THE SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW INCLUDE;

1) TREATISES; In this content legal treaties are single or multi-volume works dedicated to the examination of an area of law. Treaties tend to be very good at describing the law, they’re good law finders, and many of the classic treaties are persuasive. Treaties tend to provide an in-depth discussion of a particular area of law and will provide the researcher with references to a few cases and status.

2) LEGAL PERIODICALS; Legal periodicals are in-depth discussion of narrow areas of the law and legal issues. Articles in academic journals tend to revolve around very theoretical and cutting edge legal issues. Articles in practitioner-oriented journals tend to be more practical. Periodical articles can be very good law finders; they tend to have a great many foot-notes with a lot of legal citations.

3) LEGAL ENCYCLOPAEDIAS: Legal encyclopaedias are immense set 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 are available online and in print. The two national encyclopaedias are; American jurisprudence and Corpus juris Secundum. Many states also have legal encyclopaedias.

4) ALR: ALR provides topic 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.

5) RESTATEMENTS: The restatements were developed by legal scholars initially to restate the law, and currently to describe what the law should be. In either case, Restatement are very persuasive although they are not very good at describing the law. They can serve as adequate law finders. There are restatements for many areas of law: but not all. The restatements are also available in Lexis and Westlaw.

6) LOOSELEAF SERVICES: Loose-leaf services bring together all of the law on a particular topic. Loose-leaf serves do not 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,etc.