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**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/103**

**COURSE: LEGAL METHOD II**

**COURSE CODE: LAW 102**

**COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT: LAW**

- **SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA.**

*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

*Secondary sources* of law describe, discuss, interpret, comment upon, analyze, evaluate, summarize, and process primary sources. A *secondary source* of law is generally one or more steps removed from the event or time period and are written or produced after the fact with the benefit of hindsight. *Secondary sources* of law often lack the freshness and immediacy of the original material. On occasion, *secondary sources* of law will collect, organize, and repackage primary source information to increase usability and speed of delivery, such as an online encyclopedia. Like primary sources, secondary materials can be written or non-written.

*Secondary sources* of law provide second-hand information and commentary from other researchers. Examples include journal articles, reviews, and academic books. A secondary source of law describes, interprets, or synthesizes primary sources.

*Secondary sources* of law are good for gaining a full overview of your topic and understanding how other researchers have approached it. They often synthesize a large number of primary sources that would be difficult and time-consuming to gather by yourself. They allow you to:

- I. Gain background information on the topic
- II. Support or contrast your arguments with other researchers' ideas
- III. Gather information from primary sources that you can't access directly (e.g. private letters or physical documents located elsewhere)

When you conduct a literature review, you can consult secondary sources of law to gain a thorough overview of your topic. If you want to mention a paper or study that you find cited in a secondary source of law, seek out the original source and cite it directly. When you cite a *secondary source* of law, it's usually not to analyze it directly. Instead, you'll probably test its arguments against new evidence or use its ideas to help formulate your own.

**Examples of secondary sources:**

- I. Bibliographies
- II. Biographical works
- III. Reference books, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases
- IV. Articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers after the event
- V. Literature reviews and review articles (e.g., movie reviews, book reviews)
- VI. History books and other popular or scholarly books
- VII. Works of criticism and interpretation

VIII. Commentaries and treatises

IX. Textbooks

X. Indexes and abstracts