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MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/194

COURSE TITLE: LEGAL METHOD II

COURSE CODE: LAW 102

Assignment: Discuss the secondary sources of law in Nigeria; Font: Times New Romans; Font size: 12.

**What are secondary sources of law?**

Secondary sources of law discuss, describe, interpret, comment upon, analyze, evaluate, summarize, and process the primary sources of law. In other words, secondary sources will collect, organize, and repackage primary source information to increase usability and speed of delivery.

Secondary sources of law are also background resources. They basically provide explanation to the primary sources of law. Finally, secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources.

Some examples of secondary sources of law include: reports, textbooks, periodicals, journals and law digests; and law dictionaries.

* **Law reports:** Theseare an efficient law reporting system which is essential for a smooth system of judicial administration. This is because in any nation where the principle of judicial precedent is operational, it is only by reference to reported cases that courts and lawyers would be able to ascertain the position of law in their areas of jurisdiction.

The oldest species of law reports are the **year books** while the first form of law reports in Nigeria was the **Nigerian Law Reports,** which is extinct now.

* **Law textbooks:** These are written by learned scholars and constitute a very important source of Nigerian law. In Nigeria, legal textbooks of reputable standards have been written by Obilade, Aguda, among many others.

* **Periodicals, journals and law digests:** These are produced in various forms in Nigeria. Some are professional while some are academic. Digests are equally available for example; the Digest of Supreme Court Cases. Digests are abridgements of cases, that is, they are useful summaries of the facts, issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings.
* **Law dictionaries:** These provide helpful guidance in interpreting Nigerian law. Examples are Blacks’ Law Dictionary, Jowitt’s Dictionary of English Law, Stroud’s Judicial Dictionary, etc.

REFRERENCE: **The tufts libraries research guides; Introduction to Nigerian Legal Method by Ese Malemi.**