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**COURSE: (LAW102) LEGAL METHOD**

**MATRIC/NO: 19/LAW01/132**

 QUESTION: Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria…

The word Secondary is from the Latin word **SECUNDARIUS** pertaining to the second class inferior, from secundus (OPPOSED TO PRIMARY PRINCIPAL). On the other hand, source, 1300-50; Middle English sours (noun) <old French sors (masculine), source, source (famine), noun use of past participle of sourdre <Latin surgere to spring up or forth.

Law which is gotten from the word lex and Legis (meaning law) and Lator (meaning prosper).

 Secondary sources are background resources. They explain, interpret and analyze. They include: encyclopedias, law review, treaties and restatements. Secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources .secondary sources are of many examples:

* Law reports
* Textbooks and treaties
* Case books
* Legal dictionaries
* Newspapers
* Periodicals, journals and legal digests

Secondary sources can’t be used in court unlike primary sources of law.

Secondary sources are important because they reflect how the law is being viewed; they provide insight into how courts are interpreting primary sources of law like case law and statutes. Secondary sources can also include;

* Journals and Periodicals
* Acronyms
* Abbreviation guides

Consulting secondary sources of law is the first, most crucial step when conducting legal research. Although not binding they are indispensable preliminary research tools that put the law into context and saves you time. Without secondary sources it would be difficult to get a picture of how the law is being viewed in a time efficient and straight forward manner.

“Secondary sources help in saving time by directing you to the most relevant statutes and cases.”

Secondary sources of laws are only made use of whenever they are no primary sources of law to fall back on.

**SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAWS IN NIGERIA ARE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR:**

* Learning the basics of a particular area of law.
* Understanding key terms of art I an area.
* Identifying essential cases and statutes.

The law library has a wide variety of secondary sources that describe critique and analyze the law.

**ADVANTAGES OF SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA**

* They provide a variety of expert perspectives and insights.
* They offer a quick, easy introduction to your topic.

It saves time for the parliament.

They are lots of overwhelming activities that the government should be concerned about in order to resolve the complexity and volume that the government should be concerned about.in order to resolve the complexity and volume that the legislative deal with the power needs to be delegated to the executive branch.

* Enables flexibility.
* Dealing with emergencies the secondary sources of law has a very good advantage.
* Secondary sources provide a variety of expert perspectives and insights. Also, peer review usually ensures the quality of sources such as scholarly articles.
* Researching secondary sources is more efficient than planning, conducting and analyzing certain primary forms.
* You can access powerful tools by accessing them which is made possible by the secondary sources.

**DISADVANTAGES PF SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA**

* Because secondary sources are not necessarily focused on your specific topic, you may have to dig to find applicable information.
* Information is filtered through someone else’s perspectives and may be biased.
* Because secondary sources are not necessarily focused on your topic you may have to dig t find applicable information. Information may be colored by the researchers on bias or faulty approach.
* Secondary sources can be outdated.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SECONDARY SOURCE AND PRIMARY SOURCE IN NIGERIA**

**SECONDARY SOURCES**

* These sources of laws are background resources. They explain, interpret and analyze.
* They include encyclopedia, law reviews, treaties, restatements.
* Secondary sources are a good way to start and research and often have citations to primary sources.

 **PRIMARY SOURCES**

* These sources of laws are legislative and case laws. They come from official bodies.
* They include treaties, decisions from /of courts regulations, constitution.
* Primary sources are seen as legit so they are mostly being used in courts e.g. case laws, statutes, constitution.