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**COLLEGE: LAW**

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**SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW**

The secondary sources of law are derived from the primary sources as important information that are documented and made and are referred to as secondary sources because they are not the main or major source of law. The secondary source of law tends to give a more profound explanation and information of the primary source of law. They can also be called background resources. Secondary sources include; bibliographies, biographical works, dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, magazines, journals, newspapers, literature reviews, article reviews, history books, works of criticism and interpretation, commentaries and treatises, textbooks, indexes and abstracts. The important classes of legal secondary sources include; treatises, periodical articles, legal encyclopedias, ALR annotations, restatements, and loose leaf services.

**Treatises**

These are single or multi-volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treatises tend to be very good at describing the law, they’re good law finders and many of the classic treatises are persuasive. Treatises tend to provide an in-depth discussion of a particular area of law and will provide the researcher with references to a few cases and statutes.

**Legal periodicals**

Legal periodical articles are in-depth discussions of narrow areas of law and legal issues. Articles in academic journals tend to revolve around very theoretical and cutting-edge legal issues. Articles in practitioner-oriented journals tend to be more practical. Periodical articles can be very good for law finders as they tend to have many footnotes with a lot of legal citations.

**Legal encyclopedias**

Legal encyclopedias are immense sets of books that briefly describe all of the main legal issues for a particular jurisdiction. An encyclopedia can provide a basic introduction to an area of law and will provide the user with some case and statutory citations.

**ALR**

ALR provides topical annotations that focus on relatively narrow areas of the law, but discuss it in some depth. They provide a good basic grounding in law, as well as serve as good case finding tools. ALR titles tend to be descriptive so it is useful to limit your search to the field.

**Restatements**

The restatements were developed by legal scholars initially to restate the law, and currently to describe what the law should be. In either case, restatements are very persuasive although they are not very good at describing the law.

**Loose leaf Services**

Loose leaf Services bring together all of the law on a particular topic. Loose leaf services don’t exist for all areas of law, but when they do exist, they can be an invaluable resource. They are rarely cited except when they serve as a case reporter. However, for a researcher, they bring together in one place the code, administrative regulations, court decisions, administrative decisions, citators, finding aids, commentaries, forms etc.

**References:**

* **Library. Law. Yale. Edu.**
* **Research guides @ tufts libraries**
* **Sc college**