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**COURSE TITLE: LEGAL METHOD 2**

**COURSE CODE: LAW 102**

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE: SOURCES OF LAW**

**QUESTION**

**Discuss secondary sources of law in Nigeria. Times New Roman, font 12, justify your work.**

## **SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW**

The secondary sources of law is commonly regarded as subsidiary laws or delegated legislature. They are subsidiary laws because they are not made by the primary law making body. The secondary sources of law are the background resources. They explain , interpret and analyze. Secondary sources are a good way to start research and often have citations to primary sources.

Secondary sources of law are used to help locate primary sources of law, define legal words and phrases , or help in legal research. They restate the law , but they also discuss, analyze, describe, explain or critique it as well. In other words anything that is outside the actual law is considered a secondary source.

### **Examples of secondary sources of law**

They include;

1. **Legal dictionaries :**

To assist in the explanation of the law. E.g *Black Law's Dictionary, Nolo's Plain English Law Dictionary.*

2. **Legal Encyclopedias and Digests:**

To help in legal research. They consist of brief, broad summaries of legal topics, providing introductions to legal topics and explaining relevant terms of art . They also provide citations to relevant primary and sometimes give citations to relevant major law review articles. *E.g Gale Encyclopedia of American Law*

3. **Legal reviews and journals :** Law Journals are scholarly publications covering the legal field. They publish articles that are comprehensive studies of current topics in law, generally written by law professors and practitioners. The articles generally contain substantial citations to primary and secondary sources on the topic, which may lead you to additional information on the subject

4. **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

Why are they important?

If secondary sources don't actually establish the law, why even bother with them?

There are a number of reasons why secondary sources are so essential to the practice of law. One of the chief reasons being that secondary sources may reflect the prevailing view on how courts interpret primary sources. Some secondary sources are so authoritative that courts themselves rely on them in their rulings.

Restatements of the Law are a prime example of such an authority. Many courts are perfectly comfortable citing to a particular section of a Restatement to explain a particular legal issue. Similarly, Jury Instructions are widely relied upon by state and federal courts across the country as a highly authoritative reference when submitting instructions to the jury.

Many secondary sources have value beyond being citable in a legal argument. Specifically, many titles offer valuable insight into recent court decisions or new statutes. Some may analyze new legal authorities to break down their meaning in more digestible terms, while others may consider the potential implications of a new ruling or law. Still more secondary sources may examine topical legal trends or the current state of a particular area of law, based on recent court decisions or updates to statutes.

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