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***COURSE:LEGAL METHOD***

***COURSE CODE:LAW 1O2***

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

SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW:

Apart from the various primary sources already discussed there consists a plethora of other sources of Nigerian law. These are mainly documentary form. They are important because it is in the book form that written laws are stated. Some of the sources are law reports,textbooks,periodicals, journals and law digests and law dictionaries Secondary sources are materials that discuss, explain, analyze, and critique the law. They discuss the law, but are not the law itself. secondary sources will help you learn about an area of law, and provide you with citations to relevant primary materials.

1.**Law reports**

Law reports as well as an efficient law reporting system are essential for a smooth system of judicial administration this is because in any notion where the principle of judicial precedent is operational like Nigeria, 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 and most comprehensive reports are yearbook of (1282-1537)

They are series of book that contain judicial opinion from a selection of case law decided by courts. When a particular judicial opinion is referenced.

The first form of law reports in Nigeria was the Nigeria was the Nigeria law reports which emerged 1881 but has now become extinct a regrettable tend in the law reporting system Nigeria is the lack of sustainability this has been the experience with most government and private initiatives in this regard

Examples are;

Nigerian weekly law reports (NwLR)

Supreme court of Nigeria judgements (SCNJ)

All Nigerian law reports (ALL NLR)

Federation Weekly Law Reports

2. Law textbooks and treaties

A textbook or treatise written by learned scholars and jurists constitutes very important source of Nigeria law. Classical authors of outstanding textbooks on the English law include baton coke and Blackstone others like dicey Cheshire hood Philip’s, wade hare continued to emerge over the years

In Nigeria legal textbook of reputable standards have been written by ebilade Nwogwugwu, okonkwo:kodilinye: agude among many other,professor sagary has written extensively on international law all these present a potent source of Nigerian law and can be authority where there is scanty or absence of judicial decisions. This situation we use persuasive decisions

3. Periodicals journals and legal digests

They are different forms and colours in Nigeria. Some are professionals while some are academic yet some are a mixture. In Nigeria journals are published by different law faculties well as private publishers

**Digest** eg digest of supreme court cases digests are abridgement or shorter forms of cases that is they are useful summaries of the facts issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings

4. Dictionary

Some foreign legal dictionaries are also available in Nigeria. Some of these are jowitt’s dictionary of English law etc

It helps in helpful guidance in interpreting Nigerian law

5.case books

A **casebook** is a type of **textbook**  used primarily by students in schools.  Rather than simply laying out the legal doctrine  in a particular area of study, a casebook contains excerpts from legal cases in which the law of that area was applied.[[1]](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casebook) It is then up to the student to analyse the language of the case in order to determine what rule was applied and how the court applied it. Casebooks sometimes also contain excerpts from law review articles and legal treatises, historical notes, editorial commentary, and other related materials to provide background for the cases.

The teaching style based on casebooks is known as the casebook method  and is supposed to instil n law students how to "think like a lawyer. The casebook method is most often used in law schools in countries with common law legal systems where case law is a major source of law

Most casebooks are authored by law professionals, usually with two, three, or four authors, at least one of whom will be a professor at the top of his or her field in the area under discussion. Eg Nigerian

Media law and labour law. Other secondary sources are newspapers and indexes

NEWSPAPERS: it supplies information or state of emergency in the state and nationally example of newspaper are the punch and vanguard.

INDEXES: It gives access to multidisciplinary sources .use the articles finder drop down for access to indexes .these indexes such as Hein online law journal library and index to legal periodicals full text provide access to hundreds of journals

References: Introduction to legal method By abiola sanni

Wikipedia.