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**QUESTION;**

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

INTRODUCTION

Sources of law refers to the materials through which a legal practitioner or a court or a judge would find reliable authorities for a particular legal question or situation. There are two sources of law, primary sources and secondary sources. But we will focus on the secondary sources of law in this assignment

A good place to start a research project 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 a persuasive authority. Few of the sources do the three jobs well. The important classes of legal secondary sources include: treaties, periodical articles, legal encyclopaedias, ALR (All Law Report) annotations, restatements and loose- leaf services

Secondary sources of law are the sources of law that do not carry a dominant legal weight and binding effect. The legal authorities contain in these kinds of sources are diluted and persuasive which are not binding on any court of law. According to Beredugo (2009), secondary sources of law are less significance sources of law that carry barely persuasive legal authority or effect and are therefore, not binding on any court of law. Secondary sources can be useful in court of law or resorted to where the court finds the opinion or fact underlying the authority contained therein. Secondary sources can also be referred to in court if it supports the authorities of the primary sources. Examples of secondary sources of Nigerian law includes:

LAW REPORTS[[1]](#footnote-1); law reports are essential for a smooth running of judicial administration; this is due to the fact that it is only by reference to reported cases that courts and lawyers would be able to ascertain the position of the law in their areas of jurisdiction. The oldest specie of law reports are the yearbooks [ 1282- 1537]. They are described as very comprehensible. The first form of law report in Nigeria was the NIGERIAN LAW REPORTS which emerged in 1881, though they no longer exist today. There are however a number of law reports in existence today, some of which include; NIGERIAN WEEKLY LAW REPORTS, SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA JUDGEMENTS, LAW REPORTS OF THE COURTS OF NIGERIA, ALL NIGERIAN LAW REPORTS, FEDERATION WEEKLY LAW REPORTS[[2]](#footnote-2)

LAW TEXTS, BOOKS AND TREATIES; Books and materials written by sound and sane legal minds present a source of Nigerian law and can be authority where scanty or absence of judicial decisions, in which situation they could be of persuasive authorities.

PERIODICALS, JOURNALS AND LEGAL DIGESTS; periodicals are many in Nigeria and around the world at large, some are academic, some professional and some a mixture of both. Digests are equally available, for example; the digest of supreme court cases. Digests are useful summaries of the facts, issues, arguments and decisions in judicial proceedings.

ALSO;[[3]](#footnote-3)

-Decisions of courts of foreign countries

-International conventions, treaties, and resolutions of international bodies;

-Statements or opinions of jurists and learned authors contained in law textbooks, journal, periodicals, dictionaries, letters, speeches, and interviews;

-Legal opinions contained in nullified judgments.

CONCLUSION

Secondary sources of law also include all sources that provide helpful introductions to legal subjects, synopses of decisions, statutes, and regulations in a given field. Analyses of trends and historical background of law, explanation of new or difficult concepts, descriptions and analysis of the law and its developments and citations to primary sources through footnotes and annotations.

SECONDARY SOURCES of law, though not primary are also very important and enforce the dynamic nature of law.

THANK YOU.

1. INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIAN LEGAL METHOD, EDITED BY ABIOLA SANNI [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MRS MAUREEN AGBASIS [100 LEVEL LAW102] CLASS, TOPIC; LEGAL RESEARCH [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Yale law school, Lillian Goldman Library [↑](#footnote-ref-3)