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**COURSE CODE: LEGAL METHOD II**

SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW

Sources of law is divided into two they are the primary and secondary. The primary sources of laws are legislative and case law they include statutes etc. while the secondary sources of law are mostly found in books eg. Law reports stationeries i.e encyclopaedia etc. Secondary sources of law are often referred to as background resources because they are often used to prove points in the court, explain or interpret the primary sources of law.

Secondary sources of law are often used during legal research in other to help the legal practitioner know what he or she needs to know about the case. As mentioned before secondary sources of can used as references or citation, this is because most of them are records of previous cases settled by other legal practitioners.

One of th main places where the secondary sources of law can be found is the library for example the law library where law reports, law reviews and journals are kept for reference purposes other places include the public library on the internet etc. well as mentioned before the secondary soures of law is mostly used for reference purpose that’s why it is found in these places. Examples of secondary sources of laws are legal dictionaries, restatement, legal periodicals, law reports and journals etc.

Using [secondary sources](https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/en/products/westlaw/secondary-sources) in your research process can also save you a lot of time and energy. Indeed, many secondary sources can even point you in the direction of the most relevant cases and statutes to review and rely upon for the legal issue being researched. Many even neatly distill points of law from referenced primary authorities for easy consumption, making building an understanding of a previously unfamiliar area of law relatively quick and painless.

In short, because secondary sources reflect how the law is viewed, they are truly essential to a more comprehensive understanding of the law.