (4.20) with standards deviation (0.53). The agreement on all the paragraphs was high. The researcher believes that it is very important for the auditor to verify that the management has disclosed all the facts if relative important in the financial statements, as well as the availability of adequate level of disclosure of the guidance and remarks in the financial statements, fraud and materialistic mistakes because it is deemed important factor to prevail confidence in the financial statements, which leads to narrowing the audit expectations gap.

5- The Responsibility of the Auditor towards the Reliability of the Accounting Figures:

Table (7)

The Arithmetic Average, Standard Deviations and Agreement Degree on the Paragraphs
 Of the Auditor's Responsibility towards the Reliability of the Accounting
 Numbers in Narrowing the Audit Expectations Gap
 (N = 57)

Ser	Para	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
21	The auditor has to assess the accounting estimates of the audited company	4.21	0.70	2	High
22	The auditor has to evaluate the accounting policies of the audited company	4.12	0.73	3	High
23	The Auditor has to ensure the compliance to the general acceptable accounting principles to the audited company	4.33	0.76	1	High
24	The Auditor has to ensure that the disclosure of the reasons lead to the changes in the accounting policies and principles procedures and the impact of that on the financial statements	4.04	0.73	4	High
	TOTAL	4.18	0.53	---	High

We note that the data of table (7), indicates a high degree of agreement on the effect of auditor responsibility for the reliability of the accounting numbers in mitigate the audit expectations gap. The total average of the answers scales is (4.18) with standard deviation (0.53). The degree of agreement on all the paragraphs was high. This result can be construed, as the researcher believes, that auditor should exercise his professional judgment by verifying that the management performed their responsibility in assessing the procedures of the accounting policies and the accounting estimates. The auditor should also verify the managements has prepared the financial statements in line with the general acceptable accounting principles and the international accounting standards, in such way that would provide the reliability of the financial statements, and thus prevails confidence to the users of the financial statement in the creditability of the accounting figures. This would assist on mitigate the performance expectations gap.

6- The Improvement of Communication with the Users of the Financial Statements:

Table (8)

The Arithmetic Average, Standard Deviations and Degree of Agreement on the Paragraph the Improvement of Communication with the Users of the Financial Statement in Narrowing the Audit Expectations Gap.
 (N =57)

Ser	Para	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	Rank	Agreement Degree
25	The recognition of the management, through its report, in its responsibility for the preparation of the financial statement	4.00	0.82	10	High
26	The recognition of the management, through its report, in its responsibility for the design and application of the accounting system and internal control system, and that such systems achieve a fair presentation of the financial statements	4.19	0.74	5	High
27	The management responsibility in its report for the selection and application of the appropriate accounting policies and the preparation of the reasonable accounting estimates	4.30	0.73	2	High
28	Reconsiders the auditing report to ensure it is written in style easy to be understood by non-specialists	4.11	0.70	8	High
29	The expansion of the auditor's responsibility to meet the expectations of the users of the financial statement, taking into account the internal control efficiency in the financial statements and the extent of its effectiveness	4.11	0.72	9	High
30	The expansion of the auditor's responsibilities to meet the expectations of the users of the financial statements by the usual disclosure of the auditor in his report about the problems of continuity of the audited company.	4.16	0.77	6	High
31	The development of professional standards defines the laws that the auditor has to comply, the nature, scope and procedures of auditing he executes.	4.23	0.73	4	High
32	The professional agencies should form committees to test the financial statements and the auditors reports to ensure their compliance to the applicable professional standards	4.30	0.78	3	High
33	The existence of quality control by the competent authorities on the auditing works and be subject to Peer Review	4.11	0.67	7	High
34	The competent professional agencies should test the auditing standards, Acts organizing auditing career and carry out the necessary amendments to meet the reasonable expectations of the financial statements users.	4.32	0.78	1	High
	TOTAL	4.18	0.44	---	High

Table (8) shows that the degree of agreement on effect of improving the communication with the users of the financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap. The total average of the scale is (4.18) with standard deviation (0.44). The degree of agreement of all the paragraphs was high. It seems to the researcher that this result is logical and can be interpreted that the improvement of communication and information with the users of the financial statements, through the management report and the auditor report, and the work on awareness the public opinion about the nature of auditing process in addition to the responsibilities of both, the auditor and management. The competent authorities should test the audit standards, rules and regulations that regulate auditing career, test the auditor's works, audit office works, expand the responsibilities of the auditors, try to meet the reasonable expectations of the users of the financial statements and correction the unreasonable expectations, will narrow the audit expectations gap.

3-5-2 Testing the Hypotheses of the Study:

- 1- There is no effect to the independence of the auditor in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 2- There is no effect to the efficiency of the auditor and his professional care in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 3- There is no effect to the commitment of the auditor to integrity and honesty in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
- 4- There is no effect to the verification of the auditor on the level of disclosure in the financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.

- 5- There is no effect to the responsibility of the auditor towards the creditability of accounting figures in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.
 6- There is no effect to improve communication with the users of financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.

Hypotheses	Arithmetic Average	Standard Deviation	t-value computed	Degrees of Freedom	Statistical significance	Result of Hypotheses
There is no effect to the independence of the auditor in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.	4.02	0.50	394.933	56	0.000	Hyp. 1 Rejected
There is no effect to the efficiency of the auditor and his professional care in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.	4.29	0.52	370.542	56	0.000	Hyp. 2 Rejected
There is no effect to the commitment of the auditor to integrity and honesty in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.	4.07	0.64	304.302	56	0.000	Hyp. 3 rejected
There is no effect to the verification of the auditor on the level of disclosure in the financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.	4.20	0.53	366.260	56	0.000	Hyp. 4 Rejected
There is no effect to the responsibility of the auditor towards the creditability of accounting figures in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.	4.18	0.53	366.241	56	0.000	Hyp. 5 Rejected
There is no effect to improve communication with the users of financial statements in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan.	4.18	0.44	440.450	56	0.000	Hyp. 6 Rejected

One sample t-test shows differences of statistical significance at the level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) between the average of responses on the six areas and the average hypothetical scale (3). The t-values computed have greater value than t-critical value (tabular value of t) at statistical significant level (0.05), with degrees of freedom (56) valued (1.670). Therefore, the hypotheses of the study reject the zero study and accept the alternative hypotheses.

The Seventh Hypothesis:

There is no differences of statistical significance at the significance level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the factors have impact upon narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan attributed to the difference of the academic qualifications and the degree of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies in the investment decision- making.

Table (10)
 The Results of ANOVA of the test of differences in the factors
 affecting the constriction the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of investors in Jordan according to the
 academic qualification

Area	Scientific qualification	Arithmetic average	Standard Deviation	(F) value computed	Degree of freedom	Statistical Significance
The independence of the Auditor	Diploma & lesser	3.99	0.48	0.033	2	0.967
	BA	4.02	0.51		54	
	Postgraduate Studies	4.03	0.52		56	
Auditor's efficiency and professional care	Diploma & lesser	4.39	0.52	0.908	2	0.409
	BA	4.38	0.54		54	
	Postgraduate Studies	4.19	0.52		56	
The auditor's commitment to integrity and straightness	Diploma & lesser	4.00	0.75	2.395	2	0.101
	BA	4.36	0.46		54	
	Postgraduate Studies	3.94	0.64		56	
The verification of the auditor on the disclosure level in the financial statements	Diploma & lesser	4.13	0.59	0.450	2	0.586
	BA	4.31	0.42		54	
	Postgraduate Studies	4.17	0.57		56	
The responsibility of the auditor for the creditability of the accounting figures	Diploma & lesser	4.20	0.61	0.576	2	0.566
	BA	4.28	0.45		54	
	Postgraduate Studies	4.10	0.55		56	
The improvement of communication with the users of the financial statements	Diploma & lesser	4.21	0.35	2.798	2	0.070
	BA	4.37	0.37		54	
	Postgraduate Studies	4.05	0.49		56	

It is noticed in the results of ANOVA, shown in the Table (10), that there is no difference of statistical significance at the level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the factors affecting in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan due to the difference of the academic qualifications. The (F) scheduled value computed at the degree of freedom (54.2) and significance level (0.05) was (3.150).

Table (11)

The results of ANOVA of testing the differences in the factors affecting in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan according to the degree of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies in investment decision-making.

Area	Degree of using the annual reports	Arithmetic average	Standard Deviation	(F) value computed	Degree of freedom	Statistical Significance
Independence of the Auditor	Rarely	3.83	0.00	0.513	3 53 56	0.657
	A few	3.90	0.45			
	Much	4.09	0.48			
	Too much	4.02	0.59			
Efficiency of the Auditor and professional care	Rarely	4.10	0.14	2.264	3 53 56	0.092
	A few	4.00	0.31			
	Much	4.40	0.55			
	Too much	4.40	0.58			
Auditor's compliance to integrity and honesty	Rarely	3.40	0.57	1.036	3 53 56	0.384
	A few	3.99	0.59			
	Much	4.10	0.65			
	Too much	4.20	0.69			
The verification of the auditor on the Level of disclosure in the financial statements	Rarely	4.13	0.18	0.541	3 53 56	0.656
	A few	4.13	0.58			
	Much	4.30	0.44			
	Too much	4.11	0.65			
The auditor's responsibility toward the reliability of the accounting figures	Rarely	4.25	0.35	1.599	3 53 56	0.201
	A few	3.93	0.47			
	Much	4.31	0.47			
	Too much	4.17	0.64			
Improvement of communication with the users of the financial statements	Rarely	3.90	0.00	1.799	3 53 56	0.159
	A few	3.98	0.33			
	Much	4.26	0.37			
	Too much	4.28	0.59			

Tables (11), the results of ANOVA test, shows that there is no statistical significance at level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the factors affecting in narrowing the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of investors in Jordan due to the difference in using the annual reports of the financial statements of the joint stock companies in the investment decision-making. The (F) value computed for that was less the (F) value computed in the schedule at degree of freedom (53.3) which was (2.758).

4- Results and Recommendations:

4-1 Results: By the analysis of the questionnaire paragraphs, the study concluded the following results:

1- It was found that there is an statistical significant impact of the following factors: the independence of the auditor, the auditor's efficiency and his professional care, the commitment of the auditor to integrity and honesty, The verification of the auditor on the level of the disclosure in the financial statement, the auditor's responsibility for the credibility of the accounting figures , and the improvement of communication with the users of the financial statements in narrowing of the audit expectations gap.

2- Those factors vary in the degree of their impact in narrowing the audit expectations gap, where can be arranged in descending order as follows: the efficiency of the auditor and his professional care; the verification of the auditor on the level of disclosure in the financial statements; the responsibility of the auditor for the credibility of the accounting figures, the improvement of communication with the users of the financial statements; the auditors compliance to integrity and honesty; and the independence of the auditor in narrowing the audit expectations gap. The averages were respectively as follows: 4.29; 4.20; 4.18; 4.18; 4.07; 4.02.

3- There is no difference of statistical significance at level ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the factors affecting the constriction of the audit expectations gap from the viewpoint of the investors in Jordan attributed to the difference of academic qualifications and the degree of using the annual reports of the joint stock companies in investment decision-making.

4-2 Recommendations: Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

- the need for the Association of certified Auditors and the securities market in Jordan, to contribute to the dissemination of information culture and increase communication, and educate of the users of financial statements about the functions of the audit and the auditor's responsibilities, duties, functions, in addition to the responsibilities of management with respect to the preparation of the reliable financial

statements and have adequate disclosure of facts, where this procedure mitigate the unreasonable expectations gap.

- The professional societies and auditing committees are called to play their role in strengthening the independence of the auditor and drafting legal texts promoting it in the companies Act.
- Study the expectations of the users of the financial statements and meet the reasonable ones, and correction the unreasonable expectations to mitigate the audit performance gap.
- Expands the responsibilities of the auditor and enhance his performance as a means to meet the expectations of the users of the financial statements about the profession, its objectives and the responsibilities of the auditor, which may help to reduce the gap of ignorance and performance gap when adopting this procedure.
- The adoption of the detailed auditor's report because it helps to improve the users of financial statements understanding about the responsibilities, objectives of auditing, including drafting the report in simple clear language easy to be understood, and explanation the terms used by the auditors. This would mitigate the unreasonable expectations gap.
- Strengthening the role of the competent professional agencies and perform the effective supervision of the audit profession and accounting, as well as examining the audit standards, and the laws regulating auditing career, and carry out the necessary amendments to meet the reasonable expectations of the users of financial statements and increased quality of professional performance.
- The Association of the Certified Auditors and Auditing Offices have to work on upgrading the performance of professional auditors and encouraging them to adhere to the ethics of audit to mitigate the performance gap.
- It is necessary to conduct further studies on the audit expectations gap, means of narrowing that to complete the methods by which reduce the gap between the auditors and users of the financial statements.

5- **References:**

5.1 **Arabic References:**

- Abu-Hein, Iyad Hassan Hussein, 2005 (1426 h), The factors that impact the auditing quality in view of certified auditors in Palestine, unpublished Master thesis, Islamic University, Ghaza, Palestine.
- Arens, Alfine and Loebbecke, James, 2005. Auditing, Integrated Introduction, translated by Mohammed Al-Dsaiti and Ahmad Hamid Hajji, Dar Al Mariah publishing, Riyadh- SA.
- Daraghme, Zahran (Mohammed Ali), and Aqel, Sahir Mohammed (2011).The impact of unreasonable expectations for data users Almalahaly audit expectations gap in Palestine, Arab Journal of Accounting, University of Bahrain, Volume XIV first issue, July 1432, July 2011, pp. 8-47.
- Juma'ah, Ahmad Hilmi, 2012. Introduction to audit and confirmation in accordance with the International auditing standards, Dar al-Safa pulishing House, Amman –Jordan.
- Hajeir, Ismail misbah (2001). Expectations gap and responsibilities of auditors, unpublished Master thesis, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan.
- Ghali, George Daniel (2001), the development of the audit profession to confront contemporary problems and challenges of the third millennium, Cairo University House.
- Issa, Samir Kamel Mohammed (2008). The impact of external quality audit on the quality of earnings, Journal of the Faculty of Commerce for Scientific Research, Alexandria University, Vol. 45 No. 2 July 2008.
- Lotfi , Amen Al-ssaied. (2010). Auditing and corporate governance, Alexandria: University House.
- Al-Omari , Bakr Ghazi (2003). Gap between the expectations of investors and auditors in Jordan, unpublished Master thesis , Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan.
- Al-Qashi, Zahir Shaher (2005). The collapse of some international companies and their impact on the accounting environment. Arab Journal of Administration, the Arab Organization for Administration, the Arab League, Vol. 25, Issue No II, Cairo.
- Al-Tamimi, Hadi (2006) Introduction to Audit, Amman, Dar Wael publishing House.
- Al-Thunibat, Ali Abd-al-Qadir, 2010. Auditing in the light of the international accounting standards, Amman, Dar Wael Publishing House

5.2 **Foreign References**

- Arens,A.A. and Elder,R.J.,and Beasley,M.S.(2003).Auditing and Assurance Services, Practice Hall, North Carolina State University.

- _____, (2006). Auditing and Assurance Services, Practice Hall, North Carolina State University.
- _____, (2012). Auditing and Assurance Services, Practice Hall, North Carolina State University.
- Arens, A.A. and Loebbecke, J.K. (2000). Auditing An Integrated Approach, Practice Hall, New Jersey.
- Bhatia, R.C (2001), Auditing, New Delhi: P. K. Madhavan (www.go book.shopping).
- Bogdanovičiūtė, Vitalija (2011). An Empirical Study of Audit Expectation Gap: The Case of Lithuania, master thesis, Aarhus School of Business, University of Aarhus, May, 2011
- Boynton, W.C., and Johnson, R.N. (2006). Modern Audit, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Dunn, J. (1996) Auditing Theory and Practice, Harbor – England: Prentice Hall. (www.PearsonUS.com).
- Hays, R. and Schilder, A. with Dassen, R. and Wallage, (1999) Principles of Auditing, Mc Graw-Hill, U.K.
- John, Chinwuba Okafor (2013), Narrowing the Expectation Gap in Auditing: The Role of the Auditing Profession, Research Journal of Finance and Accounting www.iiste.org ISSN 2222-1697 (Paper) ISSN 2222-2847 (Online) Vol.4, No.2, 2013, pp:43-47. (<http://iiste.org>)
- Kamau, Charles Guandaru (2013), Determinants of Audit Expectation Gap: Evidence from Limited Companies in Kenya, International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR), India Online ISSN: 2319-7064, Volume 2 Issue 1, January 2013, pp: 480- 489. (www.google.com/search?)
- Messier, W. and Glover, S.M. and Prawitt, D. (2006). Auditing and Assurance Services, Mc Graw-Hill, Irwin, United States.
- The International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) (2001). The Restricted Auditing Standard, Seoul (2001) (www.Intosai.Org).
- U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO). (2003) Government Auditing Standards. Washington Dc. (www.GAO.gov).

- www.google.com/search?q=expectation+gap+research&oe=UTF-8&gfn=1&safe=active&oq=expectation+gap+
- <http://iiste.org/Journals/index.php/RJFA/article/viewFile/4431/4499>
- (<http://lexicon.ft.com/term?term=audit-expectation-gap>)

The IISTE is a pioneer in the Open-Access hosting service and academic event management. The aim of the firm is Accelerating Global Knowledge Sharing.

More information about the firm can be found on the homepage:
<http://www.iiste.org>

CALL FOR JOURNAL PAPERS

There are more than 30 peer-reviewed academic journals hosted under the hosting platform.

Prospective authors of journals can find the submission instruction on the following page: <http://www.iiste.org/journals/> All the journals articles are available online to the readers all over the world without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. Paper version of the journals is also available upon request of readers and authors.

MORE RESOURCES

Book publication information: <http://www.iiste.org/book/>

IISTE Knowledge Sharing Partners

EBSCO, Index Copernicus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, JournalTOCS, PKP Open Archives Harvester, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek EZB, Open J-Gate, OCLC WorldCat, Universe Digital Library, NewJour, Google Scholar

