

Goizueta Business Library

Creating Bridges to Knowledge

BBA Research Certificate – Accounting

Susan Klopper, Business Librarian, October 4, 2004

Researching Technical Accounting Standards

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)

www.fasb.org

Locate the full text of SFAS 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*; contains guidelines and tests (“market triggers”) that assist management in determining accounting implications of disposing of less productive and profitable assets (e.g. obsolete airplanes) that are negatively impacting the company’ financial results.

Additional resources: CCH Financial Accounting Standards

Accounting Research Manager (ARM)

Full text of accounting standards from other organizations (AICPA, SEC, IASB) and secondary commentary. In particular, the AICPA’s *Industry Audit and Accounting Guide for the Airlines Industry* which provides industry-specific guidelines.

ABI INFORM

Locate articles in practical accounting journals (e.g. Journal of Accountancy, CPA Journal) for discussion and analysis about the application of SFAS 144, including real-life illustrations of calculations and footnote disclosures.

10 SEC Filings

Auditors typically provide company management with guidance on how changes in accounting should be described or “disclosed” in the company’s financial statements and accompanying footnotes; they often turn to publicly filed SEC filings, representative “SEC sanctioned” disclosures.

Recommended resource: Thomson ONE/Thomson Research.

Additional resources: Edgarscan (<http://edgarscan.pwcglobal.com/servlets/edgarscan>)

Researching Market Trigger Conditions

Standard & Poor’s Industry Surveys

Good source for conducting an initial environmental scan of an industry to understand how it works, key players, how it has been performing and key market triggers impacting its stability, e.g. economic, regulatory, etc.

Air Transport Association

www.airlines.org

Industry associations can be excellent sources and leads of “state-of-the-art” industry analysis. Because the airlines industry is regulated, the chance of identifying substantive, free reports is greatly increased.

Factiva

Look for articles in newspapers and wire stories for real-world verification of key market triggers, such as the state of the economy, its impact on the airlines industry, and airline fleet obsolescence issues.

Recommended Goizueta Information Guides

Contain additional sources and strategies for conducting accounting research and analysis

- ***Accounting Industry***

<http://business.library.emory.edu/info/accounting/index.html>

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