

Secondary Sources in Legal Research

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Secondary sources – what are they?

- Secondary sources are sources that comment on, explain, or analyze the law.
- Secondary sources are not the law itself, though they can be used as persuasive authority.

Secondary sources- examples

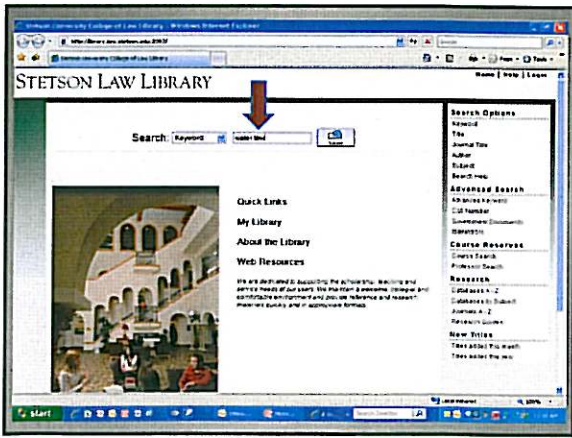
- Some examples are legal encyclopedias, treatises, hornbooks, nutshells, restatements, ALRs, law reviews, and practice manuals.
- Different sources may be consulted for different purposes.

Secondary sources – How / why do you use them?

- Secondary sources are a great place to start if you have limited knowledge in a particular area of the law.
- They can give you a good overview of the subject matter.
- They can point you to the primary sources to get you started.

Secondary sources – How do you find them?

- You can begin by searching the library catalog using the keyword function.
- You can also find secondary sources on LexisNexis and Westlaw by adding a tab for your jurisdiction or subject matter.
- The tab will contain a section on secondary sources.



More on secondary sources:

- The law librarians have prepared other webcasts on multiple types of secondary sources.
- You may watch those individual webcasts at any time.
- You are also welcome to contact a librarian with any questions you may have about secondary sources in general or about specific sources.

Contact Us!

Please remember to ask for help whenever you need it.



Gulfport Reference desk (727) 562-7821
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Individual librarian contact information is available
on the library webpage.
