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**DEPARTMENT: LAW**

**COURSE TITLE: LEGAL METHOD II**

**COURSE CODE: LAW 102**

**QUESTION**

**Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria. Times New Roman, font 12, justify your work.**

**SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW**

Secondary sources are great place to begin your research. Secondary sources often explain legal principles more thoroughly than a single case or statute, so using them can help you save time. Secondary sources also help you to avoid unnecessary research, since you are tapping into work that someone else has already done on an issue. Secondary sources include;

1. **Legal Dictionaries**: Legal dictionaries provide definitions of words in their legal sense or use. These publications provide a short definition of foreign and Latin legal words and phrases, refer to cases and other legal sources for authority, and may give examples of word usage in various legal situations. They also include tables defining legal abbreviations and acronyms.
2. **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. Legal encyclopedias will not delve deeply into an area, nor will not will they discuss the finer points of an area of law. Legal encyclopedias are available online and in print. There are two major national encyclopedias which are;
3. **American Jurisprudence 2d (Amjur**); this link provides access to the table of contents for Amjur using Westlaw.
4. **Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS**); this link provides access to the table of content for CJS using Westlaw.
5. **Treaties**: In this context, 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, and many of the classic treaties are persuasive. Treaties tend to provide in-depth discussion of a particular area of law and will provide the researcher with references to a few cases and statutes. **The Legal Information Buyer’s Guide and** **Reference Manua**l describes the important legal treaties in several areas of the law. To identify and locate a legal treaties, use a library catalog like **MORRIS** (searching by topic and handbook, or topic and nutshell) or the **Georgetown Treaties Finder**.
6. **Legal Periodicals**: Legal periodicals articles are in-depth discussion of narrow areas of the 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 law finders; they tend to have a great many footnotes with a lot of legal citations. Some articles by eminent scholars can be persuasive. Occasionally, legal periodical articles can be useful for explaining the law, but often they are too theoretical for that. The major American legal periodical indexes are the **Index to** **Legal Periodicals** (also on lexis and Westlaw) and **Legal Trac**.
7. **Annotated Law Report**: 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 is available in print and on Lexis and Westlaw. Annotations can be identified in print by using the ALR Index to Annotations and online via online searches. The ALR titles tend to be very descriptive. So it can be useful to limit your search to the title field. In addition, the second section of an ALR annotation generally covers related annotations. This is the often worth examining.
8. **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. They can serve as adequate law finders. There are restatement for many areas of law: but not all. The restatements are available on Lexis and Westlaw and in print. Online, they can be searches in full-text; in print you would use the library catalog to identify the relevant restatements and then the restatement’s own index to find the relevant sections.
9. **Loose-leaf Services**: Loose-leaf services bring together all the law on a particular topic. Loose-leaf services don’t exist for all the areas of law, but when they do exist, they can be 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.