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**COURSE CODE: LAW102**

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**QUESTION:**

Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria.

**Answer**

Secondary sources of law are background resources. They are those sources of law that do not carry dominant legal weight and binding effect. The legal authorities contain in these kind of sources are diluted and persuasive which are not binding on any court of law. According to Berodugo (2009), secondary sources of law are less significant sources of law that carry barely persuasive legal authority or effect and are therefore, not binding in the court of law. Secondary sources often explain legal principles more thoroughly than a single case or statute, so using them can help you save time. They also help you avoid unnecessary research, since you tapping into work that someone else has already done.

**Uses of Secondary sources of law**

* They are important because when the court finds the opinion or fact underlying the authority contained therein.
* It is also referred to in court if it supports the authorities of the primary sources.
* Learning the basics of a particular area of law.
* Understanding key terms of art in an area
* Identifying essential cases and statutes

**Examples of Secondary sources of Law**

Treaties, Periodical Articles, Legal encyclopedias ALR Annotations, Restatements, Looseleaf services.

**TREATIES**

Legal treaties are single or multi-volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treaties tend to be very good at describing the law, they are good law finders, many of the classic treatises are persuasive. Treaties 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. To identify and locate a legal treaty, use a library catalog like MORRIS (searching by topic and handbook, or topic and nutshell) NB: the word treaties is not often associated with legal treaties in the catalog record. They may come in the form of bound books updated with pocket parts or loose leafs with easily replaced pages. Some treaties are intended for law students while some are for practicing lawyers.

**LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

Legal encyclopedias contain brief, broad summaries of legal topics, providing introductions to legal topics ae explaining relevant term of art.they also provide citations to relevant primary law and sometimes give citations to relevant major law review articles. Legal encyclopedias will not delve deeply into an area of law. The two national encyclopedias are American Jurisprudence and Corpus Juris Secumdum.

**LAW JOURNALS**

Journals are another great secondary source for legal research, valuable for the depth in which they analyses and critique legal topics, as well as their extensive references to other sources, including primary sources.

**Restatements**

The resentments were developed ny 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 very persuasive although they are not very good at describing the law. They can serve as adequate law finders. There are restatement for many areas of law; but not all. The restatements were developed by legal scholars initially to restate the law, and currently to describe what the law should be. Restatements are very persuasive although they are not good in describing the law.

**LOOSELEAF SERVICE**

Looseleaf services bring together all of the law on a particular topic. Looseleaf services don’t exist for all areas of law, but when they do exist, they can be invaluable resources. they are rarely cited expect when they serve as case reporter. However, for a researcher, they bring together in one place the code, administrative regulations, court decisions, administrative decisions, administrative decisions, citators etc.

**Reference;**

***Google, Library.law.yale.edu, digitalcommons.unl.edu, guides.library.harvard.edu.***