

# The Impact of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) on Virtual Banking and Consumer Experience

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[www.sjmars.com](http://www.sjmars.com) || Vol. 3 No. 4 (2024): August Issue

Date of Submission: 05-08-2024

Date of Acceptance: 20-08-2024

Date of Publication: 30-08-2024

## ABSTRACT

AR and especially VR have significantly influenced virtual experiences, transforming the banking industry, particularly enhancing the consumer experience. These technologies enable banks to offer a tailored and engaging approach for consumers regarding the financial services they require, both in-person and online. Augmented reality enhances the banking experience by allowing information to be visually integrated into real-world spaces. In contrast, virtual reality offers a simulated environment where customers can interact with banking services and obtain their assistance. In the realm of virtual banking, the advantages for businesses include increased customer engagement, reduced operational expenses, and enhanced accessibility, particularly for those in remote areas, facilitated by the integration of AR and VR technologies. Additionally, they strengthen the security of the processes by utilising features such as biometric authentication and virtual consultations during transactions. However, the system's limitations could impede its acceptance, including significant implementation costs, technological challenges, and security risks. Consequently, integrating AR and VR is increasingly essential to reshape consumer expectations in banking services. Additional research remains needed to optimise the performance of these technologies for users and achieve more cost-effective outcomes.

**Keywords-** Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Virtual Banking, Consumer Experience, Financial Technology, Digital Banking.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The reform is underway, and new technologies such as AR/VR are being implemented. They are already transitioning into various sectors where they operate and refining the customer experience by enhancing its depth, accessibility, and personalisation, particularly within the financial industry. Clients can effortlessly connect with the provided services and their financial activities by utilising AR and VR to strengthen the link between the virtual and the physical global banking systems. AR and VR technologies are increasingly significant for financial institutions in engaging with customers, enhancing services and products, and keeping up with trends. AR is utilised to communicate real-time application details, location-based financial services, and navigation within the application settings (Dubey, 2019). For example, users can utilise AR to monitor their spending, as illustrated in the blue thumbnail below, find an ATM in real-time, and bring the advisor on their smartphone screen to life. Another example in the context of improving banking is VR, which provides realistically developed environments for banking. It is assumed that one can effortlessly visit any branch to consult with financial advisors or explore investment portfolios from the comfort of home. This will transform the existing banking systems to provide a more user-friendly approach to conducting transactions, removing the necessity for in-person interactions with the bank while simultaneously enhancing service quality.



**Figure 1: Transformation of Banking Sector by AR and VR**

AR and VR showcase their most significant potential by enhancing customer service in the banking sector. These virtual assistants are powered by artificial intelligence and combined with AR overlays or VR environments, they can quickly assist to the customers, which are autonomously providing solutions to their problems. Financial institutions are using the VR for the virtual investment tutorial programs that present the financial products to the customers and facilitate them to build an intelligent decision. Such these simulations allow much better financial planning, enabling the investors to have the entire picture of all elements, including the possible outcomes of the investment and adequate risks and the forecasts about the market conditions (Gomes et al., 2015). The implementation of AR and VR technology drastically reduces any online banking operation. The technologies decrease operational costs through centralized oversight without necessitating great levels of physical infrastructure and staff. Using the VR technology, virtual banking branches set up for lower cost with interactive customer services using digital representatives. AR technology enabled interfaces enable employees to enhance their productivity as they allow features to enhance collaboration and training while providing visual data insights.

Three major challenges in a cybersecurity, data privacy and a fast-paced technology adoption context need to be addressed if financial institutions are to embrace AR and VR technologies. These technologies however need to be widely implemented, and this calls for careful financial planning, strict adherence to regulations and integration of the technologies into the structure of banking infrastructure operations. The technology is emerging towards this revolution towards the creation of more engaging banking platforms with higher efficiency while giving exceptional customer service in this emerging banking industry.

## II. UNDERSTANDING AR AND VR IN BANKING

As digital transformation reshapes the financial industry, Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) are emerging as crucial elements in redefining banking experiences. These technologies connect conventional banking practices with digital financial services, providing immersive, interactive, and engaging solutions that improve consumer experience.

### *a. Definition and Overview*

Using Augmented Reality, it is possible that individuals' use improved financial data services and products by getting digital overlays that show in the real world. Today, customers are being provided the power of AR enabled applications to view their banking data while engaging borrowers as they explore the banking products in an interactive interface. With this, members of AR based banking applications use their smartphones to scan bank statement and credit cards and get automatically suggested on their financial options. By the implementation of Virtual Reality (VR), it brings complete simulated digital environment for banking services in which user is engaged moderately (Nawaz et al., 2018). Through VR banking solutions, clients can have virtual encounters with financial advisors, take investigations, and execute transactions at virtual branches. Engagement with the customer at this level renders tailored banking solutions and accessibility to services and thereby leading to higher degree of customer satisfaction. In an era where financial institution aim to provide an exceptional and mobile banking service, AR and VR technology enables these institutions to combine the digital and physical experiences to create a seamless deployment.

**b. Evolution of AR and VR in Banking**

For banking, AR and VR applications are not mature applications yet and are just being used as developmental tools to give improvements in customer experience. These technologies were first used in the areas of gaming and entertainment and only then the banking sector came to realize their potential usage. At the point, the banking industry was into the exploration of the use of augmented reality in mobile application, simply utilising GPS to get the nearest ATM and naturally provide essential information regarding the banking products that you may need in digital brochures (Normand et al., 2012). Given that, here’s why these initial or early cases serve as first indications of when AR may bring about improved and elevated engagement of the financial services domain. Additionally, several organisations took up VR for training of their employees for the training of customer care services and make them understand the products on which the bank provides services. Also, as technology sprung forward, more and more financial institutions from around the globe adopted AR and VR features. One thing that it is important to point out from that which is happening with online learning is that it has gone through many major developments that should be recognized.

- **AR-powered financial advisory services:** Customers can use AR applications to receive real-time investment insights, visualise portfolio performance, and simulate financial scenarios before making decisions.
- **Virtual bank branches:** VR has enabled banks to create digital branches where customers can interact with virtual representatives, attend financial planning sessions, and explore new services in a 360-degree environment.
- **Enhanced customer service with AR avatars:** AI-driven AR avatars assist users in real time, providing personalised financial advice and guiding them through complex banking procedures.



**Figure 2: Evolution of AR and VR in Banking**

- **Immersive financial education:** VR increasingly educates consumers about personal finance, investment strategies, and retirement planning through interactive simulations and gamified experiences.

At present, numerous financial institutions such as Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, and HSBC are starting to integrate AR and VR into their operations. Current mobile applications for banking feature AR that enables customers to engage with their accounts visually in real time. Additional types of financial services are being explored to provide high net worth clients with virtual consultations regarding optimal investment opportunities and advanced banking services.

**III. ENHANCING CONSUMER EXPERIENCE WITH AR AND VR IN VIRTUAL BANKING**

**a. Virtual Bank Branches**

The banking sector has embraced a strong focus on virtual reality, introducing virtual branches to transform the way customer-facing banking services are delivered. Through these branches, customers enter an immersive virtual reality space to interact with representatives, utilise services, and finalise transactions without the need for physical presence. This initiative significantly supports individuals residing in rural areas, those living in one-room homes, and people who rely on wheelchairs due to disabilities. It enables individuals to conduct their banking activities seamlessly within the comfort of

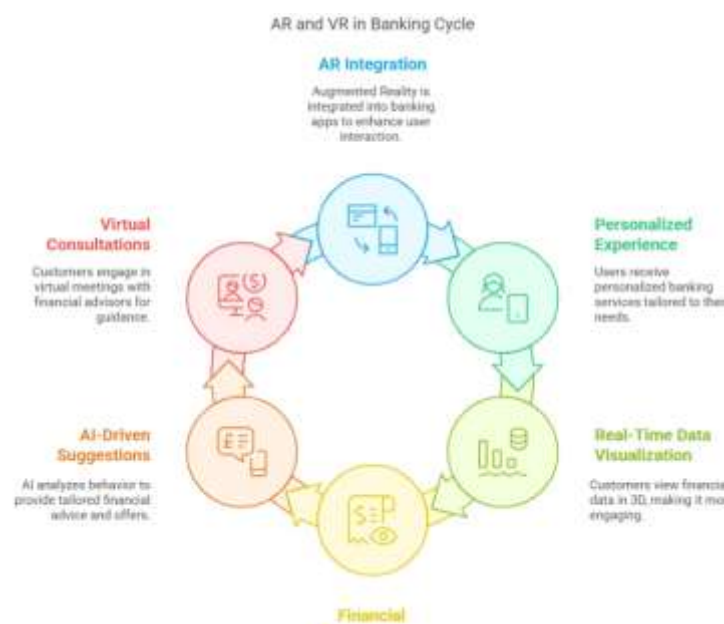
their own homes. The representation of a genuine customer experience at the office, where individuals engage with a financial advisor to receive tailored guidance, can be effectively achieved through the features of virtual bank branches. This strategy effectively reduces the reliance on large physical infrastructure while maintaining a high level of system activity for customers (Mori, 2021). To draw a valid conclusion on this matter, there are four key advantages of utilising VR in financial institutions and its benefits within the banking sector. Furthermore, it is financially advantageous, as it provides the chance to meet various customer needs through VR, making the establishment and upkeep of physical locations economically impractical. The use of biometric identification and the integration of artificial intelligence in virtual applications can enhance security and reduce the likelihood of insecure transactions. Consequently, loan decisions are approached incrementally, appealing to new clients who can engage more fully in the banking experience. It is indeed the case that VR technology will continue to advance, along with its potential to transform customer banking experiences.

**b. Interactive Financial Education**

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies are effectively enhancing Financial Literacy and Education as tools for teaching and training. Consequently, individuals may struggle to make choices, even when they have the necessary information, about financial products and services. AR and VR accomplish this by delivering financial education in a real-life context, enabling students to gain a deeper understanding of financial topics. Users of AR applications can access and view financial data as it evolves in real time, monitor investments, evaluate the markets, and gauge the risks more efficiently. For instance, a live QR or bar code can seamlessly provide real-time charts, graphs, and detailed financial status directly on your smartphone or tablet. Through document or card captures, clients can benefit from gaining insights into specific interest rates, loan offers, and anticipated investment growth. Conversely, virtual reality modules for financial education offered to customers allow them to engage with the content in an immersive setting (Maad et al., 2010). These programs detail financial models, including stock market trends, loan repayment structures, and retirement savings plans. Business concepts and their practices become more accessible through a simulation, allowing individuals to grasp them without the concern of typical challenges that might arise in a real-world environment. Financial institutions frequently integrate AR and VR learning tools to educate consumers about finances through apps or websites. This technological solution significantly assists consumers in making financial decisions, such as savings, investments, and spending.

**c. Personalized Banking Services**

AR and VR have taken this level of engagement and ease to the new levels for consumer bank services. We've observed that many organisations have integrated Augmented reality into their mobile applications so much such that Augmented reality has very significantly influenced the banking sector by giving the users highly personalised banking applications. The other practical aspect of AR implementers is that there is a channel to view accounts in real time. Through AR applications, a user can view account balances, transaction histories and personal financial statements in a three dimensional format (Chy & Buadi, 2023). Instead of staring at a tremendous amount of numbers on a screen, people are able to interact in a better way with visual representations of what they think about saving, how they do what they save or invest, and so on. This approach brings about financial transparency and also makes it possible for customers to properly manage financial plan.



**Figure 3: AR and VR application in banking cycle**

This reaffirms what has just been said, that AI's autonomy helps with banking customisation. ARs analyze the customer's past and predicted behavior related to buying, financial goals and prospects, and apply it to suggest ways to save, invest, cash in and capitalize in credit card benefits. An example is that if a user frequently shops in a certain retail outlet, the banking application may inform him regarding the offers, promos or strategies to maximize the usage of the given credit card according to the preferences of the user. One can say that its provision significantly influences the customer experience provision in the banking sector. A virtual consultative meeting allows individuals with a great amount of wealth or business professionals to get the chance to take part to meet up with financial consultants online in an Internet break ground. They can be made up of presentations of financial growth strategies, analysis and a forecast for the investment results, with data presented using three-dimensional models and other interactive data. It assures organisations get to interact more with their clients in a way that ensures they develop deeper connections.

#### IV. SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

On integrating Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) in virtual banking, there are many security and privacy pitfalls to tackle to protect consumer's confidence and regulatory compliance. While these technologies make their way into the digital banking experience, there's also a high risk of fraud, identity theft, and data breaches all of which need secure frameworks. To provide users with this kind of security, financial institutions need to adopt sophisticated level of cybersecurity technologies, use biometric authentication techniques to safeguard users and their sensitive financial data as well as have strong fraud prevention systems.

##### a. *Biometric Authentication*

Biometric authentication is a highly effective security measure utilised in virtual banking, leveraging AR and VR technologies. They utilise facial recognition, iris scans, fingerprint scans, and voice recognition to enhance security and minimise the risk of fraud and identity theft. Using biometric authentication, access to specific accounts or conducting transactions and banking operations within the virtual reality environment can be limited to designated individuals. Biometrics like facial recognition could allow individuals to access their bank accounts without relying on passwords, identification numbers, or even the Pay As You Go PIN, which are highly vulnerable to fraud (Delač & Grgić, 2004). Utilising biometrics like 3D facial mapping through AR technology can significantly bolster security, as it becomes increasingly challenging to execute spoofing attacks in this scenario. Similarly, iris scanning, known for its reliability and depth of analysis, enhances security in account-related activities within virtual reality-enabled banks. Moreover, these biometric techniques improve security by significantly expediting the authentication process compared to entering lengthy passwords and responding to security questions. Nonetheless, the respective bank must ensure the biometric data collected is secure and encrypted to prevent potential violations or exploitation. Adhering to legal and regulatory requirements in the management of consumer data is crucial, mainly when dealing with sensitive information protected by laws such as GDPR and industry standards, to ensure the trust of consumers is upheld.



**Figure 4: Biometric authentication in virtual banking**

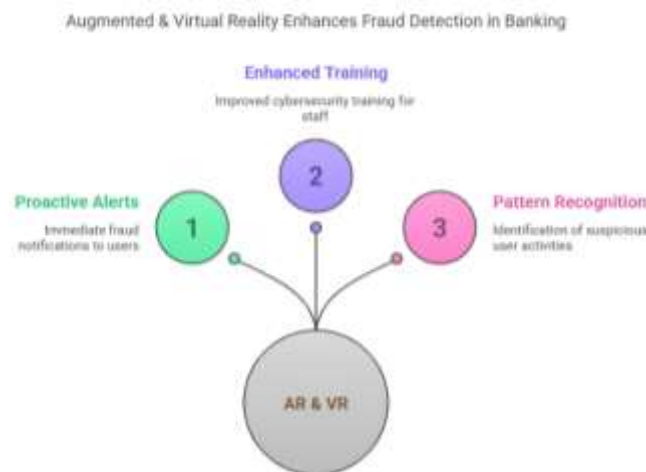
##### b. *Data Privacy Concerns*

AR and VR provide significant upgrade to the customer experience in the banking but there's a slightly pressing concern about data privacy rights. They are gathering and analyzing huge amounts of identifiable user data including biometric information, behavioural insights and geo data. Since AR and VR go much deeper on a user's data than the physical device, we can at the same time find that there exist instances of privacy vulnerability that can be breached if not well secured (Garrido et al., 2023). The organisation and communication of data are some vital concerns. In this scenario, financial institutions need to adopt a very strict encryption and anonymisation protocols to resist cyber attacks relating to users' data. In the global market, it is very important to oversee and to ensure that financial institutions comply with the appropriate data privacy standards. Another element of the debate is about the external use of user data. However, some of the services may link to the affiliated applications or other structured financial service providers, which means that some of the consumer information is accessible to external parties. Gilman proposes that lenders must put in place protocols for the pipeline data

which will involve the collection of information from individuals with a view to using such information for purposes as stipulated in the agreement.

*c. Fraud Prevention*

Considering that threats develop in all types of information technology, it is necessary to introduce augmented and virtual reality in order to identify fraud within banking. To reduce fraud proactively through forecasting, they continue to build simulations, monitoring, and the rest of the advanced analytics. Fraud detection systems with augmented reality offer a quick access to new information by overlaying risk related data on the present view (Argyriou et al., 2013). Take, for instance, the scenario in which an individual attempts to make a premium purchase or conduct a large transaction of any kind, an augmented reality notification might alert them of a disconnect to security from the scenario of fraud or, in the case of identity verification, ask them to take a series of steps. These dynamic alerts give the consumer more control to further increase the suspicion level when they can do so and block the transaction immediately.



**Figure 5: Effect of AR and VR fraud detection in banking**

Virtual reality in the fight against fraud using artificial intelligence, it should simulate the transaction and evaluate the potential of fraud. The virtual banking environments for user interaction facilitate the detection of the peculiar patterns in the activities of a user which could potentially trigger fraud detection, for instance, the pattern of multiple login attempts from different locations and irregular spending habits. Facilitatively, it allows the financial institution to screen such a transaction (Jha & Westland, 2013). Additionally AR and VR improve the bank’s staff and the bank’s consumers training programs on the cybersecurity awareness. With VR environments, employees can work with fraud scenarios and actually play with potential scam and phishing attempt and other forms of cyber conspiracies. It is focused on providing the bank’s staff what is required to effectively identify security threats and before the incidence of any possible specific issues that can affect customers’ accounts.

**V. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS**

Integrating **Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) in banking** presents a transformative opportunity for financial institutions to enhance customer experiences. However, despite their potential, these technologies come with various **challenges and limitations** that financial institutions must navigate. These challenges include **high implementation costs, consumer adaptation issues, and technical constraints**.

*a. High Implementation Costs*

AR and VR integration into banking systems is an expensive affair to develop and implement. At the same time, financial institutions require large funds to get the hardware, software development and acquisition, or staff recruitment and training, or maintenance costs. However, the banks need to improve and augment the banking experience with premium virtual reality headsets, augmented reality enabled smartphones and smart glasses but their prices make them less accessible. However, to build a trustworthy virtual environment for financial institutions, a substantial amount of investment is necessary to sustain precise portfolios of 3D technology, artificial intelligence, and blockchain security (Ris et al., 2020). One more important point is the attraction of well educated people, for example, software engineers, security experts, and designers, to engender true Augmented reality and Virtual reality applications for the organization. Additionally, such modifications, repairs, upgrade, and adjustment of compatible nature and involvement are also key in the expenses of AR and VR, which is also imperative in their functional working. AR and VR may be more suitable for larger banks with enough financial

resources to justify these investments, as justify these investments may be harder to do for smaller financial institutions and credit unions.

**b. Consumer Adaptation**

In this way, customer acceptance becomes a great challenge when we employ the ones of contemporary AR and VR system in banking. But challenges, especially for the first time users of these technologies, can pose a particular problem for the elderly. When these sorts of changes are needed, they involve an attempt to shift from button and list based interfaces to gestural interfaces, which also incorporate speech, hand and haptic input, as well as immersive 3D environments, which could be considered too much for the users (Hollinworth, 2009). Beyond that, security and privacy issues prevent adoption because new technologies such as biometric authentication and facial recognition are considered to attack current privacy and allow data theft. Yet, consumers remain present day when it comes to in person banking, as they still prefer a human interaction over a digital one, especially concerning such complex transactions that require expert guidance.

**c. Technical Constraints**

In order for AR and VR banking to work, there must certainly be a certain degree of technological support. However, the system is not fully executable; several factors complicate the process. The latency and performance challenges are huge, since augmented and virtual reality are very demanding in terms of real time data processing and fast internet connection. And risks, delays, and errors always mean business (and online) transactions could be on hold. The problem is also the compatibility with devices as not all the clients have technology like VR headsets and smart glasses. AR has lately attracted huge popularity among the recent rollout of AR enabled smartphones, but it does not mean the platform launched upon one device (Huynh-The et al., 2023). Additionally, it deals with the network necessities as there are many applications belonging to AR/VR, which rely for the best of their experience on a 5G link. This situation, however, is that not all countries have reached the level of reliability of 5G signals that the users require in different rural or underdeveloped regions. With such a drawback, we must encourage the use of AR and VR in the banking sector.

## **VI. FUTURE PROSPECTS AND INNOVATIONS IN AR/VR-ENABLED BANKING**

As AR and VR technologies evolve, their integration into the banking sector presents a transformative shift in financial services. These advancements enhance user experiences and provide secure, immersive, and efficient banking solutions. The future of AR and VR in banking is shaped by three key technological innovations: AI integration, blockchain security, and the expansion of metaverse banking.

**a. AI Integration with AR/VR**

The banking sector will be totally revolutionized when AI is integrated with AR/VR technologies, making the personal banking experience quite better than ever before. The virtual assistants give clients continuous financial insights and suggestions powered by AI. It implies that with predictive analytics, banks are able to predict customer's needs and provide them with the suitable market product portfolio for trading and investment solutions (Buchanan, 2019). In most cases, they provide the financial value to the users by helping them create a budget, ease them about their investments, by suggesting essential investment strategies according to these users movements, and even exposing these users to fraudulent schemes in real time. This implies that innovation to simplify and fasten the bank processes will enhance satisfaction of customers.

**b. Blockchain and Secure Transactions**

Digital banking is a key challenge that one faces when it involves ensuring the security of transactions. Blockchain's advance as well as AR and VR Interfaces could enhance a reliable and secure entry to financial applications that are still centralized and restricted to modify by a recognized figure. When VR banking comes into effect, customers will be able to dissect the banking business from the real world into the blockchain environment to complete their purchases and transactions directly (Chatterjee et al., 2023). This innovation makes transaction monitoring easier and reduces the chance of fraud. What's more is these security aspects of identity verification within the financial realm are strengthened much when using biometric authentication in conjunction with augmented reality. Smart contracts are becoming used by many modern agreements in the financial markets, enabling users to directly execute complex transactions reducing costs with savings of third parties needed for services.

**c. Expansion of Metaverse Banking**

So, if companies are actively seeking to do things in the virtual world and sell financial services, then metaverse banking may have logical names for the reason. For example, in a real metaverse banking environment, there are some interaction scenarios that can occur in that metaverse: bank branches can be explored in a complete virtual setting from the customers, a customer can interact with a virtual advisor, and customers can perform banking transactions in the metaverse. By making the adequate provision of customer service, virtual asset, and banking solution, this transformation will redefine the remote banking (Dubey et al., 2022). Additionally, decentralised finance can be used in a virtual world to conduct international transactions which are not possible with a traditional banking system. And as banks use metaverse technologies in their operations, transaction between individuals and the banks will increase.

## VII. CONCLUSION

AR and VR introduction into virtual banking has in turn represented a revolutionary change in the way the banking services are introduced and perceived. These innovations change the way the consumers consume such that there are more enhanced, more intuitive and more tailored banking service. Unlike other digital banking platforms, AR and VR provide customers with a way to explore how they could use financial advisors, use 3D virtual branches to navigate through different financial products and data. While AR and VR in banking have great potential they have their own problems. There is a number of challenges to be handled — including issues of data privacy and its associated risks, such as cybercrime. While this comes with a great benefit, it has a challenge to it, and it presents a hurdle for these banks to adopt these advanced technologies, especially the smaller banks. Adapting to the interfaces of AR/VR is a major factor of consideration and not all people who use AR/VR interfaces are willing to give up traditional banking. Nevertheless, these challenges are falling by the wayside with the entry of digital literacy and user friendly technology in the market. Despite those challenges, AR and VR do have more advantages in banking. Now there is better interaction with customers, higher availability, and broader variety of personalized bank services and products that come as a result of immersion in the banking. These technologies will need to be integrated for digital banking goals thus increasing customer trust. AR VR will go beyond being the equivalent of digital banking enhancements and become the most dominant way of transacting all financials in immersive virtual reality environment.

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