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**COURS; LEGAL METHOD**

**LEVEL; 100L**

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

The materials used for legal research are generally divided into two broad categories: primary sources and secondary sources.  Primary legal sources are the actual law in the form of constitutions, court cases, statutes, and administrative rules and regulations.  Secondary legal sources may restate the law, but they also discuss, analyze, describe, explain, or critique it as well.  Secondary sources are used to help locate primary sources of law, define legal words and phrases, or help in legal research.  In short, anything that is more than the actual law is considered a secondary source.

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. Primary sources of Nigerian law can simply be regarded as those sources whose provisions are binding on all courts throughout Nigeria primary sources of law case law, statutes, and regulations establish the law on a given topic, it is often difficult to quickly locate answers in them. Secondary sources often **explain legal principles** more thoroughly than a single case or statute, so **using them can help you save time.**

They include:

1. [Received English law](http://www.djetlawyer.com/received-english-law/)
2. [Case law](http://www.djetlawyer.com/sources-nigerian-law/#caselaw)
3. [Nigerian legislation](http://www.djetlawyer.com/primary-sources-nigerian-law-legislation/)
4. Customary laws.
5. International laws.

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.

Examples of secondary sources of law are:

1. Law Reports
2. Text Books and Treatises
3. Periodicals, Journals, and Legal Digests
4. Casebooks
5. Legal Dictionaries
6. Newspapers

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 favor of the person who presents primary sources of law.  Secondary sources also help you avoid unnecessary research, since you are tapping into work that someone else has already done on an issue. Secondary sources of law are only made use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back on

. Secondary sources are particularly useful for:

* Learning the basics of a particular area of law
* Understanding key terms of art in an area
* Identifying essential cases and statutes