**LAW 102 ASSIGNMENT**

**LEGAL METHOD II**

**LEVEL:** 100LEVEL

**DEPARTMENT**: LAW

**COLLEGE:** LAW

**MATRIC NO.:** 19/law01/026

**QUESTION:** Discuss the secondary sources of law in Nigeria.

The materials used for legal research are generally divided into two broad categories: primary sources and secondary sources.  **Primary sources** are laws, orders, decisions, or regulations issued by a governmental entity or official, such as a court, legislature, or executive agency; the President; or a state governor.  **Secondary sources** offer analysis, commentary, or a restatement of primary law and are used to help locate and explain primary sources of law.  Secondary sources may influence a legal decision but do not have the controlling or binding authority of primary sources.

Secondary sources describe, discuss, interpret, comment upon, analyse, evaluate, summarize and process primary sources. A secondary source 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 often lack the freshness and immediacy of the original material. On occasion, secondary sources 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 (sound, pictures, movies etc)

Example of secondary sources of law are:

* Bibliographies
* Biographical works
* Reference books, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and atlases
* Indexes and abstracts
* Textbooks
* History books and other popular or scholarly books
* Commentaries and treatises
* Articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers after the event.
* Literature reviews and review articles (e.g, movie, reviews, book reviews)
* Works of criticism and interpretation

**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. *Black’s Law Dictionary* is the leading legal dictionary in the US

## Words & Phrases

Words & Phrases is a multivolume research tool, similar to a legal dictionary in that it includes legal definitions of words. However, Words & Phrases also includes multiple entries indicating how the term or the word has been defined by the courts

## Legal Encyclopedias

LegalEncyclopedias offer broad and general commentary on a full range of federal and state law. These are useful as a starting point for researching unfamiliar areas of law. Most of the articles in encyclopedias focus on case law and do not contain extensive citations to statutes or other secondary sources.

The two major legal encyclopedias on US law are the following:

* American Jurisprudence(Am. Jur.)
* Corpus Juris Secundum(CJS)

# Bibliography

a complete or selective list of works compiled upon some common principle, as authorship, subject, place of publication, or printer. It is a list of source materials that are used or consulted in the preparation of a work or that are referred to in the text, and also a branch of library science dealing with the history, physical description, comparison, and classification of books and other works.

## Annotated Law Reports

Annotated law reports provide essays that analyze and discuss particular points of law. They focus on narrow legal issues rather than general points of law. The articles analyze and describe cases from every jurisdiction that have taken a position on the topic covered.  Along with critical case citations, the articles provide references to statutes, digests, texts, treatises, law reviews, and legal encyclopedias.  The American Law Reports (ALR) series by Thomson/West is the most comprehensive set of annotated law reports. The series currently comprises seven series: ALR 1st, ALR 2nd, ALR 3rd, ALR 4th, ALR 5th, ALR 6th, and ALR Federal and ALR Federal 2d. Locate articles of interest via the print Index volumes

## Legal Periodicals

Legal periodicals are very helpful in locating cases and statutes in a particular subject area. Periodicals are also an excellent method of locating current information.  Subjects that are new or too specialized to be covered in books can often be found in periodicals. Articles in periodicals describe, analyze, and comment on the current state of the law. There are numerous types of legal periodicals available, including law school journals and law reviews, bar association journals, legal newspapers, and legal newsletters.

## Legal Treatises, Hornbooks and Nutshells

Legal treatises are publications that present a highly-organized and detailed explanation of a specific area of law (for example, contract, tort, criminal, or property law). Treatises are published as single-volume or multivolume sets. Most treatises are updated by the use of supplements or pocket parts

## Restatements

Restatements of the Law organize the common law of the United States in a distinctive format that includes the text of legal provisions, official commentary, illustrations, and notes. They are written by the American Law Institute (ALI), which is a legal organization composed of noted professors, judges, and lawyers. Restatements are divided broadly into chapters and subdivided into titles and then into sections. Each section begins with a restatement of the law, followed by hypothetical illustrations. Restatements often influence court decisions but are not binding on the courts in and of themselves. ALI has completed Restatements in over fifteen subject areas.

## Loose-Leaf Services

Loose-leaf publications are useful tools for keeping current with rapidly changing laws, regulations, and rulings. These publications generally include regulation-intensive subjects such as banking, tax, Medicare, or securities. All of these areas of law and corresponding regulations change frequently; the loose-leaf format allows current information to be easily added to existing materials by inserting new pages and/or by removing some of the existing pages.

## Legal Directories

Legal directories are locators for legal and government information. A variety of resources provide information about attorneys, law firms, legal experts, professors, government officers, corporate legal departments, legal aid organizations, and elected officials. For example, the Federal Regulatory Directory is a comprehensive guide to federal regulatory agencies. It includes citations to laws under which agencies derive their regulatory responsibilities. The United States Government Manual is a directory of federal agencies. Entries include a description of responsibilities of the agency, contacts, and references to the legislation that established the agency. The most popular legal directory is the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, which provides a listing of attorneys and law firms by state and other countries.