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PRECIOUS.**

COURSE CODE; LAW102.

COURSE TITLE; LEGAL METHOD.

**ASSIGNMENT; DISCUSS THE SECONDARY
SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA.**

Secondary sources of law, a good place to start most research projects is with a secondary source. A secondary source is not the law .it is a commentary on the law .a secondary source can be used for three different purposes; it might educate you about the law, it might direct you to the primary law, or it might serve as persuasive authority. Few sources do all three jobs well. The important classes of legal secondary sources includes; treatises, periodical, articles, legal encyclopaedias, ALR annotations, restatements and loose leaf services.

TREATISES

In this content, legal treatises are single or multi-volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treatises tend to be very good at describing the law, they are good law finders, and many of the classic treatises are persuasive. Treaties tend to provide an in depth discussion of a particular arear of law and will provide the researcher with references to a few cases and statues. To identify and locate a legal treatise, use a library catalog like MORRIS or Georgetown.

LEGAL PERIODICALS

Legal periodical articles are in depth discussions of narrow areas of the land and legal issues. Articles in academic journals tend to revolve around very theoretical and cutting-edge legal issues. Articles in practioner-oriented journals tend to be more practical. Periodical articles can be very good law finders; they tend to have a great many footnotes with lots of legal citations. Some articles by eminent scholars can be persuasive. Occasionally, legal periodicals 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 and legaltrac.there are indexes described above, there are many indexes devoted to articles on particular topics. When using an index database such as a legal periodical index or a library catalog, a good strategy is to

identify a book or article that looks relevant, notice the subjects or descriptors assigned to item by the indexer cataloguer and run a new search based on subjects found. In general, full-text sources are not very good tools to use for finding periodical articles on a particular topic.

LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Legal encyclopedias are immense sets of books that briefly describe all of the main legal issues for a particular jurisdiction .an encyclopaedia can provide a basic introduction to an area of law and will provide the user with some cases and statutory citations. Legal encyclopaedias will not delve deeply into an area of law. The two national encyclopedias are **American jurisprudence** and **corpus juris secundum**.

ALR

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.

RESTATEMENTS

The restatement 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. The restatement are available on lexis and westlaw and in print.

LOOSELEAF

Looseleaf services bring together all of the law on a particular topic. Looseleaf services don't exist for all areas of law, but when they do exist, they can be an 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 courts and decisions, citators, finding aids, commentaries, forms, etc. loose leaf services are moving online.to identify a relevant looseleaf services whether in print or online, use the legal looseleafs in print or a directory search lexis.

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.

Secondary sources of law