



COMPANY

RESEARCH AFFILIATES LLC

INDUSTRY

INVESTMENT ADVISORY

LOCATION

NEWPORT BEACH, CA

OFFICE

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

CASE STUDY

Research Affiliates Transforms Financial Analysis Procedures

Background: Research Affiliates, LLC, founded in 2002 in Newport Beach, California, is a globally recognized firm specializing in smart beta and asset allocation strategies. The firm collaborates with leading financial institutions to offer a variety of innovative investment products, including mutual funds, ETFs, separately managed accounts, and commingled accounts. With a mission to transform the global investment landscape, Research Affiliates leverages its expertise to develop cutting-edge investment insights and products that challenge traditional financial models.

Research Affiliates is renowned for its pioneering work in the development of smart beta strategies, which aim to improve the risk-return characteristics of investment portfolios by selecting, weighting, and rebalancing assets based on alternative metrics to traditional market capitalization. The firm's flagship product, the Fundamental Index™, reweights portfolios based on fundamental measures such as sales, cash flow, and dividends, rather than market price. This approach has garnered significant attention and adoption within the investment community for its potential to deliver superior risk-adjusted returns.

In addition to smart beta strategies, Research Affiliates is a leader in asset allocation research, providing valuable insights and tools for constructing diversified and robust investment portfolios. The firm's research-driven approach combines quantitative analysis with a deep understanding of market dynamics, enabling it to offer innovative solutions that address the evolving needs of investors.

Background: While employed at another institution, leadership of Integrative Analytics partnered with Research Affiliates to deliver a comprehensive solution that addressed their process and productivity challenges, including:

- ⊠ We developed customized Excel VBA macros to automate repetitive tasks related to budgeting, forecasting, and financial analysis. These macros significantly reduced manual effort, enabling the generation of precise financial reports quickly and efficiently. By automating data consolidation and analytical processes, these macros improved the speed and accuracy of financial analysis, providing Research Affiliates with deeper and more timely insights into their financial health.
- ⊠ To streamline accounting processes, we implemented advanced Excel VBA macros to automate various tasks, such as ledger reconciliation, data entry, and financial reporting. This automation led to substantial time savings and minimized the risk of human errors. The automated processes ensured consistent and accurate financial data, significantly enhancing the integrity of accounting operations. We modernized and streamlined outdated spreadsheets using advanced Excel functions, Power Query, and VBA scripting. This included restructuring data layouts, implementing dynamic data validation, and enhancing user interfaces. The improved workbooks facilitated more efficient workflows and data processing, contributing to overall productivity gains and better user experience.
- ⊠ We provided extensive training sessions using a blended learning approach that included hands-on workshops, video tutorials, and detailed documentation. These programs empowered employees to leverage Excel VBA macros effectively. By embedding VBA knowledge within the team, we enabled Research Affiliates employees to independently create and modify macros, ensuring sustainable process improvements and adaptability to future challenges.