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## **Contact:**

Nuha Jahan  
Publication Director  
World Business Institute  
Suite 77, 245 Thomas Street  
Dandenong 3175  
Victoria  
Australia  
**Phone:** (613) 9702 2734  
**Fax:** (613) 9702 0122  
**Email:** [njahanwbi@gmail.com](mailto:njahanwbi@gmail.com)

# **The Accessibility Determinants of Internet Financial Reporting of Local Government: Further Evidence from Indonesia**

Verawaty\*

*Internet technologies in the form of e-government (government website) provide local governments with an opportunity to improve their accountability, to promote a change in the overall philosophy of government activities, and to increase their responsiveness to the needs of citizens for financial information. The financial information through internet is called IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) which is a combination between the internet multimedia capability and capacity to communicate the financial information interactively. Its accessibility concerns with the ease with which users can locate and view financial reporting data provided at the website. Referring to the literatures on disclosure and accountability in the public sector, this research is aimed to examine the association between the accessibility of IFR in e-government by using Accessibility Index Value (Style and Tennyson, 2007) and the determinant variables named as size, income per capita, and debt level, which are assumed to have the positive associations. The associations between the accessibility index value and the determinant variables indicate no significance in the statistical test. The study looks at Indonesia local government's use of the internet and whether local government is likely to be more accountable as a result. There are no statutory requirements concerning the use of the internet in the communication of performance results and consequently, the choice of the type of information and documents to be inserted in the websites is voluntary. The study implication recommends that the local government must develop better knowledge management systems, increase the interactivity of their websites, and enrich the accounting information that they present in the website. In order to support the accountability, the government has to publicize the public information in the context of fulfilling the rights of the public which is the rights to be informed in the border of legal law.*

**JEL Codes:** M41- Accounting (Financial Reporting)

**Keywords:** E-government, internet financial reporting, accessibility index value, size, income per capita, debt, accountability.

## **1. Introduction**

Information plays a very vital part in governance activities. Production of public information such as annual financial report is only one part of the accountability equation and access to the information is the other necessary condition for accountability to take place. Dissemination of annual financial report is the responsibility of and controlled by the local government. Probably one of the most convenient and cost effective ways for a government agency to disseminate this information in today's society is the internet. This role of the internet in disseminating government's annual report to the citizenry groups and other users has not escaped the attention of local governments. They take various approaches such as by applying the

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\*Verawaty, M.Sc, Ak, CA, Department of Accounting, Bina Darma University, Indonesia  
Email: [verawaty\\_mahyudin@yahoo.com](mailto:verawaty_mahyudin@yahoo.com)

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electronic government system or electronic-based government (e-government) to fulfill the public needs of information. To meet the needs of financial information, IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) through e-government is the best solution to support the governance in accountability aspect.

IFR is a fast-growing phenomenon. Many organizations publish their financial information on the internet. It is the reporting and disclosure of public sector accounting by using a government website media (e-government). According to Oyelere et al (2003), IFR is a combination of capacity and capability of multimedia internet to communicate interactively about financial information. The financial statements are usually printed, through the internet, the financial reports can be distributed more quickly (timeliness aspect) and are able to develop the usefulness of this technology to open up further to inform the financial statements (disclosure aspect). Financial information provided on the web includes the comprehensive sets of financial statements, including footnotes; partial sets of financial statements; and/or financial highlights which may include summary financial statements or extracts from such statements.

Actually, the financial statements reporting on the internet has not been regulated for the government. The global accessibility of financial reports on the internet can create possible implications for groups with interests in financial reporting, such as financial information preparers, users, auditors and regulators. Bagshaw (2000) argues that the global accessibility of financial reports and the absence of a global regulator necessitate the cooperation of national and international organization to ensure that financial information is the highest quality.

The enormous development of the internet and an increasing acceptance by its users has an accessibility issue. Major characteristics of the internet are that information can be accessed (almost) any time and everywhere, and generally at a low cost; the information is up-to-date; there are few limits on data availability; information can include dynamic presentations and multimedia; and there is the possibility of interactive information demand and supply. These developments have a significant effect on the dissemination of information and thus on the organizational structures of how these activities are performed. They also open up new and astounding opportunities for financial disclosure that affect all interested parties. These opportunities concern standard setters as well as regulators.

According to Style and Tennyson (2007), the accessibility concerns in how many steps are required to locate the financial report in the website. The need to control over IFR largely depends on the degree to which efficient solutions are currently being found in the community for financial information. The study results the association between the accessibility and the number of residents, resident income per capita, level of debt, and the financial position of the municipalities in USA. But in the Indonesia context, the researcher wants to examine its association with size, income per capita, and debt level.

A greater information technology budget will give a better information technology function that is able to design and maintain more sophisticated websites with the easiest accessibility. Generally, larger cities will provide programs and services to a higher number of residents, consume a greater amount of resources, and exhibit higher levels of accounting disclosures. This is clearly associated size with the proxy for population, the larger the city, the larger the population and the greater the budget that

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can be collected and of course the higher demand for accounting functions will be as well as the higher accessibility to information financial statements.

The increased demand for financial statements will require the provision of cost-efficiency to the financial statement data on the government website. This cost efficiency will be greater for cities with higher income per capita which generally have higher proportion of the population associated with the internet. Cities with higher levels of income per capita will have a higher level of monitoring by the citizenry and more demand for information that can provide measures of performance. Those cities will be, therefore more likely to provide the easiest accessibility to financial reporting data in e-government.

If associated with the debt level, government use of debt to finance provision of services and programs is relevant to the residents of a city. The pressure given by the owner of the debt (local government) to publish financial statements is more dominant than the costs or regulatory pressures and politics. This is caused by a creditor (debtor) will demand transparency and accountability in the most applicable way, including its accessibility of the financial information provided in e-government.

Research on the accessibility of financial statement information has not been revealed in Indonesia. By the Act No. 14/2008 on The Disclosure of Public Information requiring the provision of such information as a public information that must be periodically announced and e-government facilities which its content can be applied as a medium of publication of financial statements, this paper wants to analyze this research by linking the phenomenon to the above variables which are not proven empirically with the same conclusions in several countries.

Previous studies in the public sector form the basis for formulating hypotheses to be tested for each variable that is assumed to have positive associations with the accessibility of financial statements on the internet. Studies from overseas have discussed much more about the availability of financial statements on the internet or Internet Financial Reporting (IFR) such as Styles and Tennyson (2007), Laswad et al (2005), Chase and Phillips (2004), Gore (2004), Groff and Pittman (2004), whereas the researches of Indonesia are Verawaty (2010) and Verawaty (2012). But only Styles and Tennyson (2007) also discussed its accessibility on the internet. In addition to these studies, there are also some studies on the level of local government accounting disclosure, such as Gore (2004), Robbins and Austin (1986), Giroux and McLelland and (2003) as well as Ingram and DeJong (1987) and Copley (1991).

Based on Verawaty (2012), from 33 provinces in Indonesia, there are 29 provinces that have e-government in an active status/not under construction, but only 11 provinces that provides financial reports on the internet (IFR availability in e-government). However, the accessibility or how many steps it takes to find those statements is not discussed in the research.

By observing the phenomenon mentioned earlier, this paper wants to analyze the accessibility of public information (the Act No. 14/2008 on The Disclosure of Public Information, Article 9; information on the financial statements only) of local government in the provincial level in Indonesia with three variables of the research. The formulation of this study is how the association between size, income per capita, and the debt level and the accessibility of local government financial reports on the internet (Internet Financial Reporting (IFR) in e-government).

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This paper analyses the use of the internet to communicate financial information of local government by using Accessibility Index Value developed by Style and Tennyson (2007) and its association with size, income per capita, and debt level. The researcher explores two aspects of internet financial reporting practices of local governments: first, whether the report is made online; secondly, the researcher examines how many steps are required to locate the report in the term of “accessibility” of the report. Since the internet has a major role to play in improving accountability and responsiveness to citizens, the discussion also extends in the accountability aspect. Further, the paper extends prior IFR studies by developing a wider definition of IFR and more comprehensive model of the determinants of such practices. The research contributions are expected to be useful to all interested parties to public information, particularly information on the financial statements. This paper assesses the extent to which citizenry groups and other users of governments’ external financial reports accros Indonesia have access financial reports in e-government.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 E-Government

Information can be disseminated by using various media. However, to overcome the problem in 3E (Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Economics), the internet is an appropriate solution. According to Styles and Tennyson (2007), the internet provides benefits to reduce printing and distribution costs. In addition, of course, the internet can reach wider public stakeholders, faster, and without time limit. The other benefits include increased awareness of the documents, increased usage by stakeholders, easier application of analytical tools, avoidance of disclosure redundancy and savings in publication cost.

Internet usage in the government sector is known as e-government. According to the World Bank (Verawaty, 2010), the main role of e-government lies in how information technology can trigger the transformation on the relationships between the government and citizens, governments and business, and among government agencies. These transformations can improve the quality of governance for the public interest.

The World Bank Group (2009) defines e-government as the use of information technologies (such as WAN/Wide Area Networks, the internet, and mobile computing) by government agencies that have the ability to transform on the relationships between citizens, businesses, and other arms of government. Another definition from Legislative Analyst’s Office (2001) is that electronic government, or e-government is the process of transacting business between the public and government in the use of automated systems and the internet network, more commonly known as the World Wide Web.

E-government has allowed government agencies to provide information and deliver services to its internal and external stakeholders through their websites. The large scale communication offered by city websites presents opportunities for a digital democracy and more transparent accountability to residents and other stakeholders. Considering that accountability is implicit in all the objectives of local and central government financial reporting, city websites can play a role in the democratization of government information on performance by providing convenient and potentially more accessible financial information to stakeholders.

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Since e-government has been met with acceptance and eagerness from the public, its ultimate goal is to be able to offer an increased portfolio of public services to citizens in an efficient and cost effective manner. It also allows the public to be informed about what the government is working on as well as the policies they are trying to implement. Thus, e-government helps to simplify processes and makes access to government information more easily accessible for public sector agencies and citizens.

### 2.2 IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) In Public Sector

Disclosure or reporting of public sector accounting by using a government website (e-government) is a feature commonly called IFR (Internet Financial Reporting). According to Oyelere et al (2003), IFR is a combination of multimedia capacity and capability of the internet to communicate interactively about financial information. Financial reports are usually printed, but by using the internet, they are distributed more quickly (timeliness aspects) and able to exploit the usefulness of this technology to open up further to inform the financial reports (the disclosure aspects). IFR gives opportunity for the government to use the internet as a mechanism to disseminate the reports and disclosures provided to stakeholders.

In concept, GASB No.34 (1999) which contains significant revisions of the financial reporting model of government and greater emphasis on accountability to the public by the government, states that the government's financial annual report will be useful for the public as a form of stakeholder accountability, including the availability to be accessed. The spread of the report is the responsibility of and controlled by local governments. Surely as one of the most effective ways in terms of the way, time-efficient, and economical cost to the government agency authorized with the responsibility to disseminate this information, the internet with IFR applications in e-government is an appropriate alternative.

The amount of IFR studies on local government is still fewer compared with the studies in private sector or another with the profit motive. Only three studies have investigated the IFR in the public sector at local government level. Groff and Pittman (2004) examined the practice of IFR in 100 largest local governments in the USA. Laswad et al (2005) examined voluntary IFR in local government in New Zealand. The latest one, Styles and Tennyson (2007) examined the accessibility of financial reporting of all U.S. local governments on the internet. The third study compared the practices and barriers in publishing the financial statements in local government websites.

Based on Oyelere et al (2005), IFR is still a voluntary disclosure in the public sector. In Indonesia, it is backed up by President Regulation No.3/2003 which mandated the implementation of the government organization supported by information technology. Besides, the other relevant regulation is Act No. 14/2008 on The Disclosure of Public Information in Paragraph 1 of Article 7. It states that each public agency must provide or publish public information under the authority of the applicant for public information, other than information exempted in accordance with the provisions.

According to Act No. 14/2008 on Article 9, public information must be provided and announced periodically by the public agency which one of the information is the financial statement. Thus, it is interpreted that there is no other reason for local governments not only providing information to the central government, parliament, local government and the audit supreme board or other external stakeholders, such as investors, creditors, and donors, but also to the society and other public stakeholder.

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However, in meeting aspects effective, efficient, and economical, IFR in e-government is the relevant means.

### 2.3 Hypotheses

The research issue has not been discussed in Indonesia, but Styles and Tennyson (2007) examined the availability and accessibility of local government financial reports on the internet with 300 samples of various sizes of local government in the USA. Previously there are also other studies such as Laswad et al (2005) which examined the characteristics that affect local governments voluntarily IFR in New Zealand and Groff and Pitman (2004) which examined the description of IFR 100 largest local government in the USA. With so many variables they studied, it is assumed those will affect local governments in implementing IFR in e-government. In addition to these studies, there are also some studies about the level of local government accounting disclosure, such as Gore (2004), Robbins and Austin (1986), and Giroux and McLelland (2003).

In the latest study, Styles and Tennyson (2007) identified several variables into factors affecting availability and accessibility of IFR in e-government in local government, such as size, governance structure, quality of accounting disclosure, income per capita, debt, and financial condition. The results of this study stated that only size, quality of accounting disclosure, and income per capita are positively associated to the availability of IFR and only variable size, income per capita, debt, and financial condition are positively associated to IFR accessibility.

This study refers to Styles and Tennyson (2007), but there are some significant differences with the study or previous studies. In addition, the main reason is that prior studies have inconsistent results in previous studies because the variables tested in Styles and Tennyson (2007) study did not refer to the same conclusion as the previous studies as Robbins and Austin (1986) and Laswad et al (2005).

The following discussion addresses significant factors that may influence the decision of the local government to provide the financial information on e-government. The researcher draws on a combination of the public sector IFR, private IFR and the public sector accounting disclosure literatures in the development of the hypotheses.

#### 2.3.1 Size

In a growing climate of accountability, the local governments face increased demand for monitoring information and greater incentives to signal performance. Generally, larger cities will provide programs and services to a higher number of residents and consume a greater amount of resources (Giroux and McLelland, 2003).

The findings of the public sector accounting disclosure literature suggests that this higher activity results in a greater demand for information on the performance of the government and the need for more disclosure by larger local governments. The internet provides an alternative disclosure method to the traditional method of distributing printed copies of the information to the selected stakeholders.

Studies investigating IFR for local government present mixed findings on the relationship between size and IFR. But studies examining this relationship in the private sector generally suggest that larger organizations engage in IFR at higher levels

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(Ashbaugh et al, 1999; Ettredge et al 2002). The higher service level and increased functions provided by larger cities will inevitably in a larger and more sophisticated website.

Groff and Pitman (2004) reported that the sub-group of smaller cities in their study gave more prominence to financial data than the sub-group of larger cities. They posited that the prominence of financial data measured by pages between city website homepage (e-government) and the financial data could be explained by shallower websites for smaller cities. According to their reasoning, larger cities generally have more pages on their websites that can result in placement of financial data in pages located a number of pages. But larger cities generally have a larger accounting function and a higher budget for information technology (IT) services.

One of the indicators of the size of local government is the population. Studies that tested the IFR at the local government indicated that there is a relationship between population and IFR. According to Goff and Pittman (2004), major cities generally have the accounting functions of larger budgets for information technology services. The accounting function is related to the broader needs large areas to provide more data in the financial statements.

Information technology budget greater regional fund would be more financing a function of information technology being capable of designing and maintaining a more sophisticated website. The larger accounting function is necessary due to the need for larger cities to present more data in the financial data. A larger IT budget will afford the city IT function able to design and maintain a more sophisticated website. A more sophisticated website will incorporate design and presentation of material that can provide a higher level of accessibility to visitors of the website. This is clearly associated with population, the bigger the city, the greater the number of residents and the larger the budget that can be collected, and of course the higher the demand for accounting functions. This discussion leads to the following hypothesis:

**H1:** There is a positive association between the size of the local government and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in e-government.

### 2.3.2 Income Per Capita

GASB (1999) and the GFOA (2003) share the common goal of increasing the citizenry's use of financial reports in its assessment of government's service and financial performance. Cities with higher incomes per capita have a higher demand for accountability (Ingram, 1984; Giroux & McLelland, 2003). Cities with higher levels of income will have a higher level of political monitoring by the citizenry and more demand for information that can provide measures of performance.

In today's internet society, as more of the citizenry look to utilize financial data as part of the information set for accountability of the city, more individuals will expect access to this data in a convenient electronic format. These individuals will demand the same quality of information and access at city websites as they do at other websites. Increased demand for financial reports will provide cost efficiencies for providing financial data at the city website (GFOA, 2003). These cost efficiencies will be greater for cities with higher income per capita that generally have a higher proportion of residents connected to the internet. Cities with higher income per capita will be, therefore more likely to provide financial reporting data at their website.

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The political pressure for sophisticated a convenient electronic reporting of financial information will increase as more citizenry gain knowledge on the accessibility and cost efficiencies of IFR (Ho, 2002). Cities with higher incomes per capita generally have more access to and experience using the internet (Styles and Tennyson, 2007). As a result, knowledge of issues such as information access, web design and cost savings of electronic publishing will be higher for cities with higher incomes per capita. The higher demand for accountability and greater use of the internet by residents with higher income per capita suggest a positive relationship between the local government income per capita and the accessibility of the financial information at the website.

Demand higher accountability and use of the internet by the wider population with greater income per capita indicate a positive relationship between income per capita and the provision of local government financial reports on the website. Giroux and McLelland and (2003), Robbins and Austin (1986), and Styles and Tennyson (2007) proved that there is a relationship between the disclosure of accounting and income per capita. But for Robbins and Austin (1986), this relationship was not significant. Since there are inconsistencies in the results, hypothesis is formulated as follows:

**H2:** There is a positive association between the income per capita of the local government's residents and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in e-government.

### 2.3.3 Debt

As discussed earlier, previous studies of public sector disclosure assume that local governments provide accounting information to debt holders to reduce borrowing costs (Gore, 2004). Despite the GASB's recognition reports of a number of key users of government accounting reports, the bond market is considered by many as the primary user of government financial data. Studies in the for-profit IFR literature suggest that companies commonly provide financial information on their websites previously filed with regulators (e.g. SEC) and presented through other media (e.g. mailing of printed copies to stakeholders) to widen the audience for the information. The GFOA has recognized this potential in its Recommended Practice Using a Website for Disclosure (GFOA, 2002). Providing financial data on the city's website provides an avenue for widening the audience of bond market users and other creditors.

Government use of debt to finance provision of services and programs is relevant to the residents of a city. An evaluation of the city's debt is an integral component of the accountability of the local government administrators. Financing current city expenditures with debt impacts the ability of a city to provide future programs and service. Higher levels of debt could impose future interest cost and principal repayments on cities that reduce its ability to meet future resident demand for service or higher tax burdens for future generations of taxpayers (Brecher et al, 2003).

Gore's findings (2004) suggest that the incentives provided by debt holders are dominant over the political and regulatory costs associated with not providing disclosures. This is caused by the debt will demand transparency and accountability in the most applicable, in this case it is IFR in e-government. It follows that we would expect a positive association between a local government's debt level and the accessibility of financial data provided on the internet. This is formulated in the following hypothesis:

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**H3:** There is a positive association between a local government's debt level and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in e-government.

### 3. The Methodology and Model

Population used in this study are all the provincial governments in Indonesia, amounting to 33 provinces. This population is determined based on the observation period. The reason is that in Indonesia, the determination of the population proportion of provincial governments that have e-government (compared to the provincial governments which do not have) is more than the local government in district/municipality level.

The sample is determined based on certain criteria or purposive sampling that the provincial local government website (e-government) which in the observation period is in active status/not out of service (under construction) in September of 2013. It means whether the local government has e-government, but if it is not active, it will be not be considered in statistic regression process.

The research instrument is direct observations on the internet media and open questionnaires. These questionnaires are used to support further the explanation of the results. To complete its analysis of the data collected, the interviews with several government practitioners will accomplish the discussions. Of course, to extend the discussion academically, the prior relevant studies will be conducted.

The primary data is collected in observations with the availability of internet media in the e-government of provincial governments in a population of 33 and finding the availability of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) in the existing samples and assessing the accessibility point based on Accessibility Index Value by Styles and Tennyson (2007). The secondary data of 2013 is obtained through the reports published by authorized government bodies.

Here is the Calculation of Accessibility Index which is the basis for assessing how many steps it takes to find the financial statements in the e-government:

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**Table 1: Calculation of Accessibility Index Value**

The accessibility index was calculated as follows for each local government in the provincial level that provided CAFR\* data on its e-government (official website):

- 1 point if official website appears on first page of result for Google or Yahoo search using province name and state (A).
- + 1 point if official website has link to CAFR data on website homepage (B).
- + 1 Point if official website has search engine that finds CAFR using terms CAFR and/or financial statements (C).
- + 1 Point if 3 or less web pages (or clicks of mouse) to view CAFR data from the website homepage (D).±
- + 1 Point if CAFR provided on official website as indexed pdf file(s) or HTML format (E).
- + 1 Point if website provides CAFR data in more than one file; files for different sections/pages of full CAFR document (F).
- + 1 Point if individual file(s) providing CAFR data less than 3MB in size (G). ±±
- + 1 Point if official website provides CAFR data for prior years (H).
- + 1 Point if official website provides information on obtaining or access to a printed copy of the province's CAFR (I).
- + 1 Point if official website provides contact details (phone and/or email) for individual/department that compiled CAFR (J).

= possible score of 10 points

\*CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) or equivalent: comprehensive sets of financial statements, including footnotes, partial sets of financial statements and/or financial highlights which include summary financial statements and the core of the financial statements published by the government. In this paper, an e-government classified in practicing IFR when it provides on the web a comprehensive set of financial statements and/or financial highlights extracted from financial statements (including partial and/or summarized financial statements). The full disclosure is when it provides these four components, namely, balance sheet, budget realization statement, statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements.

The association between the determinant variables and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in its e-government in the hypotheses will be tested by the following equation:

$$IFRACCESS_{it} = \alpha_{it} + \beta_1 SIZE_{it} + \beta_2 INCOME_{it} + \beta_3 DEBT_{it} + e_{it}$$

- IFRACCESS<sub>it</sub> : the accessibility of financial reports of local governments at the provincial level *i* in the year *t* in its e-government as measured by Calculation of Accessibility Index Value.
- SIZE<sub>it</sub> : the size of local governments at the provincial level *i* in the year *t* as measured by the log of its population.
- INCOME<sub>it</sub> : the log of per capita resident income at the provincial level *i* in the year *t*.
- DEBT<sub>it</sub> : the capacity of local governments at the provincial level *i* in the year *t* in debt as measured by total debt divided by population at the provincial level *i* in the year *t*.
- e<sub>it</sub> : error term.

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### 4. The Findings

#### 4.1 Univariate Analysis

This following is the calculation result by using The Accessibility Index:

**Table 2: The Accessibility Index Value Calculation**

NO	PROVINCE NAME	Status*	ACCESSIBILITY POINT										TOTAL	
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J		
1	Bali	IFR	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	Banten	IFR	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
3	Bengkulu	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta	IFR	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	7
5	DKI Jakarta	IFR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	9
6	Gorontalo	IFR	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
7	Jambi	IFR	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
8	Jawa Barat	IFR	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	6
9	Jawa Tengah	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Jawa Timur	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Kalimantan Barat	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Kalimantan Selatan	IFR	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
13	Kalimantan Tengah	IFR	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	7
14	Kalimantan Timur	IFR	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
15	Kepulauan Bangka Belitung	IFR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	8
16	Kepulauan Riau	IFR	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
17	Lampung	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Maluku	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Maluku Utara	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Nusa Tenggara Barat	IFR	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	7
22	Nusa Tenggara Timur	IFR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	8
23	Papua	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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24	Papua Barat	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Riau	IFR	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
26	Sulawesi Barat	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Sulawesi Selatan	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Sulawesi Tengah	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Sulawesi Tenggara	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Sulawesi Utara	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Sumatera Barat	Non IFR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Sumatera Selatan	IFR	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	7
33	Sumatera Utara	IFR	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6

\*status: IFR means the website provides financial information, non IFR means the opposite.

This following is the Descriptive Statistics of the data:

**Table 3: Descriptive Statistics of The Accessibility Index Value**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Point	33	0	9	2.73	3.194
Valid N (listwise)	33				

This following is the observed frequencies for the components of the accessibility index. It values highlights how the local government in the provincial level addresses the accessibility of the financial data in its e-government (official website):

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**Table 4: The Frequency of Accessibility Index Components**

Index Components	All provincial governments (n=33)
	Freq. (%)
A. Official website appears on first page of result for Google or Yahoo search using province name and state.	16 (48.5%)
B. Website has link to CAFR data on website homepage.	12 36.4%
C. Website has search engine that finds CAFR using terms CAFR and/or financial statements.	9 27.3%
D. 3 or less web pages (or clicks of mouse) to view CAFR data from website homepage.	12 36.4%
E. CAFR provided on official website as indexed pdf file(s) or HTML format.	11 33.3%
F. Website provides CAFR data in more than one file; files for different sections/pages of full CAFR document.	8 24.2%
G. Individual file(s) providing CAFR data less than 3MB in size (G).	11 33.3%
H. Website provides CAFR data for prior years.	7 21.2%
I. Website provides information on obtaining or access to a printed copy of the province's CAFR.	0 0%
J. Website provides contact details (phone and/or email) for individual/department that compiled CAFR.	4 12.1%

According to Government Regulation No. 71/2010 on The Government Accounting Standard, main financial reports that must be provided by the government are Statement of over Budget Balance Changes, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Notes to Financial Statements. The calculation of the accessibility index shows that only three provinces which are Yogyakarta, Jakarta, and South Sumatera with the financial reports of 2012. The rest which have financial information, only in footnotes; partial sets of financial statements; and/or financial highlights which may include summary financial statements or extracts from such statements and the time due report is under the year of 2012.

The biggest point is in the hand of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta with 9 points for the excellent point of 10. It might happen because Jakarta has more pressures to publish as the country capital. Based on Table 3, with mean in 2,730 and standard deviation in 3,194, Jakarta has reached the standard outstandingly. Empirically, the frequencies for the components of the accessibility index shows that official website appears on first page of result for Google or Yahoo search using province name and state is only 48.5% and interestingly, website provides information on obtaining or access to a printed copy of the province's CAFR is in 0%. The determinants of why many governments did not provide IFR according to Oyelere et al (2003) are political competition, size, leverage, municipal wealth, press visibility, and type of local authority and according to Style and Tennyson (2007), they are the number of residents, resident income per capita, level of debt, and the financial position of the municipalities.

IFR in e-government is the most fulfilling aspects of 3E (Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Economy) to provide and publish information on financial statements to all public stakeholders including central government, other governments, parliaments, audit

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board, economic analysts, investors, creditors, donors, and community. Based on Verawaty (2012), 87.9% of provincial governments had the e-government in the status online/active. However, only 37.93% did the IFR. It means that the dissemination of information is closely related to the readiness of the public entity to provide it to be accessible to the public. Although financially supported by reliable human resources, not all local governments do it voluntarily.

A number of IFR-related issues and challenges have, however, been noted in the literature. There is a potential that the dividing line between current financial information used by government management made available to public users of financial information could be erased by online, real-time reporting (Oyelere et al (2003). Besides, if IFR is installed as the only mode for communicating financial information, there is the likelihood that access to such information will be restricted to only those who possess costly computer equipment and skills. Hence, to ensure equity in financial information dissemination, it will be necessary to ensure that the information being reported in websites are already provided previously or simultaneously in other media of financial information disclosure (McCafferty, 1995). However, this could be viewed as unnecessary duplication and may result in even greater costs in Indonesia, where financial information are commonly disseminated in both Indonesia and English languages.

Perhaps the greatest challenge faced in the IFR environment is ensuring the security and integrity of the financial information published on the websites. Apart from possible errors in the publishing process, materials published on the web are susceptible to all manners of security risks. Financial information could, post-publication, be knowingly or unknowingly altered by parties both external and internal to the organization. There is a real risk that critical decisions could be made by users of financial information based on inaccurate financial information gleaned from the websites. The extent to which these issues are dealt with is likely to determine the long-term usefulness of the internet as a medium of the financial information dissemination.

Because the financial statements on the internet are unregulated so many local government consider it not seriously. The Minister of Indonesia for Internal Issues No. 186.52/1797/DJ of 2012 announced that the instruction titled "Building up The Transparency of Budget Management" since May of 2012. It is an obligation for all governments to have a content name "The Transparency in Local Government Budget" in their e-government. More or less it is an IFR. Like many other rule or law, it must take time to be applied in their government environment, at least maximally in the following two years. Thus for the future, all government will implement the ministry's instruction so the accountability will support the good governance. The researcher also recommends that in every level of the government, they will develop better knowledge management systems, increase the interactivity of their websites, and enrich the accounting information that they present.

### 4.2 Multivariate Analysis

Because the data of 17 provinces are not complete or the e-governments are under construction (maintenance), they are not included in the data testing so the final sample is 16. The following table data is to be processed to test the hypothesis is as follows:

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**Table 5: Data to Be Prepared To Test the Hypothesis**

NO	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	Var IFR ACCESS	Var SIZE*	Var INCOME*	Var DEBT*
1	Bali	2	6,53	13,7	1,47
2	Banten	2	6,96	14,09	1,54
3	Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta	7	6,51	13,58	2,61
4	Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta	9	6,96	14,83	1,51
5	Gorontalo	6	5,97	12,77	1,59
6	Jambi	5	6,44	13,6	1,23
7	Jawa Barat	6	7,59	14,78	0,79
8	Kalimantan Selatan	3	6,52	13,66	1,79
9	Kalimantan Tengah	7	6,33	13,51	0,57
10	Kalimantan Timur	2	6,45	14,5	1,85
11	Kepulauan Bangka Belitung	8	6,00	13,34	1,55
12	Nusa Tenggara Barat	7	6,65	13,55	1,36
13	Nusa Tenggara Timur	8	6,63	13,33	0,96
14	Riau	3	6,76	14,44	0,46
15	Sumatera Selatan	7	6,89	14,13	1,02
16	Sumatera Utara	6	7,12	14,33	2,13

\*: log10

The following table shows the descriptive statistics for all research variables are:

**Table 6: The Descriptive Statistics for All Research Variables**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
IFRACCESS	16	2	9	5.50	2.366
SIZE	16	5.97	7.59	6.6444	.40732
INCOME	16	12.77	14.83	13.8838	.57969
DEBT	16	.46	2.61	1.4019	.56331
Valid N (listwise)	16				

The association between and local government size, income per capita, debt and financial reports on the accessibility of the internet or Internet Financial Reporting (IFR) in e-government are tested as follows:

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**Table 7: The Statistics Result of Internet Financial Reporting (IFR) in e-Government**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	17.191	16.447		1.045	.316
SIZE	1.566	2.680	.269	.584	.570
INCOME	-1.568	1.868	-.384	-.839	.418
DEBT	-.227	1.194	-.054	-.190	.852

a. Dependent Variable: IFRACCESS

Based on the results of the regression with a significance value of 0.570 ( $p < 0.10$ ), this study shows that there is no positive association between the size of local government by proxy for population and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in its e-government. That is, in statistical calculation, population cannot be the deciding factor that can explain the accessibility IFR in e-government.

According to Giroux and Shield (1993) and Giroux and McLelland (2003), local governments have to face of rising demand or claim against supervisory information. Program activities and services for large population with expenditure of resources lead to requests for large amounts of information on government performance information, including local government, so the greater the budget for those activities that can be collected and of course the higher the demand for the function accounting. The request can be accommodated in the IFR which is an alternative method is a more effective disclosure and its accessibility that theoretically stated, the more points earned based on how many steps it takes to find the financial statements in the e-government, the better. The research is supported by Styles and Tennyson (2007) which proved that a city with a large number of residents have positive associations to conduct IFR in e-government. The study in Indonesia context does not support the foreign studies.

Based on the results of the regression with a significance value of 0.418 ( $p < 0.10$ ), this study shows that there is no positive association between the income per capita local government by proxy for GDP per capita and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in its e-government. The easier accessibility of financial statements (IFR) in e-government, the better dissemination of information made to public. But, in statistical calculation, the income per capita cannot be the deciding factor that can explain the accessibility IFR in e-government.

According to previous literature, GASB (1999) and GFOA (2003) stated the regions with greater income per capita demand for accountability have higher financial statements. Provinces with higher income levels would have levels higher political oversight by community groups and more requests for information that can provide measures of performance. Laswad et al (2005) and Styles and Tennyson (2007) support these findings by linking reporting of those statements on the internet, including its accessibility. However, the results of this study is not supported by Robbins and Austin (1986) which stated that there was a positive association with income per capita of accounting disclosure in the public sector. This paper research taken in Indonesia does not support Laswad et al (2005) and Styles and Tennyson (2007).

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Based on the results of the regression with a significance value of 0.852 ( $p < 0.10$ ), this study shows that there is no positive association between the proxy for local government debt which are the ratio debt to total population and the accessibility of IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) provided in its e-government. Thus, in statistical calculation, debt cannot be the deciding factor that can explain the accessibility IFR in e-government.

According to previous literature, Zimmerman (1977), the use of debt to finance public activity is a key driver for public sector managers to reduce the cost of debt. This can be achieved with the IFR because of the internet media, distribution of financial statements to be more efficient, effective, and economical. This is also supported by Styles and Tennyson (2007) that stakeholders need to expand the financial statement information without compromising its ability to meet the demand of the population in the following years for public service. Then by utilizing the internet media or IFR in e-government including its easier accessibility is an activity that will not increase the debt. But it turns out that this paper research in Indonesia does not support these studies.

Wagenhofer (2003) indicates that there are some economic consequences of IFR on financial disclosure. The study discusses how financial disclosure "is (still) governed by incentives and cost-benefit tradeoffs". It also considers that changes in information costs such as declining disclosure costs and higher demands of information from users may have led to more disclosure, but IFR has also created additional disclosure costs. Wagenhofer (2003) highlights concerns raised over quality of information by IFR. Flexibility of disclosure facilitated by the internet could raise concerns over misuse of this disclosure format and demand for expanded auditing services and regulation of IFR, thus leading to additional costs for preparers. Perhaps in Indonesia context, those findings are relevant in term of no significance of all the research variables.

According to the interviews results with local government practitioners, the population is not a significant reason for the accessibility of IFR, but the characteristics of the population that determine the level of demand pressure for more public transparency, accountability and participation of IFR in e-government, including its accessibility. Then if it is associated with income per capita, it is not also a significant reason. However, documenting culture or the customs to document (anything) with information technology media which become a part of ISO and also become a standard part of software engineering, should have been a competence of government. Then the debt level, if it is a local government debt, either low or high ratio, then perhaps there is/there will be political pressure to publish its financial statements more easily or the number of points of high accessibility.

## 5. Summary and Conclusions

The study is aimed to analyze the accessibility of IFR on the government website by using Accessibility Index Value (Style and Tennyson, 2007). The index shows the ability of some citizens to access the data provided in e-government that the higher point they compile, the better the accessibility is. Specifically, components of the accessibility index highlight concerns that some citizens may experience difficulty locating the data in e-government, downloading large electronic files containing financial reports, conveniently locating specific financial data and obtaining a hardcopy of the financial report. These questions of accessibility maybe either diminished or accentuated by differences in internet access for citizens of individual province, but require the attention of the local government authority choosing to engage in internet financial reporting.

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Besides to discuss the accessibility, this research is aimed to examine the association between the accessibility of IFR in e-government and the determinant variables named as size, income per capita, and debt which are assumed to have the positive associations. The results of this study concluded that there is no positive association between those variables. It does not support Giroux and Shield (1993), Giroux and McLelland (2003), and Styles and Tennyson (2007) for size variable, GASB (1999), GFOA (2003), Laswad et al (2005), and Styles and Tennyson (2007) for income per capita variable, and Styles and Tennyson (2007) and other studies for debt variable.

Obtained through the method of interviewing the arguments are the characteristics of the population, documenting culture, and political pressures into consideration to improve the accessibility of financial statements in the e-government. Besides the juridical aspect, especially Act No.14/2008 on The Disclosure of Public Information has not set or procedures on how to disseminate public information. Thus dissemination of financial statements on Internet Financial Reporting (IFR) in e-government is still not fully utilized.

The accountability is a crucial issue to support good governance of a government. In essence, accountability is the provision of information and disclosure on the activities and financial performance for the public stakeholder (Schiavo-Campo and Tomasi, 1999). The government, both central and local levels, should be the subject of informers in the context of fulfilling the public's rights namely the right to know, the right to be informed, and the right to be heard for the aspirations. Based on the dimensions of public accountability by Verawaty (2010), e-government as a public accountability means is namely the obligation to provide accountability or to answer and explain the performance and actions of a person/organization to the party leader who has the right or authority to hold the accountability or description.

Recent public sector reforms have generally emphasized the importance of increasing accountability and widening the scope of measurement and reporting systems, as well as the use of information and communication technologies. Internet technologies provide public sector organizations with an opportunity to improve their accountability, to increase their responsiveness to the needs of citizens and to promote a change in the overall philosophy of government and organization of activities. In this case, with the easiest steps to access, it will describe the accountability itself. IFR will support the government accountability.

The accountability is implicit in all the objectives of government's IFR whereas government website can play an important role in democratization of government information on performance by providing convenient and potentially more accessible financial information to stakeholders. In order to support the accountability, the government has to publish the public information in the context of fulfilling the rights of the public which is the rights to be informed in the border of legal law. Having The Instruction of The Minister of Indonesia for Internal Issues No. 186.52/1797/DJ/2012 has become a very potential development. In the future, the accessibility of the IFR (Internet Financial Reporting) of local government will be much easier.

## Endnotes

Considering that there are limitations, subsequent research suggested could improve factors such as increasing the number of samples, not only in the provincial level, but also local government district/municipal level, adding other variables to explain the proper use IFR accessibility in e-government,

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such as political competition, press visibility, and the classification of cities based on population, and data used in time series so that trends can be seen through the provision of IFR e-government media from year to year.

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