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**DEPT: LAW.**

**COURSE CODE: LAW102.**

**COURSE TITTLE: LEGAL METHOD II.**

**Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria.**

Firstly, Legal research sources are divided into two categories: primary and secondary. Primary sources include **statutes, rules, regulations, and case law**. Secondary sources are much more diverse and include **law review and journal articles, legal encyclopedias, treatises, and law digests**.

Secondary sources of law are background resources. They explain, interpret and analyze. They include **encyclopedias**, **law reviews**, **treatises**, restatements. Secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources. The citation should include the following: Author, Title of the article, Abbreviation of journal name, Date as it appears on the cover.

**Secondary sources**, such as **Law** Journals, Encyclopedias, and Treatises are a great place to start your legal research. Unlike **primary** materials (case **law**, **statutes**, regulations), **secondary sources** will help you learn about an area of **law**, and provide you with citations to relevant **primary** materials.

**Examples of secondary sources of law are:**

* **Law Reports**.
* Text Books and Treatises.
* Periodicals, Journals, and Legal Digests.
* Casebooks.
* Legal Dictionaries.
* Newspapers.

On the other hand, the secondary sources of Nigerian law are the indirect ways through which we get our law. Save for law reports, secondary sources of Nigerian law are of persuasive authority in the law courts. Law reports are only authoritative due to the fact that they serve as the vehicle through which judicial precedent is carried. Secondary sources of law are only made use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back on. The distinction between primary and secondary sources of law is very useful in determining authorities to follow in the law courts. If a case is brought before a court and one party uses a primary source of law as his authority while the other makes use of secondary sources, the scale of justice would tilt in favour of the person who presents primary sources of law.