

**The Nigerian Association of
Law Teacher (NALT) Manual on
Uniform Format and Citation Guide
On Legal Research**

For
**LAW FACULTIES AND LEGAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTES
IN NIGERIA**

4th Edition 2025



**THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF
LAW TEACHERS (NALT) MANUAL ON
UNIFORM FORMAT AND CITATION
GUIDE ON LEGAL RESEARCH**

FOR

**LAW FACULTIES AND LEGAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN NIGERIA**

**A Manual on Legal Research and Citation
Guide for Legal Professional
(NALT's Blue Book Basic Guide Series)
4th Edition 2025**

THE APPROVED NAME:

NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS (NALT) UNIFORM FORMAT AND CITATION GUIDE FOR LEGAL RESEARCH WRITING IN NIGERIA

**NALT's UNIFORM FORMAT AND CITATION GUIDE
(NALT's BLUE BOOK BASIC RESEARCH GUIDE)**

**A NATIONALLY APPROVED UNIFORM FORMAT
AND CITATION GUIDE FOR LEGAL RESEARCH
WRITING RATIFIED AND APPROVED AT THE
NALT CONFERENCE AFE BABALOLA
UNIVERSITY (ABUAD 2015)**

Website Address: www.nalt.ng.org

Email Address: naltsguide2015@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +2348067009160

+2348036091656

Call: +2349028079240; +2349037074135

**A PUBLICATION OF THE NIGERIAN
ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS (NALT)**

ISBN: 978-978-998-677-4

(REPRINT: 4TH EDITION AUGUST 2025)

COMPILED BY:

**PROF. EMILY I. ALEMIKA
PROF. OMAKA C. AMARI (SAN)
DR. BETHEL IHUGBA**

REVIEWED BY:

**THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING
COMMITTEE 2025**

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DEDICATION

This NALT's Research Manual Guide is dedicated to Legal Education in Nigeria. The book is further dedicated to late MOU Gasiokwu, an erudite Professor of Law whose carrier's pathway traversed two universities in Nigeria-University of Jos and Delta State University. He was called to glory on Sunday May 12, 2019. His contribution to legal education especially, in the field of legal Research Methodology remains invaluable to the body of law academics in Nigeria. He was not only one of the first law teachers to take on the teaching of research Methodology in law with all seriousness in the early 1980s, but He was also prominent in the proposal and the formation of the NALT's Format and Citation Guide, for which he was a member of the Implementation and Monitoring Committee until his death. He will be remembered for his mentorship role in impacting knowledge to generation of legal academics in Nigeria. **The popular slogan of the late erudite Professor is, 'Research is a continuum.'** Indeed, those of your mentees left behind shall continue to make legal research a 'continuum' Rest-in-peace. MOU Gasiokwu.

Implementation Committee 2019

FOREWORD

Going by the contents of the NALT 's Uniform Format and the citation guide, it is amazing that the manual has gone beyond the conventional citation guides offered by other manuals such as, OSCOLA (which in its self is foreign) for citing legal authorities in Nigeria. The NALT's like the Modern Language Association (MLA) is fuller, more detail, wider in scope, and structurally logical to guide law students in their project writing at all levels; as well as guiding academic legal researchers in their research activities; most especially in preparing articles for journal publication. Unlike the American Psychological Association (APA) style of referencing with endnotes for compilation of reference materials, the NALT's Format adopts footnotes style of referencing similar to OSCOLA which allows every reference material consulted to appear at the foot of every page of an essay, which can be viewed at a glance. An additional important feature of this footnote style is that it can be used to explain some plausible arguments or explanations of some foreign words that would otherwise interrupt the free flow of the body of the essay. Indeed, this manual guide is all-encompassing.

The Management of the Nigerian Institute of Advance legal studies (NIALS) is privileged to be part of the formative stages of this manual. Through the NALT Draft Committee, the Institute was requested for inputs. Hence, quality time was devoted to the review of the draft of this document by setting up a committee under the leadership of the Director of Research professor Peter Akper (SAN) to evaluate its contents and usefulness to legal research writing. By 2017, the National Chairperson of the Draft Committee (Prof. Emily Alemika) was also hosted by the Institute as Guest Lecturer in one of its Regular In-House Seminars, to interact with the Research Fellows and other senior colleagues of the Institute, in order to keep abreast with the new Uniform Format and Citation Guide; and for the continuous sensitisation and dissemination to enrich our NALT's members in the Institute and nationwide.

Having thoroughly scrutinized this document, and given our level of involvement in its formative years, we are more than convinced that the Manual is an asset to legal research writing not only in Nigeria but a potential future guide to legal research in tertiary institutions in Africa as an indigenous manual to research in Law. Therefore, I recommend this Manual to our Colleagues, especially, those in authority such as the NILS, Law Schools, Deans and Directors/provosts of colleges of law both in public and private institutions: to uphold this Uniform Format and citation guide to legal research writing. It is our belief and hope that by accelerating implementation and its application in law Faculties, colleges, research institutes, and other related institutions nationwide, it would take this manual to a greater height. I am optimistic too that with the Council of Legal Education (CLE) would endorse the document as part of our legal education collections development for accreditation of law courses in various Law Faculties in Nigeria.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NALT!

Professor Deji Adekunle (SAN)

Director General (2016 -2019)

Institutes of Advanced Legal Studies Abuja

COMMENTS FROM PROF. OLUYEMISI BAMGBOSE (SAN)

This manual is one of the major achievements of our great Association in the last one decade. The Manual in contents and context, has addressed two fundamental issues. First, the content is wider in scope to address some local issues of legal research writing which could not have been addressed by the foreign styles of research writing with their limitations to our settings, such as ASCOLA, MLA, Blue Book, APA, and a host of others usually implored at the various Faculties of Law for research writing in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria. I am particularly enthused by the fact that the content deals with and spells out what to know about students' research project writing at all levels, and how to construct and structure project topics logically for meaningful presentation. This manual also extends the skills to scholarly research writing and

publication. The second area has to do with the context of the operation of the manual. By design, it is expected to apply uniformly across all Faculties of Law in Nigerian Universities. This is a great impetus to legal education in Nigeria. This Uniform approach would go a long way to reduce the stresses associated with external examinations of Master's dissertation and PhD thesis in the different Law faculties in Nigeria.

As a member of the Monitoring /Implementation Committee, I can attest to the fact that the manual has come a long way from its formation stages in 2013 through its ratification at ABUAD in 2015. The Manual is now being fully utilized for the preparation and presentation of NALT Conference papers. However, it is yet to gain full popularity across Faculties in the areas of project writing at the PG level for a master's dissertation and PhD theses and journal articles for publication on campuses. This may be partly due to lack of access to hard copies which are not in circulation to fully appreciate the rich contents of the Manual; especially, the first part which deals with the formats for project writing at all level in the Law Faculties. This next stage of publishing the manual into a Monograph is a healthy development, as this would further enhance the dissemination of the Manual widely. It is also observed with concerns that the Deans and Directors are yet to take active part in the implementation of this lofty idea of the Uniform approach to legal research writing. Disseminations would move faster by simply setting a committee by the Deans and Director in their respective campuses to look at the Manual to see the relevant areas for adoptions and making recommendations accordingly to the PGS as the normal practices of individual faculties to recommend in-house format and citation guides from the Faculties. I believe that to resolve this challenge the NALT's EXCO need to work closely with the Committee of Deans and Directors to effectively carry out their responsibilities of formally recommending the new Manual to their respective PGS. Similarly, the EXCO need to work with the Implementation Committee to get feedback by way of annual report at the Association AGM to have evaluation of the level of implementation.

Finally, to lay credence on this all-important document I recommend that the Association passes a resolution making a strong recommendation to the Council of Legal Education to give it necessary statutory backing by making the document mandatory as part of requirements for the faculties of Law Accreditations in Nigeria.

Long live NALT

Professor Oluyemisi Bamgbose (SAN)

Former Dean of Law University of Ibadan and Pioneer Member of Implementation and Monitoring Committee (2019)

COMMENTS FROM PROFESSOR JUMMAIAUDI

Having followed the trends of the NALT Manual preparation to its completion, I can safely say that it is a good feat to the Association. The Manual is unique in that its style for preparing legal research and project writing in Law Faculties in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Its content and context are relevant for standardized quality legal research.

The Manual has been given wide publicity through advocacy and dissemination by individuals and groups within the Association by ways of seminars at NSUK, NIALS, NILS, UNIJOS, KSU, BSU, ESU, BUK, ABU, UNIMAID; amongst others, to mention few, as pilot grounds to test the usage and suitability of the Manual.

These feats have been made possible by the NALT Monitoring Committee. As a member, I am opportune to have personally gotten involved with the coordinator, Prof. Emily Alemika, Dr. Abdulkarim Kana for dissemination of the Manual, thereby had gained some recognition within the legal academic circle to warrant its uniform usage. However, it needs statutory support by the appropriate body like CLE to perfect its general application and acceptability for it to have a solid grip and foundation. The Executive-the committee of the Deans and Directors being the highest body responsible for the smooth functioning of the Association, has greater responsibilities to actively get involved in the full implementation of this Manual across

the Law Faculties nationwide

I lend my voice to other colleagues to advocate for its inclusion for Law Course accreditation as part of mandatory documents in the Faculty of Law in Nigeria; as well as charging the NALT'S EXCO to work with the Committee of Deans and Directors to effect implementation of the NALT Manual in their respective campuses; especially, at the PGS. This simply requires the Deans and directors to make recommendation as regards the NALT Format to their respective PGS for the adoption.

Prof. (Mrs.) Jummai Audi

Faculty of Law, ABU, Zaria and former Chair person

Nigerian Law Reform Commission, Abuja (on secondment) and Pioneer Member of the NALT Implementation and Monitoring Committee (2019)

PROFESSOR LADAN DG OF NIALS' COMMENTS

The ethics of academic writing and research requires the appropriate referencing of source information at all times. This requirement is tied to the values of honesty, integrity and professionalism. Consequently, proper referencing is an imperative skill to master. The Nigerian Association of Law Teachers' Uniform Format and Citation Guide for Legal Research Writings in Nigeria (NALT's Uniform Format & Citation Guide) is a critical tool in addressing the concept of proper referencing. It is designed to facilitate accurate citation of authorities, legislation, and other legal materials.

Before the ratification of the Citation Guide at the Afe Babalola University of Ado Ekiti (ABUAD) Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT) Conference 2015, the landscape for scholarly contributions in Nigerian journals and legal conferences were populated by the use of several foreign citation styles utilised in Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. These styles included

OSCOLA, MLA, Chicago Blue Book, APA and a host of variants adopted by Nigerian Faculties of Law. The use of these foreign citation and structure styles hinged primarily on the author or institutional preference. Different citation styles have different rules for reference list entries, in-text citations, and (sometimes) formatting rules. Indeed, the differences between styles may be subtle, such as footnote use by both the OSCOLA and Chicago citation styles. In contrast, the requirements in some other instances may differ radically as in the requirement of in-text citation for APA. The absence of a consensus citation format was a significant challenge to editors, including the editorial team of the NALT Conference Proceedings, as it made the editorial process more tedious.

The NALT's Uniform Format & Citation Guide is also key to addressing another fundamental issue - uniform writing structure styles within the Nigerian Faculties of Law environment. Universities are responsible for writing techniques adopted for project and thesis writing. External supervisors to the faculties of law usually grapple with mastering the various writing styles to provide the appropriate assessment.

The adoption of the NALT's Uniform Format & Citation Guide has created a uniformity in the citation styles across law faculties and other legal scholarly environments and publications to become realistically achievable. The NALT's Uniform Format & Citation Guide is an all-encompassing Manual that can cater to law students' referencing and research writing needs in project writing at all levels. The Manual is also helpful to academics in the preparation of book chapters and journal publications, respectively. Significantly, it brings closer to home the import of proper referencing by 'nigerianising' referencing in such a manner that every Nigerian law student and scholar can relate. This is an essential accomplishment that no foreign styled citation guide would have attained.

The Institute is privileged and proud to be part of the formative stages

of the NALT's Uniform Format & Citation Guide. The Institute devoted time and human resources to review the document under the tutelage of Prof. Peter Akper, SAN, OFR (Director of Research). The Institute also supported the Implementation Committee through its first maiden publication of the Manual as a monograph. As such, the Institute is pleased with the outcome and remains committed to ensuring its wide dissemination. We remain convinced that the NALT's Uniform Format & Citation Guide is invaluable to the legal academic community. I do not hesitate to recommend this Manual to colleagues, particularly those in authority in our law faculties. Noticeably, the Manual has been slow in gaining traction across law faculties, particularly with respect to project and thesis writing. Accepting and applying the principles contained in the Manual is vital to identifying gaps and plugging such loopholes. This is important to obtain improved versions of the Manual.

I commend the efforts of the Drafting Committee, which has worked tirelessly to establish a uniform format in legal research and writing. Indeed, the Committee members are still working to identify and address loopholes and their commitment to this noble cause is laudable.

Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, PhD

(Humbert Humphrey Fellow, USA)

Director General, NIALS October 2021

THE NALT PRESIDENT SPEECH 2019 UI IBADAN

The NALT Uniform Format and Citation guide is one of the major achievements of the Association since its inception. The Manual has come a long way to address uniform approach to research writing in law; especially, for the presentation of the NALT's Conference papers since 2016; after its ratification at the Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti (ABUAD 2015). I am also aware of the fact that some of our Faculties and legal research institutions especially, in the North

Central being the origin and foundation of the Manual; has adopted the Format partially or in full for handling PG projects writing and preparation of articles for publication since 2016. However, it is yet to be well entrenched in other parts of the country. Therefore, I enjoin other law faculties, especially, the faculty of law in private Universities and Open University inclusive; as well as all the legal research institutions, the Law School and its campuses, and all the allied, such as the Law Reform Commission, the Human Rights Commission; to embrace the manual in totality to achieve a uniform approach and coherence legal technical writing in the legal academic profession in Nigeria.

Although, there is still a lot more room for improvement upon the manual, however, we need to accept in principle and apply the format in practical terms before we can create room for improvement. It is the responsibility of individual faculties to present style of writing to our respective PG Schools; hence, I enjoin colleagues-the Deans and Directors at our various faculties and research institutes to integrate the manual into our local settings for tangible results.

I wish to commend the efforts of our colleagues, the members of the National NALT Drafting Committee that have been working and are still working; your commitments to establishing a uniform format in legal research writing had yielded positive results. On behalf of the Association and myself as the current president of NALT 2019, I thank you all and I count it a privilege to usher this edition of this Manual for the benefits of all members of this great Association. My profound gratitude goes to the Committee and all other members of the Association that have contributed in one way or the other to make this manual a reality. I wish to especially thank the Implementation Committee in partnership with NIALS under the distinguished leadership of professor Adekunle; and our colleague Dr. Abdulkrim Kana, the former Dean and NALT president, 2016 (now the AG and the Commissioner of the Ministry of Justice Nasarawa State); having supported the initiative of publishing the manual as a monograph. This Manual will continue to enhance and make research writing a lot easier for both undergraduate and graduate; as well as for the teaching of legal research Methodology in all campuses.

Professor Adeniyi Olatunbosun.
President NALT 2019

THE NALT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (BUK, KANO 2022)

The NALT Uniform Format and Citation guide which was ratified at Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti (ABUAD 2015) is one of the major achievements of the Association since its inception. The manual has gone a long way especially the part II, of the Manual to address uniform approach which has been widely used for the presentation of our conference papers since 2016. Previous Reports from the 2019 Maiden publication also show that some of our faculties and legal research institutes had adopted the format partially or in full for handling both undergraduate and PG projects writing and preparation of articles for publication since 2016. However, information reaching the secretariat recently suggests that some faculties that began very well with the guide are now drawing back and even reverting back to the old fashions which are by no means uniform nor superior to the NALT Guide; and yet no documented reasons with the Secretariat; that there had been any evidence to show that the New NALT Format and citation Guide is inferior to others being preferred. While enjoining other law faculties and institutes to embrace this modular in totality to achieve a uniform approach and coherence legal technical writing in the legal academic profession in Nigeria; we are also appealing to those faculties that had derail to come back to bring suggestions that will make the Manual more robust and users friendly rather than abandoning. There is no going back on this FEAT that is already on record as one of the few achievements that the Association can lay solid claim. Meanwhile, assuming, there is still more room for improvement upon the manual, we need to accept in principle and apply the format in practical terms before we can create room for improvement.

It is the responsibility of individual faculty to present the style of writing to our respective Post Graduate schools; I enjoin all my colleagues-the Deans and Directors at our various facilities and

research institutes to integrate this manual into our local settings both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and the institutes' technical legal writings.

On this note I wish to joyfully inform this Honourable Association that the second edition of the publication is here fully loaded with more exciting innovations. The Manual is now divided into major parts. Part one focuses on the preliminary information including the historical update about the formation of the NALT's Guide and lots more. Part two deals with research preliminaries, the main approaches to legal research writing and the general format on how to structure research topics of any kind and a lot more. Part three is now devoted to what used to be the Part II- the NALT Citation Guide. Henceforth, the new edition now houses our citation under part three instead of part II. Finally, we now have a dedicated portion to academic journal on how articles should be structured for publication. You will agree with me that this edition is robust and full of excitement; more so that the manual is simply structured and well-constructed for users' friendliness.

Therefore, to our colleagues, the members of the national NALT Drafting Committee who worked between 2013 and 2015 for the formation; and for some of the members that have now been constituted into the implementation and Monitoring Committee who are still working, your commitments to this single course of establishing a uniform format in legal research writing which had yielded this positive result, the EXCO is thankful to you all. On behalf of the Association and as the current president of NALT 2020, I count it a privilege to usher in the second edition of this Manual to all members. My profound gratitude to the Committee and all other NALT members that have contributed one way or the other to make this manual a reality. I wish to specially, thank the Implementation Committee in continuous partnership with NIALS starting with the distinguished professor Adekunle-the former DG and the present DG, Professor MT Ladan; for their continuous supports for publishing the manual as a monograph. This will enhance the dissemination and facilitate better, wider and easier access to the Manual

Professor Usman Muhammad Shu'aib

President NALT 2020 (Kano 2022)

**THE NALT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (ABSU 2022/2023
UMUAHIA)**

The NALT Manual legal research writing has gone a long way since its ratification at Afe Babalola University (ABUAD) Conference; to address uniform approach to research writing in law. Previous Reports from the 2019 Maiden publication and the 2021 also show that greater numbers of our faculties and legal research institutes had adopted the format for handling both undergraduate and PG projects writing and preparation of articles for publications, especially for the NALT Conference proceedings which has attracted a hundred percent compliance. However, so many campuses of the various Faculties of law in the South East are yet to embrace the Manual for undergraduate and the PG students' projects research. While enjoining law faculties in this zone to embrace this modular in totality to achieve a uniform approach and coherence legal technical writing in the legal academic profession in Nigeria; we are also appealing to the faculties both in the federal and State Universities as well as private Faculties or Colleges of Law to embrace and engage the manual fully for the advantaged benefits; which include not only making the handling of students' final research projects much more easier and less stressful for both students and their supervisors; it is an excellent Manual for external defence and professorial assessments for the external Assessors, as the uniform approach is users' friendly and convenience.

We are of the view that it is the responsibility of individual faculty to present the style of writing to our respective post graduate schools, therefore, I enjoin all my colleagues-the Deans and Directors at our various faculties and research institutes to integrate this manual into our local settings both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels for sustainability.

I wish to joyfully inform this honourable Association that the 3rd edition of the publication is here within the shortest possible time as

all the printed copies presented at BUK Kano, have been fully utilised; necessitating the reprinting another set with an improved font size to make it readable. The reprint is also fully loaded with more exciting innovations. Therefore, I count it a privilege to usher in the 3rd edition of this Manual to all members. My profound gratitude to the Committee and all other NALT members that have contributed one way or the other to make this manual a reality.

I wish to specially, thank the Implementation Committee in continuous partnership with NIALS especially, with the immediate past DG, our distinguished professor, Deji Adekunle (SAN) with his Director of Research in the person of Prof Peter Akper (SAN); and the present DG, Professor MT Ladan, for their continuous supports of the NALT in publishing the Manual as a Monograph. This will enhance the dissemination and provide wider circulation and easier access to the Manual. Once more, thank you all.

Late Professor Eze Ngwakwe

The NALT President NALT 2021/22 (Abia State University 2023)

THE NALT FORMER PRESIDENT 's COMMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

After the ratification of the NALT's Uniform Format Guide at its 48th Annual Conference held at Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD) June 2015; I became the immediate next President of the NALT in 2016. I was opportune and happy to be the next NALT President to formally announce to members the brand new NALT's Manual on legal research writing at the next Conference held at the Nasarawa State University Keffi 2016. In my response to numerous queries and questions raised during my tenure, about the Uniform Guide, whether or not we can start its application across the campuses. In affirmation, I did say, the 'NALT Uniform Guide' remains the pride of the Association and the best thing that had happen to the Association in a recent. This places NALT at par with Modern Language Association with MLA Style and the American Psychology Association with APA style for Research writing worldwide. Hence, looking back to over five years ago about the NALT Guide, its rapid development and acceptance of usage, indeed, it has truly evolved and come to stay.

Going by its contents, it is amazing that NALT Uniform Format and Citation Guide has gone beyond the conventional citation guides in legal authorities offered by the OSCOLA, and other foreign reference guides. Indeed, this is a manual guide on research writing in all ramifications with its three parts focusing on the crucial areas of legal academic writing in Nigeria, useful not only for students' project writing but for handling all law Faculties' Journals which are largely subscribed to by colleagues for their promotional exercises; as well as for colleagues who are in full legal practice and love to write articles or review cases in law journals.

Although the document is highly technical but it is simplified to minute details and users' friendly. Therefore, the NALT Guide, like American Psychology Association (APA), Modern Language Association (MLA), OSCOLA and hosts of others, now proudly owns a uniform style for legal research writing in Nigeria. You will all

agree with me that NALT Uniform Guide is our brand new baby that deserves not only a good name but needs to be nurtured to grow and develop into a 'giant tree' with healthy branches offering shelter to legal research writing in the future. We all owe it to our great Association to project the Uniform guide for continuity.

It is probably one of the first of its kind that is indigenous to tertiary institutions for academic research writing in Nigeria. Colleagues, especially, those in authority, such as the Deans, Directors/ Provosts, HODs, as well as Law Teachers; are enjoined to cooperate and uphold this Uniform Format style of legal writing; by implementing its application in law Faculties both at undergraduate and PG level; Colleges of Law, Legal Research Institutes and other related institutions in order to take this document to greater heights.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The saying goes: 'Give honour to whom honour is due.' Therefore, by way of acknowledgement, on behalf of the entire members of the NALT, I **hereby** proudly acknowledge several of our senior colleagues especially, the pillars of this Uniform Guide and several others for their supportive roles as follows:

1. Professor (Mrs.) E.I. ALEMIKA. Although, the idea of localising a Uniform Citation have been the aspiration of the NALT Members for long, however, like the Israelites being led to the promised land by Prophet Moses's successor, Prof Alemika plays major role in leading the present NALT Uniform Format Citation Guide to its promised land in 2015 ABUAD Conference with the supports of other colleagues). Thank you, ma,
2. Late Professor M.O.U. GASIOKWU, He was the pioneer Teacher of Legal Research Methodology from the middle 1980s. Prof was a prominent and leading figure in Legal Research Methodology in Nigeria. He worked tirelessly and solidly behind the scene for this noble idea of localising citation guides-

the NALT's Uniform Citation Guide, to fulfil the aspirations of this great Association. We are grateful to our erudite scholar and professor of law, although late but his memory lives for the legacy left behind.

3. Professors Popoola and Allswell Muzan whose excitement knows no bound when the aspiration to have indigenous legal Research Uniform format was rekindled at Ilorin NALT's Conference in 2013. They were actually the few brains behind the idea of the NALT having its own uniform style in legal profession.
4. There are other numerous colleagues whose names deserve mentioning here but for time and space. Hence, we shall mention but few, such as; Professor Amari C. Omaka (Ebonyi State University). As the NALT President for 2014, and Legal Research Teacher at ESU, he passionately facilitated and accelerated the process of the NALT Guides to its present state. Prof. Chris C. Ohuruogu and his Provost, Associate Professor Smaranda Olarinde of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti are highly recognised for their contributions. Prof Chris did not only make enormous contributions to the Guide at Ebonyi in one of the NALT National EXCO Meetings of Deans and Directors held at Ebonyi, where the Uniform Guide received attention from the Committee for the subsequent approval of the Guide in February 2015. Under his Chairmanship as the chairperson of the LOC at ABUAD Conference, the Draft of the approved NALT Uniform Format was launched online for the first time, under the able Leadership of Associate Professor Smaranda Olarinde-the 2015 NALT President and the Provost of the College of Law. Professor Yusuf Aboki, ABU Zaria; He is another senior colleague who treats Legal Research Methodology with passion. As one of the Committee Members of the NALT Uniform Format, his intervention at ABUAD saved the document which came under severe attack from a very destructive criticism made by one of our very junior colleagues who claimed that he studied in UK and had used OSCOLA and

therefore, felt there was no need to have local style of referencing aside OSCOLA. The perception would have brought about delay in ratification, but for prompt intervention of Prof, Aboki. Sir, we are grateful.

5. Others worth mentioning include; Dakas CJ Dakas (SAN) (UniJos); Professor Y.U. Bambale (fmr. Dean of Law, ABU Zaria) professor A.T. Shehu (Unilorin) and Prof MT Ladan; among others who reinforced the motion at the 2013 and 2014 Ilorin and Ebonyi NALT Conference respectively. We also remember, Prof (Mrs.) Oluyemisi Bamgbose (SAN) of UI. Ibadan, Prof. Hajiya Jemima Nasir, Prof, (Mrs.) Jummai Audi, (fmr. Lecturer at ABU Zaria), presently the Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, Abuja. NALT is grateful to these our very own erudite professors, fathers and mothers who are leading us by their exemplary examples; and other too numerous to mention most especially the Members of Committee of Deans and Directors who were present at the last Ebonyi EXCO Meeting, preceding the ABUAD Conference. They made very useful suggestions that built up the body of the document. We are grateful to others who have contributed in one way or the other to make this NALT Uniform Format a success
6. Finally, but by no means the least, we wish to thank the Implementation and Monitoring Committee ably led by Prof. Alemika who some of us have now nick-named, 'Mama NALT's Citation Guide' She has continued to work tirelessly with her committed members to monitor, update and continue to improve upon the original draft to make it better. (See the details of the Committee Members attached as Appendix)

The NALT Citation Guide is still undergoing the process of making, therefore, Deans and Directors from the faculties of various campuses are enjoined to stimulate members to forward to the Committee Members any useful information to improve upon the Manual from time to time. Colleagues are also to observe shortfalls in the document, make useful and constructive suggestions and also generate new ideas in order to make useful improvements upon to

make the Manual worthwhile in the nearest future.

We sincerely appreciate all our colleagues for your contributions

Dr. Abdulkarim Kana (Associate Professor of Law)

Fmr. Dean of Law Nasarawa State University and

*The NALT President 2016 and the AG and Commissioner for
Ministry of Justice, Nasarawa State.*

PREFACE

The Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT) desirous of having a dedicated uniform format for research writing and citation guide that best address legal research writings for legal education in Nigeria; led to the proposal for a uniform research format and citation guide; which was presented at the NALT's Conference held at University of Ilorin Kwara State of Nigeria in 2013. The proposal was based on the various identified challenges associated with lack of uniform approach to legal research writing, with its attendant negative impacts and implications for the legal education in Nigeria. The proposal was accepted, consolidated and was approved at the pre-conference meeting held at Ebonyi State University (ESU 2014), by the Committee of Deans and Directors. The document was finally ratified at the NALT's Conference held at Afe Babalola University (ABUAD 2015). The main purpose of this Manual is to bridge the existing gaps on research formats and to facilitate adopting a uniform approach to research writing and citation guides for uniformity within the various faculties of law; as well as facilitating compulsory uniformed teachings of legal research methodology across the higher institutions of learning and other relevant legal research institutes in Nigeria. The document has been prepared as manual and has been in use by the NALT, especially in its yearly Conference from 2015 till date. It first appeared online per courtesy of the ABUAD NALT's Local Organising Committee (LOC 2015), ably chaired by late Professor Chris Ohuruogu. The first maiden hard copy publication was done in 2019 by the NALT Implementation Committee under the

1 The two together with three other (co-opted) distinguished (female) professors- Jummai Audi (ABU/Law Reform Commission Abuja); Jemima

chairmanship of Professor Emily Alemika in partnership with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Associate Prof. Abdulkarim Kana, The former Dean Faculty of Law, NSUK and the NALT President of 2016. (former Hon AG and Commissioner Min. of Justice Nasarawa State and presently the National Legal Adviser to APC). The manual is now in its 4th edition with seven chapters fully edited with new innovations and ideas to make the Manual worth the while

NOTE: Although, this manual is dedicated to students' projects at all levels of faculties of Law across the nation and legal research institutes, the document is all inclusive, for Law Reform Commission Human Rights Commission, the manual is equally useful for non-legal researchers in other disciplines, especially in Arts, social Science and humanity.

The Implementation Committee has continued to engage the management of the various law faculties nationwide, colleagues and individuals to bring suggestions, comments and even constructive criticism that will help develop the manual to greater height and of international standard. The 4th edition 2025 is with lots of improvement.

The review is an ongoing process until we reach a desired result. Further suggestions to improve the quality is highly welcomed from the various faculties and interested individual academic staff from various campuses and research institutes nationwide. All suggestions, observations and inputs to improve upon this Manual can be forwarded to the NALT's Implementation Committee@: naltguide2015@gmail.com

Nasir (Fmr. Dean Unijos); and Bamgbose (Fmr. Dean of UI) served in advisory capacity

- 2 The NALT's Format, is dedicated to legal research writing. Both the formats and style of referencing were drawn and adapted from the existing styles of referencing materials, mostly foreign; such as OSCOLA, MLA, APA, and so on; which the various faculties were already familiar with. The MLA and OSCOLA became handy to this assignment because of their relevance in the areas of formats for research writing and citing legal authorities. Therefore, both the formats and the citations are adapted from the principles, features and technicalities of MLA and OSCOLA, but are localised to our settings to make them users friendly; for which the NALT's Committee revered and acknowledge these two main sources.

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO NALT FORMAT

Law is a unique course that cut across all sundries worth studying. Ideologically, law should not be studied for professional practice only, but something that everyone should aspire to have as part of education as an added advantage to every sphere of life. Hence, law in its characteristics traits also require standard approach to legal research writing for skills acquisitions in legal education uniform approach or guide for both students and law teachers in their project and legal research writing respectively. Hence, the proposed NALT's manual which subsequently translated into the NALT's Uniform Format and Citation Guide.

(Note: You should endeavor to introduce your topic as in the above with short preamble before you go into the sub-topic. Do same for all chapters)

1.1 A Brief History of the NALT Uniform Format and Citation Guide

The desire of the Association to develop a uniform approach to legal research writing and style of reference has a long history. The first league was spearheaded over a decade ago by erudite professors like Popoola of OAU, MOU Gasiokwu (late) of Unijos, Yusuf Aboki of ABU, Allswell Muzan of KSU and a host of others, who strongly believe that the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers is old enough to be identified with a uniform standard or approach to legal research writing and reference guide in Nigeria.

The agitation for the guide continued and was further articulated at the Ilorin NALT Conference. The idea was resuscitated by the joint efforts of both the old and new crops of younger generations of professors such as Dr. A.T.Shehu; Prof. Ibrahim Abikan (The hosting NALT's President) and few others present at the AGM Conference. Therefore, the Proposal having been re-initiated was ably led by Prof. Emily Alemika at the University of Ilorin NALT Conference 2013.

The NALT's aspiration was further articulated, drawing inspiration and examples from other foreign professional associations and tertiary institutions such as, the American Psychological Association (APA), Modern Language Association (MLA established as far back in 1883), Harvard School, Oxford University with OSCOLA; and a host of others that had developed standard formats and citation guides for research writing in their respective academic fields anchored by the professional bodies. Most of these foreign citation guides formed the main sources from which Nigerian Law Faculties have been borrowing ideas for formats and referencing in legal research in Nigeria. Hence, the NALT desire to have a customised standard format and reference guide in legal research writing in Nigeria, led to the establishment the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT) Manual on Uniform Format and Citation Guide on Legal Research. The Manual was subsequently adopted at the NALT Conference Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, 2014, under the distinguished leadership of the then a young professor, Chris Amari Omaka who was also the NALT's hosting President. Finally, the Manual was ratified and approved at the NALT Conference Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti (referred to as ABUAD 2015).

The old aspiration which was revived led to the setting up of the NALT's Committee at Ilorin, comprising of people mostly of the old professors and few additional younger generations of professors with passion for an indigenous legal research uniform approach to legal research writing and citation guide in Nigeria. Names of Members include; Professors Gasiokwu (of DELSU late)-one of the pioneer and founders of Legal Research Methodology and Teachers of Legal Research Method in Nigeria; Amari Omaka (Dean of Law ESU and President of NALT 2014), Yusuf Aboki (Also a pioneer Teacher of Research Methodology at ABU); Dr. A.T. Shehu (University of Ilorin), and Emily Alemika (An expert in Legal Research Methodology from UniJos); who acted as chairperson of the Committee. Two other erudite Senior Professors, Popoola and Muzan were co-opted to serve in advisory capacity

Committee immediately swung into actions and continued working rigorously. After seven months of hardworking, over 35

pages of a draft prepared by the Committee was ready for presentation. By June 2014 the proposal presented at the Plenary Session held on the first day of the NALT Conference at Ebonyi State University (ESU) Abakaliki. The draft report was overwhelmingly supported and was accepted by the generality of the NALT Members present at the opening ceremony.

Subsequently, the draft proposal was improved upon and re-presented and defended at the pre-Conference Meeting of the Committee of Deans and Directors held at the ESU Abakaliki, January 2015 for the NALT conference held at Afe Babalola University 2015. A clean copy of the final draft was made and presented to the Committee of Deans and directors at the NALT AGM Afe Babalola University (ABUAD) for ratification which was subsequently approved in June 2015. The making of NALT's Format and Citation Guide is a generally held view that it constitutes a major feat and achievement of the NALT since its inception of over 40 years.

1.2 Rationale

The rationale for advocating for an indigenous uniform format for legal research writing and citation guide include but not limited to the fact that:

It is desirous of the NALT's members that at over 40 years, the Association is old enough to proudly own an indigenous uniform format that would address some of the areas of law that may not be adequately covered by the foreign citation guides for all legal research writing and citing of legal authorities in Nigeria. Especially for students' projects and academic peer reviewed articles for publication.

The aspiration to have a uniform approach was also informed by the perennial problems of poor presentations of both undergraduate and the PG research projects at the various Faculties of Law across the nation for which the foreign styles do not adequately address.

It is also based on the general observations and complaints by external examiners about poor presentation of

research project due to lack of uniform preparation of PG theses/dissertations. Hence, the need for NALT's uniform format and style of referencing in Law.

The idea of uniform approach to scholarly writing and legal research is also well informed by the general beliefs that lack of uniform guides and the ad-hoc teaching of the legal research methodology across the faculties of law in the country may partly be responsible for the difficulties the various faculties of Law are experiencing for low quality of the output by students writing both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

There is also poor presentation of articles for academic journals among the academic legal practitioners in Nigeria.

The absence of the uniform approach to project writing does not only give room for individual supervisors to guide students using their own individual's knowledge and approaches which sometimes are at variance with general style.

To be more specific, the effect of absence of uniform guides often lead to challenges in the external examination of PhD candidacies across the Nigeria Universities.

The absence of uniform guides and lack of legal research methodology as a one of the core courses in legal education affects effective and efficient presentation of students' research projects and legal writing in all ramifications.

Based on the above, the great Association owes it a duty to have dedicated uniform citation guides and scholarly writing formats that best suit its peculiar legal educational writings.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of NALT Uniform Format and Citation Guide

Research writing being a technical exercise, requires standard formats for breaking topic into parts and well structure to follow a logical order. Similarly, citation signals are integral parts of research. They are used in collating the various sources consulted by researchers while carrying out research. Therefore, it is pertinent that

NALT should consider having its own customised formats and styles of referencing. Below are the main objectives:

- i. To have a uniform and standardised format and style of referencing across the Law Faculties in Nigerian Universities that best addresses the peculiarities to legal profession in Nigeria and for ease of use.
- ii. Have uniform procedure for assessing both master and PhD theses which are often externally handled at the final stages; so as not to subject External Examiners to rigours of having to adapt to different in-house formats and citation guides of the various universities.
- iii. It is also imperative to have uniform format for collating various articles for publications for the purpose of academic promotion
- iv. Have a Localised name of uniform format that can be identified with our great Association
- v. Adapting uniform formats to our local settings to make the format users friendly among the Law Teachers and students across faculties of law nationwide and for better presentation of articles in peered review journals.
- vi. To harmonise the various styles of referencing in the Faculties of Law nationwide
- vii. The various law faculties in the tertiary institutions are administered under an umbrella of the Nigerian Council of Legal Education and the Nigerian Universities Commission respectively. Therefore, it is more dignifying to have a uniform procedure for assessing the master dissertations and PhD Theses which are often externally handled by respective professors from various campuses
- viii. Finally, the Association (NALT) is old enough to proudly adopt a uniform procedure just like other association to address its own peculiarities.

1.4 About the Manual (the NALT's Blue Book)

The NALT's Uniform Format and citation Guide (known as Blue NALT's Book) is probably the first of its own kind indigenous to

tertiary institutions for legal academic research writing in Nigeria. The Manual is an answer to the numerous challenges facing the legal education as regards the format and reference styles of citation guide for research writing and the format for presentation of final research project as well as preparation of article for journal publication in law in Nigeria. Before the Manual, there was no local document that is dedicated to legal research writing in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Those available in circulation, such as Oxford Citation for Legal Authorities, (OSCOLA), America Psychological Association (APA), Modern Language Association (MLA) and a host of others, which are often adopted by the various faculties are all foreign documents which are inadequate to address some peculiar needs in our legal research writing in Law. Hence, the need to develop a suitable one that is user friendly to our settings.

The Manual has three distinct areas divided into four major parts:

1. The first part focuses on students' projects writing with numerous examples on how to prepare and structure research project topics into logical division.
2. The second part deals with the general style of referencing.
3. The third part of the Manual is devoted to articles writing for journal publication in law.
4. The fourth deals with writing and presenting a PhD proposal.

The Manual will be very useful to both students and the teachers of law and non-lawyers across the nation tertiary institutions in Nigeria. It is especially useful instrument in the hands of the academic teachers to guide the students on their projects writing at all levels on one hand and useful for preparation of articles for journal publication for all lecturers.

Although the Manual is highly technical and requires thorough studies; however, it is simplified to a minute detail and users friendly. By the time the Manual is fully accommodated across campuses it will lay to rest the crave for adopting any foreign material for research

3 The Committee hereby duly acknowledge all these sources, especially the OSCOLA and MLA which form the major source from which the NALT Format and citation derives strength; as very useful sources for preparing this NALT document.

writing in law. Similarly, the Manual will ease out the stress associated with struggles by External Examiners to study and understand the different approaches of the different formats of writing projects across campuses. Therefore, it is our hope that both the academic lecturers and students will take these rare advantages offered by this Manual to the fullest. We are also optimistic that the Manual will take research in law to a new dimension and greater height and thus, improve legal education in Nigeria.

Compilers:

Professor Emily Ife Alemika

Professor Chris Amari Omaka, SAN

4 The preliminaries, bibliography and appendices are of general application to both undergraduate and postgraduate research projects

CHAPTER TWO

NALT FORMAT AND THE STRUCTURING OF RESEARCH TOPICS

1. INTRODUCTION

The first stage of research is the choice of an appropriate research topic. The choice of topic and the motivation to embark on research could come from personal drive or from the initiatives of others to meet certain needs, or purely for the sake of intellectual or academic prowess. However, students' research are requirements from all tertiary institutions in partial fulfilment of a given degree in view. Therefore, students are expected to choose topics in consultation with lecturers who are versed in the areas of the research in question.

Research in law is governed by three key principles: knowing and finding the law, reading the law, and applying the law to solve societal problems. The qualities of good research topics are guided by the following: researchable topics, a sufficient in-depth of coverage of subject matter, timeless, relevant, clear, concise and a non-sentimental empirical research result. Based on these stated principles, law students and academic lawyers are expected to follow some technical rules and sets of uniformed procedures.

Research undertaking in every field is regulated by ethical rules. The research ethics are issued by the respective University Authorities, which students' researchers are expected or obliged to comply with. Some of the basic ethical rules are beneficence or non-maleficance, informed consent, anonymity and confidentiality, autonomy, justice, avoiding deceptive practices, plagiarism and copyright infringements. Other research ethics include inducements, financial benefits and financial costs. Students are enjoined to note

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- 5 See the NALT's Citations under the preamble above as adapted from the OSCOLA citation
 - 6 See details under style of referencing below. Please take note of the differences in in-text footnotes and the preparation of table of bibliography. Bibliography starts with Author surname while footnote reproduce the name the way it is from the source consulted

that failure to comply with these numerous research ethics attracts serious penalties. Therefore, NALT's Uniform Format and Citation Guide is an attempt to provide some basic uniform rules of procedure as requirements to guide research writing in legal (Academic) profession to ensure uniformity for better research outcome.

(Note: You should endeavor to introduce your topic as in the above with short preamble before you go into the sub-topic. Do same for all chapters)

2.1. General Guidelines to Research Writing.

- a. Candidates are expected to choose their own topics for the long essay/dissertation/doctoral thesis, in consultations with lecturers and the faculty board
- b. Numbers of pages: 40 minimum and 80 maximum pages for undergraduate long essays.
- c. 80 minimum and 150 maximum pages for master dissertation.
- d. Number of pages for the PhD ranges between 150 minimum 400, with topic to be divided into six (6) chapters
- e. Font: Time Roman with font size of 12, double spacing and only one side of paper should be used for typing
- f. NALT citation guide for footnotes shall be adopted within the text for both sources consulted and to give plausible explanations of words we do not want to interrupt the free flow of the body of the essay. However, students are further expected to prepare list of bibliography of sources consulted.
- g. Only PG students are expected to undergo an external oral examination in defense of their dissertations and PhD thesis.
- h. All students are expected to write abstract of one paged non-paragraph. The entire abstract should not be more than 300 words for undergraduate long essay, 500 words for master and 600 for PhD respectively.
- i. The one-page un-paragraphed abstract must be the same font with the body of the essay but in single line spacing, blocked-no paragraphing.
- j. **Pagination:** All pages from the preliminaries (except the fly leaf) shall be numbered in Roman figure- ('i, ii, iii, iv') However,

the title page is only notionally included in the numbering; it will not be physically numbered-numbering starts from page ii (declaration page).

- k. The page numbering to be at the bottom centrally located
- l. Roman numerals are used to number the preliminary pages, while Arabic numerals-(1,2,3..) are used to number the main body of the work (from chapter one to bibliography/appendices).
- m. **Paper's- colour, quality and size:** white paper, good quality and size A4.
- n. **Typing format:** The dissertation/thesis shall be typed double-spaced, and on one side of the paper only. The minimum margin specifications are as follows: 25mm on the top of the paper; 12mm at the bottom; 13mm on the right-hand side and 38mm on the left-hand side to allow enough space for proper binding without cutting the words in the body of the texts

2.2 Categories of the NALT Format

The NALT Format Guide is classified into four major categories.

Category One: This deals mainly with formation and structuring of research topic into chapters.

Category Two: This category deals with citation guide;

Category Three: This category focuses on the preparation of articles for journal publications

The fourth category deals with PhD presentation

Note: For all the categories, this Manual draws much insight from the existing materials on styles of referencing, mostly foreign, such as Modern Language Association, (MLA); American Psychological Association, (APA); OSCOLA; Blue Books and so on. This is informed by the fact that the various faculties were already familiar with the usages of most of them. Therefore, the Committee having made a critical analysis of the various materials; decided to draw inferences from some of them; especially, the MLA that contains some guidelines on structuring research writing, such as articles for journal publication. Another source is OSCOLA reference which is dedicated to citing legal authorities, OSCOLA is already widely used

in many law faculties in Nigeria. Hence, the NALT Format and Citation guide in different categories are an adaptation of those styles for user friendliness. It is worth noting that the conceptual constructions of this part are drawn based on the expertise knowledge and the long experiences of the members of the NALT's Committee who are mostly senior colleagues, who are also knowledgeable in diverse legal research writing and methodologies.

2.3 Categories of Degree and Format for Structuring Research Topics

This is divided into three major categories as follow:

- a. Undergraduate final year long essay research project
- b. The master's thesis and
- c. PhD dissertation.

This part deals generally on how to structure research topic into logical format for ease of writing and logical analysis and presentation. This part also reveals what should be the contents of a given chapter that best describes students' ideas about the choice of their topics, which must equally be presented under prescribed formats to ensure standard and uniformity. Below is general information to guide both undergraduate and PG students on writing projects:

2.3.1 Undergraduate Long Essay

Generally, the focus of the format is on the post graduate research studies with the two main levels-the master dissertation and the PhD thesis in focus. However, since this is a research manual it will be useful to mention some few tips on undergraduate long essay. This is because in legal research, the undergraduate share similar features with the postgraduate research studies.

The body of long essay is divided into five chapters. The chapters are preceded by preliminaries and end with bibliography and appendices (if any) **Body of Long Essay** is arranged in logical parts: The breakdown of the research topic into chapters and sub-title and sub-sub-title; and the format of presentation in sequence and logical

order are as illustrated under the general chapters' analysis.

Guidelines for the Long Essay

i. Assigning Title to Each Chapter

There must be a chapter's title for each chapter from chapters one to five. Each chapter's title is presented in upper case (Capital letters) with no number assigned. The next main title under the chapter's title is also in upper case but must be assigned number in Arabic numeral, while the sub-titles and sub-sub-titles are assigned a sub-Arabic numeral.

ii. Numbers of Chapters and pages:

- Ø The body of essay is divided into five (5) main chapters.
- Ø 40 pages minimum and 80 maximums.
- Ø **Font:** Times New Roman
- Ø **Font size:** 12, double spacing on A4 paper.
- Ø Only one side of paper should be used for typing

iii. NALT's Footnotes shall be adopted in-text while students are also expected to prepare table of **bibliography** of sources consulted at the end of the research project.

iv. All students are expected to write non-paragraphed abstract of one page. The entire abstract should not be more than 200-350. It must be the same font with the body of the essay but in single line spacing.

2.3.2 Guidelines on master's degree Dissertation

The general rules above apply and the approaches are like the structuring in undergraduate with some few exceptions. The body of a master's dissertation is divided into five chapters. The chapters are preceded by preliminaries as indicated above, and end with bibliography and appendices (if any).

Number of Chapters and Pages:

- a. The body of the essay is divided into five (5) chapters.
- b. 100 pages minimum and 150 pages maximum.

- c. **Font face:** Times New Roman with **Font size:** 12, double line spacing on A4 paper.
- d. Only one side of paper should be used for typing.
- e. **NALT's footnoting** adopted is 'in-text' while students are also expected to prepare a table of **bibliography** at the end of the research project of materials consulted.
- f. All students are expected to write a non-paragraphed abstract of one page. The entire abstract should not be more than 400-500 words. It must be the **same font** face and font size with the body of the essay but in single line spacing.
- g. Students are expected to undergo oral examination in defence of their final research projects after internal presentation at the faculty.

2.3.3 Guidelines on PhD Thesis

The general rules above apply and the approaches are like the master dissertation with some of the following exceptions:

- i. Prospective students are expected to write and submit to the faculty, a short proposal
- ii. (1-2) pages in line with their choice of topic) making the general intentions known. This would assist the Faculty PG Committee in determining early enough the prospective supervisors on the choice of topics for the PhD programme. The suitability of the topic would also be assessed in terms of its being concise, researchable, clear, appropriate (in terms of depth and coverage of the content of the study) and timeless and relevant to the student's area of interest. **(Note: In some cases, this proposal forms part of the application to be submitted in consideration for final admission for a PhD candidate. This is optional depending on individual campus)**
- iii. Students are expected to undergo a course work for a session, sit for and pass prescribed courses before settling down for the research proper. (This also varies from faculty to faculty).
- iv. PhD students are expected to choose their own topics for the theses. The choice must be in consultation with lecturers in research, which must subsequently be approved by the Faculty Board or the Faculty PG Committee.

- v. Students are assigned supervisors by the Faculty PG Management Board, with special consideration for the choice of topics and the areas of specialisation (where practicable) of the prospective supervisors.
- vi. After the one session of course work, students are expected to make three-four presentations-starting with research proposal for the first presentation. The research proposal which is not in form of chapter should be between 20 and 40 pages, containing about two major areas of the entire research work. This consist of:
 - a. The introduction, addressing the background to the study; statement of the problem combined with research questions, which is not more than 5-6 questions maximum. followed by the main aim and objectives; Scope and limitation; Significance of study; the research methodology; and of course, the synopsis of the six chapters and lastly the bibliography.
 - b. The second major part contains the Literature review with some theoretical and historical framework of the proposed topic. **It should be noted that where the proposal is well presented following all the technicalities, it has already covered the first two chapter of the PhD thesis,** Therefore, Students must be very careful at this initial stage not only to do a well-researched and rich proposal but should endeavour to adhere to all the rules governing the technicalities involved in the presentation of the proposal, most of which students are being guided on in this NALT Format.

2.3.4 Required Number of Chapters and Pages:

- a. The body of PhD thesis is divided into six (6) chapters, which are also preceded by the preliminaries and end up with bibliography and appendices, (if any). As indicated above
- b. 150 pages minimum and can be up to 400 pages maximum, depending on the choice of topic and the candidate skills in research writing.

- c. **Font Face:** Times New Roman; font size: 12 double-line spacing, on A4 paper. The footnote automatically converts into font size 10; but the font face may have to be converted manually into Times New Roman as it does not usually convert automatically.
 - d. Only one side of the paper should be used for typing.
 - e. **NALT's Footnote** shall be adopted in-text while students are also expected to prepare table of **bibliography** of all sources of materials consulted at the end of the research project.
- vii. Students are expected to write a non-paragraphed abstract of one page. The entire abstract should not be more than 500-600 words. It must be of the same font as the one in the body of the essay, but in single line spacing.
- viii. Abstract is usually written after the completion of the project.
- ix. Under doctrinal approach, chapters one (1), two (2) and six, (6)-the final chapter for PhD) are presented the same way by all students immaterial the differences in the choice of topics. Chapter one is titled 'Introduction', Chapter two: Conceptual and Theoretical Framework and literature review' and Chapter six: conclusion. While under non-doctrinal approach, chapters two and three are devoted to Literature review and Research Methodology respectively. (see detail examples in item 4 below) while chapters four and five are devoted to research analysis and data presentation. Chapter six remain the same as under doctrinal (see details below)
- x. PhD candidates are expected to present their final defense (*viva voce*) after Internal Defense.
1. Faculty should Endeavour to conduct PG defense regularly to avoid delay; (especially, the master projects. Once there are up to 10 candidates ready for defense their papers should go out to External Examiner for at least two weeks before defense) The PhD is slightly different. Process is based on individual candidate's readiness.

2. External Examiners to be nominated by Faculty Dean in consultation with HODs and the supervisors of the PhD Candidates who would be in better position to know experts in the field of research. (Whereby the PhD thesis is strictly written under non-Doctrinal approach the Dean in consultation with PGS, should consider nominating a Social Scientist versed in the thesis).
3. Numbers of nomination is usually determined by the PGS both for the master dissertations and PhD thesis. Nomination to be submitted to the Dean of PGS for ratification.
4. In some universities, the defense is conducted at the PG School building. This sometimes causes delays and congestion. Although, the survey information shows that Universities like Lagos, Ilorin, ABU, hold their defense at the Departmental or Faculty level. To attract uniformity and reduce congestion at PGS thus, accelerating defense of candidates without much delay, the NALT Format had recommended for defense at the faculty level, after all the PGS's requirements must have been met. Whereby the defense is conducted at the faculty level. The suggested composition should include the following:
 - a. The Dean of Faculty usually play the host to present the PhD candidate(s) to External Examiner. (EE)
 - b. Dean of Postgraduate School or his/her Representative.
 - c. An External Examiner who presides over defence
 - d. All Heads of Departments, two professors from Faculty to be in attendance.
 - e. The Teaching staff of Research methodology (where they are more than one, the most senior to be in attendance to guide on the technicalities where necessary)
 - f. A Representative of the Faculty of Social Sciences. (Especially, in case there are students whose projects are written under non-Doctrinal

- approach)
- g. The supervisor of the PhD candidate must be in attendance while that of Master is optional
 - h. The Faculty PGS' Rep and
 - i. Dean's Secretary (in attendance to record proceedings).
 - j. Lecturers (who are PhD candidates) at the faculty may be allowed to be in attendance to watch proceeding. (May be not more that 3 at a time).

Note: In case of any research institute getting involved in running post graduate studies, like the NILDS, NIALS, nomination shall be done by the PGS Board in consultation with students' supervisors, while the nominations are to be ratified by the DG of the Institute

NOTE: In all defenses the External Examiner presides over all proceedings. Each Faculty is allowed to vary the requirements above in consultation with PG School for the master and PhD theses. Therefore, faculties of law across the nation are enjoined to seek audience with their respective PGS managements (where necessary) to reflect some of the changes required to meet up with the unique features for the desired uniformity of the NALT's format.

There are areas that are of general application to both undergraduate and postgraduate research writings, such as preliminaries, abstract, bibliography and the styles of referencing. Below are the general contents of preliminaries for the undergraduate long essay, master's dissertation and PhD thesis.

2.4 PRELIMINARIES TO LEGAL RESEARCH WRITING

Three major areas are points of focus here: (a) the general preliminaries, (b) the abstract and (c) bibliography/appendix

2.4.1 The Preliminaries:

The parts of preliminaries are numbered in Roman numerals as

itemised below:

i. **The Blank Fly Leaf** (Nothing is written on this page).

ii. **The Title Page** (for the purpose of style, no page number is indicated on this page, though, that is the page i; the actual numbering starts from page ii - Declaration). **Items on the title page are capitalized.** This page contains the following information:

· At the top of the page: The approved title of the dissertation/thesis;

· At the centre of the page: The author's full name (first/forename comes first, followed by surname, which comes last), matriculation number and qualifications/degree(s) held by him/her at the time of submission of the dissertation/thesis;

· **For Master's Dissertation**, the following words come after the author's particulars (on a fresh line):

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF (the name of the location of the university, for example Jos) **IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JOS.** (Note: the last three words 'University of Jos' occupy a separate line)

For PhD thesis, the names of the Department and Faculty where the work for the thesis is done are expressed in the following words:

A THESIS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF... FACULTY OF LAW.

Then on a fresh line, state the degree in view, i.e. the degree for which the thesis is submitted, in the following words:

SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF JOS, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF OF UNIVERSITY OF JOS.

· At the bottom right corner of the title page, indicate the month and year of submission/award of the dissertation/thesis.

iii. **Declaration page** (by candidate). Here, the candidate

makes a declaratory statement, the purpose of which is to assure the originality of the work (i.e. that the work is not plagiarized). See sample of statement below:

'I hereby declare that this work is the product of my own research efforts; undertaken under the supervision of [mention title and name of supervisor] and has not been presented elsewhere for the award of a degree or certificate. All sources have been duly distinguished and appropriately acknowledged'

Immediately after the declaration and to the centre of the page, the candidate signs and dates (day/month/year) the declaration. Under the signature, the candidate's full name (as contained in the cover and title page of the dissertation/thesis) appears immediately under the signature/date.

iv. **Certification page** (by Supervisor/Dean of the Faculty). In this part of the preliminaries, the supervisor certifies that the research work was carried out under his/her supervision. The certification is given in the following words:

'This is to certify that the research work for this dissertation and the subsequent preparation of this dissertation by [name of candidate and (in parenthesis) his/her matriculation number] were carried out under my supervision. This is followed by the supervisor's signature (on the left-hand side of the paper) and date (on the right-hand side, horizontally corresponding to the signature). Under the signature comes the supervisor's initial(s) and surname; and further down in the next line is the designation 'Supervisor'. There are also spaces on the same page for the following to endorse the dissertation: thus, the Dean of the Faculty and the External Examiner are to append their signatures and dates.

Certification under the PhD dispensation, however, has a slightly different procedure. It is regulated strictly by the format prescribed by the School of Postgraduate Studies. The first part of the certification is one that comes before oral defence. The second one

comes after a successful oral defence. The summary is as follows: (a) before oral defence, the certification page shall bear the signed statement of the candidate's supervisor(s) – a candidate may have two supervisors. The supervisor(s)'s statement is as drafted above.

If the supervisor is not the Head of the Department that is submitting the thesis, the thesis shall be given to the Head of Department for endorsement. (b) After a successful oral defence (*viva voce*), the certifying statement will be redrafted to read as follows:

This is to certify that this thesis has been examined and approved for the award of degree of [in capital letters, specify the area of specialization in the degree awarded, e.g. **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, or INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

Those that will sign the statement are: the External Examiner, Internal Examiner, Supervisor(s), and Head of Department (where applicable), Dean of the Faculty presenting the Candidate and Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies.

For details of these formalities and other rules on research reporting, consult the current postgraduate studies prospectus issued by the School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Jos.

v. Dedication (optional). Candidate may dedicate the work to individuals, groups and/or corporate entities.

vi. Acknowledgements. Students are to acknowledge those who have supported during the research work and the preparation of the dissertation/thesis. Acknowledgement usually follow a pattern thus, most people start with acknowledging God Almighty, followed by supervisor, other lecturers in order of seniority, friends, classmates and acquaintances, and finally the family members of the researcher. Whatever pattern is followed. Let there be uniformity and consistency.

vii. Table of contents (this may span over two or more pages, and must be numbered accordingly);

viii. List of cases in alphabetical order (if and they are many);

- ix. **List of statutes, treaties and other international instruments** (if any) in alphabetical order.
- x. **List of acronyms/abbreviations** (if any) in alphabetical order, and
- xi. **Abstract.**

Note, all the titles of the preliminaries and all the items in the title page and the table of contents are to be written in the upper case (i.e. capital or block letters).

Note: The preliminaries, bibliography and appendices are of general application to both undergraduate and postgraduate research projects with some varying degree in application

2.4.2 Abstract: Guidelines on How to Write an Abstract:

Abstract gives a concise summary of the body of text or thesis. It helps researchers to present a quick and general overview of contents of a subject matter of a dissertation, thesis or an article. Abstract is not more 300-400 words for undergraduate, 500-600 words for post graduate students in a single paragraph, located within the preliminaries preferably the last page of preliminaries before chapter one; and 250-300 for article in a journal. Abstract is better written after the completion of the whole body of the research. Abstract essentially contains; general introduction; the main aim and objectives of the study; research methodology and method of analysis, summary of the findings and the recommendations made. Therefore, an abstract is not chapter by chapter review. It is the summary of the entire work written in an un-paragraphed block. It must contain summarily a little of the following:

- brief of the background information of the subject matter.
- brief of aim and objectives of the topic.
- brief of the approaches and methodologies used in carrying out the research ((is it doctrinal involving historical analysis, comparative, descriptive, or non-doctrinal involving research design, sample, instruments, and analysis procedures and techniques)

- brief of the findings.
- brief of the recommendations based on findings and conclusion

2.4.3 **Bibliography and Appendix**

Bibliography like abstract is an integral part of research writing. It is presented at the end of the whole exercise. It is titled, 'BIBLIOGRAHPY' on a separate page; whereby, all materials consulted whether expressly cited in the main body or not. Reference is slightly different from bibliography. Reference contains only the work cited or quoted verbatim in the text while bibliography contains all materials consulted.

Appendices represent some data or information in form of table charts and other materials which although are important which the researcher does not wants to include in the main body which are placed at the end or attached to the main body of the research report. The above are the basic requirements in legal research writing whether in undergraduate long essay or the post graduate master dissertation and the MPhil/PhD theses.

CHAPTER THREE

MAIN APPROACHES TO LEGAL RESEARCH WRITING AND STRUCTURING

3. INTRODUCTION

There are two major acceptable approaches to legal research writing in law faculties, Colleges and research institutes in Nigeria. The two approaches have their distinguished features. They are **Doctrinal (Conceptual/Library-Based) Legal Research Approach** and **Non-doctrinal (Empirical/Socio-Legal) Research Approach**.

(Note: You should endeavor to introduce your topic as in the above with short preamble before you go into the sub-topic. Do same for all chapters)

3.1 Doctrinal (Conceptual/Library-Based) Legal Research Approach

The doctrinal approach is purely qualitative, adopting different research methodologies such as; library/online based for sourcing research materials. The approach is the traditional approach of researching into law as it stands in the constitutions, statutes and in regulations made pursuant to statutes, conventions (or treaties) and other international agreements, case law (i.e. judicial decisions), journals, books and so on. Doctrinal research approach is variously called library-based research, pure theoretical research, legal dogmatic, black letter law research, or 'arm-chair' research.

It involves the interpretation, descriptive analysis, and systematization of legal norms or doctrine. Here, the legal researchers or practitioners simply address or gives commentaries on the philosophical questions underpinning the research, such as the nature or characteristics of the law itself. Researcher does an expository examination of legal rules from which doctrines are formulated and disseminated.

Doctrinal research entails the research into books (written materials on the subject matter of research). The legal researchers basically look for available source materials in the subject area of research and examines, appraises, critiques, evaluates, analyses and uses the information thereof as a basis for making recommendations for decision-making, enactment of laws, regulations and rules. This research approach is not based on empirical statistical analysis; hence, it uses qualitative research method (as opposed to quantitative method). Today legal education is tilting toward making legal research a multi-dimensional using socio-legal approaches to legal research writing

3.1.1 Formats for Structuring Research Topic(s) under Doctrinal Approach

Breaking down of research topics into chapters and sub-titles for presentation are of general application to both doctrinal and non-doctrinal. However, the focus here is with respect to doctrinal approach. Topic for research for undergraduate long essay and master dissertations are divided into five chapters, while PhD thesis is divided into six chapters. The main purpose here is to achieve a uniform format for standard presentation of research report. For emphasis, chapters one, two and five (or six in case of PhD thesis) are mandatory for all candidates to structure their project topics the same way to attract uniformity.

Below are typical examples of what chapters for doctrinal approach under NALT's format look like:

A.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

(The title should be centralized like this)

- 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY
- 1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM (Followed by Research questions)
- 1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY
- 1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
- 1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
- 1.7 CHAPTERS ANALYSIS

B.

CHAPTER TWO CONCEPTUAL THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

- 2.1 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS
- 2.2 THEORETICAL AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
- 2.3 LITERATURE REVIEW

Chapter two as structured above contains brief definitions or meanings of the key concepts; Theoretical framework including short historical foundation where applicable to the chosen topic; and literature review.

Note: each sub-main title above can still be further broken down into sub-sub-titles, depending on the numbers of concepts as contained in the main title above. Example:

- 1. Conceptual
- 2. Theoretical and Historical foundation and
- 3. Literature review.

2.1 Conceptual Framework: defining and explaining common terms and issues in the area of law you are researching on can be further broken down in the following:

- 2.1.1** *Definition of Terms*
- 2.1.2** *...etc.*

2.2 Theoretical Framework: This part explains the jurisprudential basis, theories and principles guiding your field of study in law and justifying how they apply to your research. For example, if topic is chosen in human rights field. Student is expected to give not only the historical background but the theoretical

framework or principles of human rights before going into the detail of the topic.

2.2.1 Historical Foundation

(Note you can still have sub-sub-sub smallest unit that you can label; a, b, c,... or i, ii, iii, etc.)

2.3 Literature Review/Empirical Framework: This contains previous studies of learned and other writers relating to your topic of study. They can further be divided into subtitles and sub-sub-titles.

Note: The NALT's Format recognises that students are at liberty to divide or distribute the rest research work within the remaining chapters 3 and 4 in case of master dissertation; and chapters 3,4 and 5 in case of PhD thesis. However, students are advised to start addressing their main topics from chapter 3; since chapters 1 and 2 deal mainly with the preliminaries/general introduction and conceptual frameworks of the topic respectively. The final chapter is devoted to the summary of the writing. For a typical example, if the main topic is:

'THE ANALYSIS OF LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA'

The main title of Chapter 3 of the research can be couched thus:

C.

CHAPTER THREE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

3.1 Legal Frameworks for Human Trafficking

3.1.1 International provisions (This can be further subdivided into sub-sub as many as they are of the international provisions that the student researcher wishes to address. At this point students can use a,b,c or i,ii,iii)

3.1.2 National Statutes (Same)

3.1.3 Other provisions (if any, that cannot be accommodated)

3.2 Institutional Frameworks

3.2.1 (Indicate all institutions and separate them by sub-title following the above example)

Chapter four can be assigned a different title but relevant topic like this:

D.

CHAPTER FOUR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND EFFECTS

4.1 Causes of Human Trafficking

4.1.1 Push Factors

4.1.2 Pull Factors

4.2 Forms and Patterns of Human Trafficking

4.2.1 Sexual Exploitation

4.2.2 Forced Labour\Servitude

4.2.3 Organ Harvesting\Transplant

4.2.4 Forced Marriage

4.2.5 Child Soldiers

4.2.6 Domestic Servitude

4.2.7 Street Begging

Note: the above 4.2.1-4.2.7 can be labelled a,b,c, or i,ii,iii, etc.

4.3 EFFECTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

4.3.1 (Follow the examples above for the further break down)

Note: Where there is still a need for another sub-main titles this chapter three can still accommodate as many and be further broken down to accommodate more sub-titles. Roman numerals can also be used to indicate smaller sub-titles. This can also be further extended by use of alphabetical order-a,b,c,d...However, if sub-titles become lengthy they can be written in the body of the essay without further labeling but highlighted. The idea is that all related topics should be clustered around themselves rather than creating artificial boundaries

inform of having many chapters. Therefore, chapter three and four are usually the largest followed by chapter one, being the introductory part.

Note: those titles itemised in Roman numbers do not form parts of the table of content. Also **note** that under PhD thesis that require six chapters, the chapter three above can be divided into two to form chapters 3 and 4, or the chapter four to be divided into 4 and 5 so as to push chapter five and convert it to chapter six since every student (whether undergraduate, master dissertation or PhD thesis) must structure their respective final chapter as indicated in chapter 5 below:

E.

CHAPTER FIVE CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.4 CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE

5.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

5.6 CONCLUSION

Note: The chapter five above is applicable to both undergraduate and Master dissertations only. In PhD thesis, the above chapter is converted to chapter six.

Also note that the various chapters above are illustrations to guide students on how to break down their own research topics. For emphasis, the chapters one, two and five/six are structured the same way by all students of all levels, immaterial the choice of topic. (This means, content may vary but structuring is the same). However, under this dispensation for the undergraduate and master dissertations, chapters three and four are left at the discretion of the candidates to freely distribute their respective topics, while under the PhD thesis, candidate have chapters three-five at discretions to structure their topic as they deemed fit. However, this is also done

⁷ See the illustration the chapter structuring above

under the guidance of supervisors. Candidates can take advantage of the breaking down of topics to structure their topic into sub-sub-sub-titles as illustrated. But topic must be logically presented.

3.2.3 Explanatory Notes on Chapters under Doctrinal Approach

1. Synopsis of the Chapters

This part highlights the major contents of each chapter. It should be done in such a way that any person going through the work will have a sense of what the contents of each chapter is all about. Hence, the breakdown of the topic into chapters referred to as chapter synopsis or analysis applies to **undergraduate long essay, the master's dissertation and PhD thesis**, with minor differences.

Note that the breakdown of a research topic into chapters and subdivisions must be logically done, devoid of ambiguities. **Note** also that the chapter analysis under discussion is obtainable under the doctrinal approach to research writing only. Below are the short notes on each chapter and its sub topics

2. Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter entitled 'INTRODUCTION' addresses diverse issues of general nature and is highly technical. Students must be well informed that this aspect is crucial to their project writings at all levels. Therefore, they must endeavour to follow or comply with the technical requirements involved to get the desired results. As a matter of fact, this chapter anchors the remaining parts of research project writing. The main contents of Chapter one include Background to the Study, Statement of the Research Problem (with about 5 -6 research questions), Aim and Objectives of the Study, Scope and Limitation, Significance of the Study, Research Methodology, (Literature Review inclusive for undergraduate only), and Synopsis of the Chapters respectively. They are discussed as follow:

a) Background to the Study:

This should be a brief description of ideas and variables

connected with the study, including motivation for or justification of the research project. It also includes historical, philosophical or theoretical explanations of relevant issues underpinning the choice of research topic; the challenges or problems associated with, or culminating into, the choice of the research problem and how the researcher intends to approach and address those issues in the study.

b) Statement of the Problem:

This portion presents the ideal situation and the situation that warranted the problem, or a gap which is dissatisfying to the researcher, which the researcher wishes to address. In essence, the research problem states what prompted the researcher into carrying out the research. Student must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the problem being researched into. As much as possible, the problem should be supported by some empirical, theoretical and practical evidence. The statement of the problem is followed by research questions. These questions (interrogative statements) emanate from or are linked with the specific objectives of the research. The research questions must relate to the research problem, be clearly and unambiguously stated, be comprehensive enough to cover the issues raised by the problem. The problem of the research should be something that is significant and fresh and one that solving it will impact on theory, policy, or practice or will address a specific knowledge gap. As a convention, the research questions, which should not be more than six, must be itemised and must also correspond with the number of specific research objectives raised.

c) Aim and Objectives of the Study:

The 'aim' is the purpose or goal of the study. It consists of a one sentence statement of the purpose of or reason for carrying out the study, which in essence, is a restatement of the title of the study and it flows from the statement of the problem. The aim is usually broken down into specifics, bringing out the specific objectives to be achieved by the study. Each objective must have a transit verb and must be specific and open only to one meaning. Specific objectives should not be too numerous in order not to make the study lose focus. Unlike the aim that is stated in broad terms, the objectives are stated in behavioural, measurable or concrete terms, using words such as define, identify, explain, and recommend. Three to six objectives are

adequate. There is a direct link between research questions and research objectives in terms of both substance and number.

d) Scope and the limitation of the Study

The scope (also known as delimitation) has three dimensions: geographical coverage, content coverage and subject matter coverage. This means that the geographical boundaries to be covered are described. The aspects of the topic to be covered and the subjects are also described. The researcher should state that there are other aspects of the research area that have not been included in the present research and should also explain why he or she has restricted himself or herself to the chosen scope (justification). For instance, one of the reasons could be that the subject area is too wide; therefore, there is a need to limit its scope for effectiveness. The researcher has to delimit or delineate the scope of coverage so that he or she can confine himself/herself within the range in which the research is set to operate. In so doing, the researcher will avoid going into areas that are too broad or too narrow to address the research problem and objectives already identified.

Limitation:

This has to do with the shortcomings, difficulties, challenges or constraints encountered in designing and conducting the research. There is a need not only to state the problems you encountered but also how those problems have impacted on your research. Limitation or challenges encountered may include inadequate funds, time frame, sample size, transport and other logistical challenges, and such other factors that may make it difficult to study all the areas covered by the subject matter.

e) Significance of the Study:

Here, the researcher states the importance, benefits, usefulness, meaningfulness or practical contribution of the research results or findings to particular segments of the society. The study and the expected findings should be of benefit to people generally and should impact on theory, policy and practice or otherwise address an existing knowledge gap. The direct beneficiaries of the research results should be spelt out.

f. Research Approach/Methodology:

This part consists of the research approaches (whether doctrinal and

or non-doctrinal) and method(s) of data collection. Research approach simply means whether research is library-based search (qualitative), through field work (quantitative) Research. Methodology on the other hand, refers to the principles, strategies, theoretical and philosophical frameworks that guide researcher in gathering analysing and presenting data/information. It is the work plan of the researcher in that it serves as a compass that determines what methods and techniques are to be used, and the procedure of using them to achieve the desired purpose and objectives. Therefore, methodology is not just about methods, as the latter is just part of the former. Methods are the tools used to achieve the principles of research methodology. One method or a combination of methods may be adopted by a researcher. The methods include observation, survey, experiment, test, questionnaire, interview, exploratory method, historical method, analytical method, descriptive method, comparative method, etc. A method may also contain one or more techniques, e.g. quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection. Methodology involves about four parts that student researchers have to put into consideration:

- i. Students may have to give short or brief definition or description of what research methodology is all about.
- ii. Provide detail information about the major research approaches - whether doctrinal or non-doctrinal. Briefly explain or define the two major approaches, what they stand for, which one is adopted and justify why you are adopting that approach.
- iii. Indicate the type of legal research methods to be used - historical, analytical, descriptive, comparative analysis; etc. It is good but not mandatory to define the different types of research methods. However, it is mandatory to list the various types of methods before indicating the one adopted, those that best suit your research topic. Students can adopt more than one method, but must also justify why such methods are adopted.
- iv. Students have to indicate types and sources (the **Primary and Secondary**) consulted and their sources. For the purpose of legal research, data or sources of materials are classified into primary and secondary sources. Primary Sources include, the constitution, statutes enacted by federal, state or local authorities

(including subsidiary legislation such as regulations, orders, rules and practice directions), case law, treaties/international agreements; etc. The secondary data or source materials include journals, case reviews, books, treatises, restatements, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, monographs, lecture notes, projects/thesis/dissertations, conference papers, inaugural and distinguished lectures, dailies, periodicals, etc. All sources must be identified and critically but tersely analysed.

In legal research, sourced materials are classified into 'primary' and 'secondary' sources. The purpose of classification is just to show the degree, importance, weight, or authoritative nature attached to the source materials. Primary sources mean the actual legal rules enacted by authorised state authorities whether by substantive legislation or by subsidiary legislation. A primary source states the law as it is, in its original form. Among the primary sources, there is a hierarchy of authoritative nature. Primary sources have binding force on persons, groups, institutions and other entities that are statutorily subject to their provisions. On the other hand, secondary sources refer to commentaries on or analyses of, the primary sources. Secondary sources do not have binding force, but they can have persuasive force in the sense that they can influence legal decisions particularly court opinions and legislative actions.

For emphasis, from the above explanation of 'primary and secondary sources', when law scholars, lawyers and law students make reference to 'primary sources', they are, in effect, referring to sourced materials in law and others and not with respect to data generated from field research in the manner understood in other research fields, such as in education and social sciences.

3. Chapter Two:

It is usually entitled, 'Conceptual, Theoretical Frameworks and literature Review' of the topic being researched into. This chapter has three or four major parts; **the conceptual clarification**; which addresses the issues, nature or principles associated with a research topic. It is an elaboration or definition of the major words of the topic

of the work. The clarification of terms should target the major words in the research topic of the work, by way of definition. **The theoretical framework:** This goes beyond concepts or meanings; it includes historical foundation as well as the principles and ideas upon which the research topic is premised and such other preliminaries relevant to the chosen topic. **The Literature Review:** The literature review is the third major aspect of chapter of both master dissertation and PhD thesis. It is a very important aspect of the research process. As the name implies, it discusses written or published related literature or works on opinions of authorities and/or on results of previous studies. Ideally, the views reviewed should be of scholars or leading authorities in the chosen area of research; however, other pieces of literature may be reviewed as well. Only the essential and relevant aspects of literature are reviewed. A review should be comprehensive in terms of coverage of the subject matter; but it need not be exhaustive in that it literally says everything about the subject matter. Hence a good literature review does basically three things:

1. It analyses, synthesizes and evaluates.
2. It analyses the findings, methodologies and conclusions of previous studies as well as the relationship among those works and the relationship between those works and the current research.
3. It synthesises by identifying areas of controversy and summarizing the results by bringing out the gaps that exist in those works for which the researcher intends to address.

The review evaluates by assessing the significance of the work done so far in the area in relation to the imperative of more research to address existing knowledge gaps. In addition to looking for gaps and weaknesses in a work, the researcher identifies and brings out any part of a reviewed work that supports his or her work. Some questions that should engage the reviewer are as follows:

- (a) What have previous writers said or done on the subject area of research?
- (b) How do the previous studies build on or depart from the current

study? And

- (c) Why and how would the present research bring a unique perspective on the area of study to address existing gaps or weaknesses?

Note: All students are to present the structure of this chapter in the same way irrespective of differences in their choice of topics.

Students are enjoined to use journals, books and articles (both in print and online) for their literature reviews; but more of the reviewed materials should come from peer-reviewed journals. Hard copies of textbooks and online publications are also preferred to the freelance online writers that may be subjective and grossly inadequate for empirical research. For instance, students are discouraged from relying on Wikipedia as sources for the purpose of research.

4. Chapter Three

It is the re-statement of the main research topic or the subject matter of research for thorough examination and critical analysis. This chapter addresses the framework or some other basis of the research topic. It also involves a thorough analysis of other issues relating to the topic. This is often where the focus of researcher lies for critical analysis of the chosen topic. It usually constitutes the largest of the five chapters of the master dissertation or of the six chapters of PhD in legal research.

5. Chapter Four

This chapter could be a continuation of the topic or subject matter under chapter three, addressing the application and enforcement of topic under discussion. This chapter also focuses on the problems and challenges associated with the research topic. At this stage, the student already has a clearer understanding of the subject matter of his or her research topic, upon which recommendations are to be made in chapter five. However as pointed out earlier student researcher has the final say on what this chapter should contain so far it logical and rhyme with previous chapters, is also being followed up by the supervisor.

6. Chapter Five:

This is the final chapter for the Master which is titled as 'CONCLUSION.' Under master dissertation, the chapter contains the summary of findings, recommendations, contribution to knowledge, Suggested Areas for Further Studies and Conclusion.

However, in PhD, Chapter five is a continuation of analysis of the PhD thesis. This may require critical analysis and examination of challenges associated with the chosen research topic. This means this chapter may address the problems or challenges impeding the application of the law in relation to the research topic. Depending on the nature of the topic, students are also encouraged to do some comparative analysis in terms of inter-jurisdictional, international and/or transnational perspectives as they relate to the aim and objectives of the research. However as pointed out earlier student research has the final say on what this chapter should contain so far it logical and rhyme with previous chapters.

7. Chapter Six (for PhD Thesis only)

This chapter is entitled 'CONCLUSION'. The chapter contains summary of findings. Recommendations, Contribution to Knowledge, Suggested Areas for Further Studies and Conclusion. **Note that the final chapters (five for master or six for PhD) either under doctrinal or non-doctrinal approaches are prepared in similar manner. Also, every chapter starts on a fresh page.**

8. Bibliography and Appendices (if any) are presented at the end of the whole exercise with the heading 'BIBLIOGRAPHY' written separately from chapter five and on a fresh page. Appendices (if any) are also placed on separate page(s) after bibliography.

3.2 Non-Doctrinal Approach to Research Writing.

This is the scientific approach to empirical investigation and scientific data collection using scientific techniques for critical analysis and data presentation of an identified research topic. The non-doctrinal adopts empirical approach through field work. Methods of research include, research designs, population sampling, involving the use of research techniques such interview with

structure/unstructured questionnaires, experimental designs with observations which may include the participation or non-participation of the researchers; (participant and non-participant). At the end of data collection, data are processed through special research instruments to produce results for final presentation. The method under this approach is basically referred to as the quantitative analysis. It is a longer process but more scientific way of carrying out a reliable and dependable research work under strict scientific measures.

In non-doctrinal, hypothesis is generated, which at the end of the research will be verified, justified or disqualified. For this type of research, questionnaires, public opinion, opinion polls, interviews, etc. are used as techniques or methods for generating data which are empirically analysed and verified in order to draw a conclusion. For instance, under the non-doctrinal approach, research may set out to ascertain the desirability or otherwise of the death sentence for armed robbery, rape, terrorism, kidnapping, corruption and other related crimes, in order to find measures to reduce or control and prevent these incessant crimes in Nigeria.

It suffices to say that law as an interdisciplinary or a multi-disciplinary subject warrant that legal scholars should continue to explore both doctrinal and non-doctrinal (empirical) approaches to teaching and research in legal education in all ramifications. In conclusion, law being an interdisciplinary subject and given the complexity of the modern society with the attendant sophistications, decision making with respect to law-making may be highly subjective if it results merely from doctrinal or qualitative analysis. Hence, there is a need for paradigm shift to more empirical research in law using both doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches to address both legal and non-legal/socio-legal issues.

As mentioned earlier, students are generally allowed to adopt the doctrinal approach, which is basically applicable to legal research and which law students should have been exposed to during the teaching of legal research methodology. However, PG students are encouraged to adopt both doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches, provided they have sound knowledge and have been exposed to the approach as obtained in the social sciences field.

It is worth noting that most students of law especially in Nigeria are not exposed to this non-doctrinal approach to research writing, partly due to the nature of law which is purely normative seeking for interpretations rather than being analytical like social sciences and field of sciences. We shall briefly discuss some of the features of both the approaches for clarity and for the purpose of research writings

In legal research, the doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches have similarities and dissimilarities. Where a student, (especially the PhD students) wishes to adopt both doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches, they are to take into consideration the slight differences in the structuring and presentation of the research project topics. Below are the similarities and dissimilarities:

i. The formats under the doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches are similar in the following:

- a. Both still contain six chapters with similar structures as obtained under the doctrinal approach.
- b. Chapter one of non-doctrinal approach has features like those of doctrinal approach
- c. Chapters one and six under non doctrinal are the same as under doctrinal formats except for the few differences.
- d. Chapter two (2) is devoted to literature review theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the subject matter of research. Note: This chapter two is a place for the review of related literature in the field of study. The contents here are similar to literature review under doctrinal approach. However, the reviews here is a bit more elaborate, and are subdivided into sub-titles under non doctrinal.

ii. The formats under the doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches are different in the following:

- a. Under non-doctrinal approach, chapter three is devoted to data collection and research methodology, while chapter three under doctrinal is devoted to the main topic of the research. This chapter is unique only to empirical research in non-doctrinal. Therefore, the research techniques must be followed strictly
- b. Chapters four and five are devoted to data analysis,

- presentation of results and discussions under non-doctrinal
- c. Under doctrinal, Chapter five contains critical analysis and examination of challenges associated with a chosen research topic. It may also include a comparative survey of other jurisdictions on the subject matter.

3.2.1 Chapter Structure Analysis under Non-Doctrinal

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY
- 1.2 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS (Followed by not more than 5-6 Research Questions)
 - 1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY (OBJECTIVES) (followed by not more than 5-6 Assumptions of the study Most at time research questions are turned to objectives)
 - 1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATION
 - 1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
 - 1.6 SYNOPSIS OF THE CHAPTERS

CHAPTER TWO CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1.1 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS
- 1.2 THEORETICAL AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
- 1.3 LITERATURE REVIEW

Note: each sub-main title above can still be further broken down into sub-sub-titles, depending on the numbers of concepts as in '2.1' above.

2.1 Conceptual framework: defining and explaining common terms and issues in the area of law you are researching on.

2.1.1 Definition of Terms

2.2 Theoretical framework; explaining the jurisprudential basis, theories and principles guiding your field of study in law and justifying how they apply to your research.

2.2.1 Historical Foundation

2.2.2 Theoretical Foundation (Note you can still have sub-sub-sub smallest unit that you can label; a, b, c, ... or i, ii, iii, etc.)

2.3 Literature review/Empirical Framework: previous studies of learned and other writers related to your topic of study.

CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter is unique as there is no equivalent structure under doctrinal approach in legal research. This chapter contains both the primary and secondary data collections
(See details below.)

CHAPTER FOUR DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

CHAPTER FIVE/SIX CONCLUSION

- 5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
- 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS,
- 5.3 CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE
- 5.4 SUGGESTED AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDIES
- 5.5 CONCLUSION

Note: Researcher should be careful not to exaggerate findings. Hence, the conclusion must be drawn from the logical presentation of

the research work.

3.2.2 Short Explanatory notes on Chapters under Non-Doctrinal Approach

Please Note: This information is applicable only to master and PhD Candidates who desire to carry out empirical legal research using non-doctrinal approach.

It should be noted that legal research is yet to develop full capacities to teach students the in-depth of this social science non-doctrinal approach to legal research writing. There is also the challenge of getting external examiners in law field to examining students who wishes to go solely on empirical. Therefore, while this field may be attractive, the academic lawyers and student researchers must thread or toy this line with caution so as not to lose focus on legal research with its own peculiarities and uniqueness. Any student who wishes to conduct this empirical research need to make a special request for a co-supervisor for his or her project research from the faculty of social science.

Chapter One: Introduction: This chapter, like in doctrinal approach, addresses diverse issues of general nature and is highly technical. Students must be well informed that this aspect is crucial to their project writings at all levels. Therefore, researchers must endeavour to adhere to the technical requirements involved in order to get the desired results. As a matter of fact, this chapter anchors the remaining parts of research project writing. The main contents of Chapter One include the following:

(1) Background to the Study: This should include a short historical background and events that culminated into the choice of research problem. Here also, there should be a brief description of the area of the study. This is the same as under Doctrinal

(2) Statement of the Problem” (This chapter presents the ideal situation or the situation which heralds the problem or a gap which is

dissatisfying to you (as much as possible the problem should be backed up with empirical, theoretical and practical evidence),

(3) Purpose of the Study: This is generally referred to as the aim and objectives of the study. It focuses on the reasons, goals, or rationale for doing the research. This consists of one sentence, which is a restatement of the title of the study and is hinged on the research problem. (This consists of one sentence which is a restatement of the title of the study and it follows from the statement of the problem. This purpose is usually broken down into specifics bringing out the specific objectives to be achieved by this study. Each objective must have a transit verb and must be specific and open only to one meaning. Specific objectives should not be too numerous in other not to take the study lose focus. Four to six objectives are adequate)

(4) Research Questions (These are complete interrogative statements that emanate from the specific objective. As a convention, the questions must correspond with the specific objectives).

(5) Hypothesis(es) (Hypothesis is a preliminary assumption or tentative explanation that accounts for a set of facts, taken to be true for the purpose of investigations and testing. Any assumption raised should be based on already identified independent and dependent variables).

- a. As much as possible, the 'hypothesis' should be backed up with some empirical, theoretical and practical evidence. As explained earlier, the 'hypothesis' is also backed up by research questions.
- b. At the end of the research, the research results are to be tested against the hypothesis to find out whether the hypothesis has been proved right or not.

(6) Significance of the Study: This states the importance or benefits of the study and the expected findings to people. The researcher should spell out those to benefit from the study and how such benefits will be derived by them.

(7) Scope (delimitation) and the limitations of the Study: First, the

scope has three dimensions: geographical coverage, content coverage and subject coverage. In this part, the geographical boundaries to be covered are described and the aspects of the topic to be covered and subjects are also described. There is a need to state why you have so delimited yourself with respect to the scope of study. The reason may be due to time frame, space, fund, etc.

Secondly, the limitations refer to the challenges countered such as, funds, time frame, and such other factors that make/made the study difficult to execute.

(8) *Synopsis of the Chapters:* This part contains the division of the research project work into chapters and its sub-titles and the brief or concise description of what each chapter contains. Here, the researcher highlights the major contents of every chapter, such that at a glance, any person reading through it can have a general sense of the substance of the work. This is a very critical area of a research project. It is the very foundation of any research writing whereby, the thoughts must be constructively designed and structurally arranged in sequences and in a logical order. Thus, to write a meaningful research project, the topic must be broken down into parts and arranged in logical order in order to arrive at logical conclusion.

Chapter Two: Literature Review, the Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of the Study.

This chapter contain the following clearly designated parts: (1) Theoretical framework - this contains issues, nature or principles associated with the research topic. (2) Conceptual framework of the research topic, such as definitions, historical background and development of the research topic under consideration. (3) Empirical framework of previous field or empirical studies. This is also a place for the review of related literature in the field of study. (4) The concluding portion of this part would contain the summary of review of relevant/related literature, and gap in knowledge. This is similar to literature review under chapter one under doctrinal approach in terms of the contents.

Chapter Three: Research Methodology: This chapter is unique as there is no equivalent structure under doctrinal approach in legal research. This chapter contains both the primary and secondary data collections:

1. **Data collection and research design:** The design to be adopted in the study should be indicated. The Meaning and, of course, one of the components of this design should be indicated to justify the adoption of the design.
2. **Population:** Population should be specific and identifiable. Therefore, the source needs to be stated.
3. **Sample and sampling techniques:** Sample should be stated and specific. The method(s) used in drawing the sample should be described convincingly.
4. **Instrument for data collection.** The source of the instrument which might be in the form of questionnaire, interview schedule, observation schedule, or any other standard method of data collection has to be indicated and arranged in parts or sections.
5. It is necessary to describe the instrument and how it was developed.
6. **Validation of the instrument:** Note that the research instrument(s) should be validated by at least three experts. Make three or more copies of the instrument and give them to the experts for the validation. Note that the supervisor is not part of the validation process. More so that only very few legal researchers are exposed to this type of research approach. Therefore, student researchers who wish to adopt the non-doctrinal approach are encouraged to consult widely among social sciences researchers/lecturers who are grounded in empirical research, to be properly guided.
7. **Reliability of the Instrument.** After validation, the instrument should be tested for consistency in measuring what it intends to measure. The method to be adopted is dependent on the nature and type of instrument adopted.
8. **Method of data collection:** Is it by interview, questionnaire, or observation technique? The researcher must describe how he or she obtained data for the study. This may include how you reached the respondents and the approach used in administering

copies of the instrument and how they were retrieved.

9. **Method of data analysis:** The analysis is based on the type of data collected. Just as researchers are obliged to use research methods from among the different methods that best address their research topics, so also there are different types of methods of data analysis from which students are advised to discover the analytical methods that is most suitable for their data analysis.
10. Note, it is advisable that law students consult widely within the Faculty for a competent supervisor and possibly from among the social science lecturers on how the empirical studies are conducted before embarking on the doctrinal approach.

Chapter Four: Data Analysis, Presentation, Results and Discussions: This chapter presents a summary of data generated through field work research contain:

- (1) Data presentation and results and
- (2) Discussion. The findings are presented, according to the research questions and hypothesis (if any) that guided the study.
- (3) Presentations of findings are made in tabular forms and are interpreted in words.
- (4) Explain how your findings answered the research questions/proved the hypotheses in chapter one.
- (5) In addition to discussion, students must show how the findings relate to existing literature in chapter two. That is to say, is the finding consistent with what obtains in literature?
- (6) How has the study helped to resolve the original problem?
- (7) What is the implication of the finding for the development of the field of study in law or to legal jurisprudence generally?
Etc.

Chapter Five: The main contents of **chapter four** above constitute the chapters four and five for the PhD structures

Chapter Six: Conclusion

The content under this chapter is the same for **chapter five** the final chapter under the master dissertation. This chapter contains the

following:

- i. A brief summary of what has been achieved under the research project - the restatement the purpose of the research topic, description of the Research design (for research population samples, and all the research instruments adopted for carrying out the research topic) and the findings.
- ii. The second part presents the major observations derived from the general discussions and or summary of your findings.
- iii. Next are the recommendations. These are also based on findings and observations. Here, it is good to make all observations point-by-point so that each recommendation will be based on each general finding. Avoid making any unrealistic recommendations.
- iv. After the recommendations, make your Suggestions for Further Studies/Research.
- v. Next is that the student researcher needs to make few paragraphs indicating specific areas of contribution to knowledge.
- vi. Finally, there is need for subheading for conclusive remarks not more than half a page or two to three paragraphs concluding the whole research exercises.

3.2.3 Bibliography and Appendices:

They are presented at the end of the whole exercise with no numbering assigned to each of them.

'Bibliography' is the chronological alphabetical listing of the various sources consulted. **An appendix** contains among other things, the instruments like questionnaires and some other statistical tables sourced from other sources other than the field work generated by the researcher. They are placed on a separate page after bibliography.

CHAPTER FOUR

NALT CITATION GUIDELINES AND STYLE OF REFERENCING

4.1 INTRODUCTION

As observed under the preamble, the Law Faculties in Nigeria has neither standard format nor uniform citation guide for research writing in law that is indigenous to legal research writing in Nigeria. The available ones that are relevant to legal research, such as MLA, Blue Book OSCOLA and etc; are not only foreign, but they were not uniformly applied to the various Law Faculties, such as obtained in the social sciences, humanities and education Faculties. On further enquiries the NALT's Committee discovered that some faculties of law are already using MLA and OSCOLA or APA or a mixture of both as their In-House style for most of their format and style for citing all their research writing and local legal authorities.

One fundamental issue that is evident in both styles is that they are insufficient or inadequate to address some of the local issues in our legal research writing and presentations. However, because of the flexibility and the user friendliness in both styles, and more so that majority of the Law Faculties were already familiarised with both styles; the Committee of Deans and Directors accepted as recommended by the NALT's Committee that the features, technicalities and principles of MLA format and OSCOLA citation style should be adapted instead of creating a new style; but with variations as follow:

- a. Retains the OSCOLA Style without tampering with all its features, principles and technicalities.
- b. replace all foreign names with local names of senior Academicians who by one way or the other would have written articles in peer reviewed Journals and have written and published books or is capable of writing books in the future which could serve as illustrations for the citation guides;
- c. All foreign cases, the statutes, rules and regulations, etc., to be replaced with the local ones where possible for user friendliness.

By this, it means NALT accepted the above with its variability, which was subsequently approved and ratified at the NALT Conference held at Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti (AUAD 2015). Hence, the NALT Uniform Citation Guide adapts and operates with 'Footnotes' style of referencing whereby Arabic numerals are used (in superscripts) in the body of the essay to identify sources of document consulted, or the issues sought to be clarified or emphasised. This means that, every source cited must be reflected at the foot of each page (with Arabic numeral-1, 2, 3...) to see at a glance, all information concerning the sources referred to with the Arabic numeral in the text.

This choice was well informed because 'footnotes' has added advantages to legal writing; apart from citing cases, articles in journal and text books and other relevant materials, footnote can be used to refer readers to plausible explanations of some legal sources of materials and especially, some foreign or Latin maxims or information at the end of each page in a clear and consistent way without interrupting the free flow of the body of the essay.

4.1.1 General Tips on Documentation of Materials Consulted

a. NALT's citation guide uses punctuation marks minimally. For example, no full stop come after abbreviations. Examples:

i. Laws of Federation of Nigeria **can be abbreviated as LFN instead of L.F.N.**

ii. The abbreviation 'FWLR' stands for 'Federation Weekly Law Reports' while 'NWLR' Stands for 'Nigeria Weekly Law Reports'

b. **In citing of cases, 'v' (without a full stop) is used in place of 'versus' or 'vs', for parties to a case.** Moreover, no full stops are used in the abbreviation of the title of the law report and the part of the law report. Example:

Abacha v Fawehinmi [2000] FWLR (Pt 4)533;

Ezenkwanko v The State [2015] 2 NWLR (Pt 1443) 265.

c. Where more than one citation is given in a single footnote reference, separate them with **semi-colons (;)**, Example:

Patrick Ndubisi Oche, *Petroleum Law in Nigeria: Arrangements for Upstream Operations* (Heirs Great Commission 2003); Vearumun

Vitalis Tarhule, *Corrections under Nigerian Law* (Innovative Communications 2014).

d. In referring to a book, a journal article, etc., a **comma** (,) is used to separate the name of the author/co-authors from the title of the work. Examples:

Okoh Alubo, *Criminal Procedure Law in Nigeria* (Innovative Communications 2012).

D O Adesiyan, *An Accused Person's Rights in Nigerian Criminal Law* (Heinemann Educational Books Nig.Plc 1996).

Bethel Uzoma Ihugba, *Introduction to Legal Research Method and Legal Writing* (Malthouse Press, 2020)

John Funsho Olorunfemi, Benson Ayodele Oloworaran & Jide Jimoh, *The Right to Know: An introduction to the Nigerian freedom of Information Act.* (Port Harcourt: Institute of Human Capacity Development and Continuing Education, 2018).

e. **Online Sources:** If you source a publication online which is also available in hard copy, cite the hard copy version. Publication which is only online should end with the web address in angle brackets (<>), followed by the date of the most recent access
Examples:

Anyago Uluocha, 'New Frontiers for law library services in the digital environment' *Benue Journal of Library Management and Information Science* (2012) 2(1&2) 25-28 (Note, if this is an **Online Journals:** add the web address and date of last access

Example for online: Bethel Uzoma Ihugba, 'Reclaiming the People's Will in Constitution Alteration Process: An Analysis of Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria Constitutions' *Rivers State University, Faculty of Law, Journal of Law & Policy* (2021) (1) (4) 50-70
<<http://www.peer-reviewed-journals.com/journal-of-law-and-policy.html>> accessed 30 September 2021

f. A colon (:) is used to separate a title from a subtitle, Example:

Martin U Gasiokwu, *Legal Research and Methodology The A-Z of Writing Theses and Dissertations in a Nutshell*; will be written such that there will be a colon just after 'Methodology', thus: Martin U Gasiokwu, *Legal Research and Methodology: The A-Z of Writing Theses and Dissertations in a Nutshell...*; The researcher can insert the colon even where the author has not done so.

Awele L. Ikobi-Anyali, *Managing Non-Performing Loans in Nigeria : an Appraisal of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria, (AMCON) Nnamdi Azikiwe University Journal of Commercial and Property Law (2020)(7)(1) 27-41*

g. **Citing of Cases:** Case names should be in italics and (except for the first letters of the names) in lower case, including the 'v'. Example: *Adetayo v Bamidele* (2007) 30 NSCQR 915.

h. In a **case report**, depending on the style used by the particular law report, both square and round brackets or either of them, may be used. In some law reports, both sets of brackets are used, while in others only one set is used: one for the year and the other for the part. **Examples:** [2015] 2 NWLR (Pt 1443). Researchers can always cite the case the exact way it is cited from its original source. May be for ease of use round or square bracket can be used consistently instead of adopting both in the same citation

i. **Citation of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999:** In the first instance, it should be cited in full, with the word 'as amended' attached to it. This mode of citation relates exclusively to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. Subsequently, it may be cited by way of acronym, i.e. CFRN 1999 (as amended); or by some other descriptive words such as, 'the 1999 Constitution'.

j. **Citation of Statutes:** Statutes should be cited by their **short titles (as indicated in the statutes themselves)**, using capitals for the major words:

i. Child Rights Act, 2003;

- ii. Evidence Act, 2011.
- iii. Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.

Note: Remember to cite the chapter under which the statute is codified, e.g, Evidence Act, 2011. Cap 50 or if it has not been codified, the statute number and year of its making. Where appropriate, the title of a statute may be written in the footnote. Or cite the provision of statute as it appears in the statute. Thus, while citing a statute, the following principles should be observed:

- i. Where the title of the statute is **short**, its **full title** should be written in the **first instance and should be used repeatedly**.
Example: the University of Jos Act.
- ii. Where the title of the statute is lengthy, the full title should be used in text. Subsequently, the acronyms or some other descriptive words should be used, which must be introduced at the first instance of citation and then used consistently throughout the work.

Example: The Allocation of Revenue (Abolition of Dichotomy in the Application of the Principle of Derivation) Act, when written in full at the first instance, may subsequently be referred to as AR (ADAPD) Act; or by the descriptive words, 'Allocation of Revenue Act'; provided that whatever acronym is adopted, the word 'Act' (and by extension, 'Law', 'Rule', 'Treaty', etc. as the case may be) must appear in full as a separate word.

a. Where a statute, treaty or any other legal instrument are cited in the footnote, they should be cited in full as codified. For example, the citation of 'University of Jos Act' is codified as 'Cap U8 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. This should be reflected as such at the footnote. **Examples:** i. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Third Alteration) Act, 2010 (Act No 3); ii. Freedom of Information Act, 2011 (Act No 4)

b. Rules of Court and Practice Directions should be cited in

accordance with their titles, including their years of making.
Example: High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2016; Practice Direction 2016.

c. Parts and sections, subsections and paragraphs, etc.

Pieces of legislation are divided into parts, sections, subsections, paragraphs and subparagraphs, orders, rules (the last two examples usually relate to rules of court and to practice directions). A piece of legislation may also have schedules. Usually, only the words 'section' or 'order' or 'rule' is expressly written in the citation, while the other aspects of the citation (subsections and paragraphs/sub-paragraphs; etc.) are written in figures, Roman numerals, letters, or by other symbols as may be apparent on the statute. Copy them out the way they are presented in the document where practicable.

For example, a statute that has a section, a sub-section, and a paragraph, may be written as follows: section 4(1)(a)(i).

However, where it becomes necessary to use words to describe some components of a statute, the following are recommended for use, thus:

Part/parts, abbreviated as pt/pts;

Section/sections, abbreviated as s/ss;

Subsection/subsections, abbreviated as sub-s/sub-ss;

Paragraph/paragraphs, abbreviated as para/paras;

Schedule/schedules, abbreviated as sch/schs.

Note: As much as possible, the abbreviations should be used only in the footnotes.

**4.1.2 Quick Summary to NALT Uniform Citation Guidelines
Style of Referencing**

- a. Citing of Cases:** *Abacha v. Fawehinmi* [2000] FWLR (Pt 4)533; *Ezenkwanko v The State* [2015] 2 NWLR (Pt 1443) 265.
- b. Unreported Cases:** *The State v Airwaves Communications Ltd.* (FHC/J/CRC/10/2015, Federal High Court Jos Judicial Division, 17 June 2016). Or simply add as unreported. Where the

parties are individuals, omit fore names and initials and insert only surname: Zechariah & 8 others v Registered Trustees of Royal Club...

- c. **Separate more than one citations with semi colon:** *Abacha v Fawehinmi* [2000] FWLR (Pt 4)533; Vearumun Vitalis Tarhule, *Corrections under Nigerian Law* (Innovative Communications 2014).
Use Comma to separate authors name from work title: Owoeye Jide, The effects of bibliography on Prisoners: A study of Ikoyi Prison, Lagos. *Lagos Journal of Information science*, (2007)(3)(2), 89-96
- d. **Online sources:** add the web address and date of last access. E.g. <<http://www.peer-reviewed-journals.com/journal-of-law-and-policy.html>> accessed 30 September 2021
- e. **Use colon (:)** to separate a title from a subtitle: Martin U Gasiokwu, *Legal Research and Methodology: The A-Z of Writing Theses and Dissertations in a Nutshell....*
- f. **Citation of Acts including Constitution:** Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and subsequently, CFRN 1999 or the Constitution, 1999 Constitution when properly defined.
- g. **Footnote citations should be in full:** Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Third Alteration) Act, 2010 (Act No 3); Freedom of Information Act, 2011 (Act No 4).
- h. **Citing Parts and sections, subsections and paragraphs, etc.** Section 4(1) (a) (i). Part/parts, abbreviation pt/pts; Section/sections, abbreviation s/ss; Subsection/subsections, abbreviation sub-s/sub-ss;; Paragraph/paragraphs, abbreviated as para/paras; Schedule/schedules, abbreviation sch/schs.
- i. **Electronic Law Report:** Cite as indicated on the report itself.
- j. **Text Books:** Example: Bethel Uzoma Ihugba, *Introduction to Legal Research Method and Legal Writing* (Malthouse Press, 2020)
- k. Two authors: Ogwo B & Olong M, *Land Law in Nigeria* (2nd edn. Faith Printers International 2013). If authors are more than 3, put the 1st author's name and add, etal
- l. Sarinus Etor Kabo, *Child Rights Law and Practice Nigeria* (Ababa Press 2021)

- m. Encyclopedias: Halsbury's Laws (5th edn, 2010) vol 57, para 15
- n. **Monograph, Lecture notes, Conference papers/proceedings**
Lecture note: Patrick Ndubisi Oche, *A Critique of the Petroleum Industry Bill* (A Lecture Note prepared for graduate students and final year undergraduate students of the Faculty of Law, University of Jos 2015).
- o. **Conference paper:** Alphonsus O Alubo and others, 'Plea Bargain Mechanism in the Judicial Determination of Corruption Cases: A Critical Inter-Jurisdictional Assessment' (A conference proceedings of the 46th annual conference of the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers, held at the Auditorium and Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin from 22nd to 26th April 2013), 235-271.
- p. **Commission or white paper Report and law commission report:** Department for national Development War College. 'Eliminating Security Threats to Human Life and Property: Building on our Common. Future in Nigeria (white paper com 342, 2023) ch 2 or, Law Commission, Reforming criminal Law (Law Com No 13 2013) Para5.12-5.15.
- q. **Articles in Journals:** E I Alemika, 'Criminal Justice System and Respect for Human Rights: Problems and Imperative for Reform'. *Human Rights Review: An International Human Rights Journal* [2011] (12) (2)25. (Note, If this is an **Online Journals:** add the web address and date of last access as in (E) above.)
- r. **Periodicals/Dailies-Newspapers/magazines:** JN Aduba, 'Constitutionalism and Citizenship: What is the Way Forward?' *New Era Magazine* (Lagos, 13 October 2012)10; If editorial, cite as: Editorial, 'Sad Return of Polio' *Sunday Standard* (Jos, 21 August 2016) 2; If **online** add the web address and date of last access as in (e) above.
- s. **Projects, Master's Dissertations and PhD Theses:** Matthias Zechariah, *Genocide under International Criminal Law: Past, Present and Future Concerns in Africa* (LLM Dissertation Faculty of Law University of Jos 2011)
- t. **Inaugural Lectures and Distinguished Lecture Series:** Dakas CJ *from Constitutions to Constitutionalism: A Constitutional Imperative in Nigeria* (Being the Ben Nwabueze Distinguished

Professor of Law Lecture presented in Abuja, Nigeria on 18th November 2013).

4.2. NALT Citation Proper

5.2.1 Citation of Primary Sources

These sources include statutes (or pieces of legislation), treaties and other international agreements, case law (i.e. judicial decisions); etc. The general styles for citing these source materials are as stated above; hence, they are not repeated here except for citation of cases:

a. Citation of Cases Reported in Law Reports

Provide the following information:

Name of parties in italics, [year reported, in brackets]; volume number; (part number, in brackets) page(s), or range of pages, as appropriate. **Where a law report does not have the style of citation shown above, use the citation provided in that law report.**

Use italics for the name of the case, with an unpunctuated italic 'v' to separate the names of the adverse parties. **Examples:**

- i. *Okoye v Lagos State Govt.* [1990] 3 NWLR (Pt 136) 115;
- ii. *IGP v Adedeji* [1957] WRNLR 178.

However, it is better to cite the law report the way it is recorded in the law report itself. Note that after a full citation of a case has been made, for subsequent citations or reference to that case, the short form of citation may be adopted by the researcher, and this has to be maintained consistently where the case is cited three or more times. For instance, the case *Ekoebor v Police Council* (2003) LRCN 107 may be subsequently cited in a shorter form such as, in '*Ekoebor's case*', or simply, '*Ekeobor*'.

b. Unreported Cases

When a case is not reported, it should be cited as follows: Name of parties to the case in italics/; then the remaining information should be enclosed in the same brackets: suit/case number, name of court that decided the case and date of delivery of the decision and the court respectively. **Examples:** *The State v Airwaves Communications Ltd.* (FHC/J/CRC/10/2015, Federal High Court Jos Judicial Division, 17

June 2016). Or simply add as unreported

For law reports, the names of parties should be as indicated in the law report. But if it is unreported case, where there are three or more parties to a case, **provide, the name of the first plaintiff/claimant/accused person/petitioner/applicant, or appellant, etc. and the first defendant/respondent. In either case, provide the surname of the party and add 'and [specify number] others'**. Where the parties are individuals, **omit fore names and initials and insert only surname.**

Examples (hypothetical): *Zechariah & 8 others v Registered Trustees of Royal Club...*

Abbreviate common words and phrases; Example: use **Co for Company**, but do not put a full stop after such abbreviations.

Use **Re** in preference to **In Re...** or **In the Matter of...** For example use:

- i. **Re the Companies Act 2004...** rather than *In the matter of the Companies Act 2004....*, or in *re: matter of the Companies Act 2004....*
- ii. **Re Effiong Okon Ata...**
- iii. **Re Estate of Agboruja (1949) 19 NLR 38.**

Abbreviate **Ex parte** (on behalf of) to **Ex p** with a capital 'E' only if it is the first word of the case name. No full stop should be placed after the 'p'.

c. Electronic Law Report

A case reported electronically (e.g. as in Law Pavilion) should be cited the way it is indicated on the report itself, possibly including the website.

There is also a **recognised order of authority in case reporting**; the abbreviated form should always be given. Some of these law reports are:

- Ø Supreme Court of Nigeria Judgments (SCNJ);
- Ø Nigerian Supreme Court Quarterly Law Reports (NSCQR);
- Ø Nigerian Investments and Securities Law Reports (NISLR);
- Ø Weekly Law Reports (WLR).

- Ø Law Reports of Courts of Nigeria (LRCN).
- Ø Nigerian Weekly Law Report (NWLR).
- Ø Economic Crimes Law Report (ECLR).

4.3.2 Citation of Secondary Sources

These include textbooks, monographs, government publications, articles in peer reviewed journals, case reviews, periodicals and dailies, edited works, projects, theses and dissertations, online sources, inaugural and distinguished lectures.

1. Textbooks

Generally, for authored books, you cite the author's surname with initials or full names followed by a comma, and then the title of the book in italics, (edition, publisher and year of publication all in brackets or parenthesis place of publication).

Examples:

1. Obaje Enemaku, *Introduction to Nigerian Criminal Law and Procedure* (SAMATRDE Lagos 2007)

2. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, *Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change and Extractive Resource Management in Africa* (Ahmadu Bello University Press Limited Zaria 2017). In bibliography, it will now be cited as follows:

Ladan MT, *Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change and Extractive Resource Management in Africa* (Ahmadu Bello University Press Limited Zaria 2017)

a. Books edited by two people or more, up to three:

To cite a particular chapter in a book edited by one or more people, cite the author and title of the contribution in a similar format as used when citing an article, in a journal, followed by the editor's name (use 'ed' or 'eds'), the title in italics, and the publication information:

- v Example: Author, 'title' in editor (ed), book title, (additional information, publisher year).
- v Examples: David Jangkam, 'The Value of Authorship in the Digital Environment' in Clement Francis Kwede and Karen

Shaakaa (eds), *Worldwide Research: Reshaping the Sciences and Humanities in the Century of Information* (MIT, 2010) 62

- v Bethel U Ihugba, 'Resolution of Farmland Disputes and Agricultural Development: An Examination of the Judicial System in Settlement of Farmland Disputes' in Rhuks T. Ako and Damilola S. Olawuyi (eds) *Food and Agriculture Law: Readings on Sustainable Agriculture and the Law in Nigeria* (Afe Babalola University Press, Ado Ekiti, 2015)48. **(Note, page numbers stand-alone without p or pp. If citing a chapter with a page number, include a comma before the page number. Where possible, specify the range of pages.**
- v Guobadia DA and Akper PT, *Foreign Investment Promotion in a Globalised World* (NIALS Abuja 2007).
- v Fatima Waziri-Azi and Ibe Okegbe Ifeakandu, *Gender Inequality: A Review of Fulfilment of Nigeria's Commitments to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995-2020)* (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing 2021)

b. Books Authored by People with Titles:

Give the author's name exactly as it appears in the publication, omitting 'post nominals' , prefix or titles, such as Mr. Mrs. Dr. Professor, Hon. Justice, Rev. Bishop, Alhaji, Hajiya, Chief, As he then was, and etc.

Example: If Professor Alhaji Yusuf Aboki (SAN) has written a book on Jurisprudence Law in Nigeria (ABU Press 2008); the citation under footnote will be: Yusuf Aboki, *Jurisprudence Law in Nigeria* (ABU Press 2008); while citation under Bibliography will be: Aboki Y.....;

eg, Hajiya (Mrs) Jemima Nasir, *The Law of Contract in Nigeria*, will be cited under footnote as: Jemima Nasir, *The Law of Contract in Nigeria* (Gbile Publishers 2000), while citation under bibliography would be: Nasir, J...

c. Book with or without Additional Information. All additional information should be in parenthesis or bracket. Example; the citation will be: Jerome Gamaliel, *Administrative Law* (Evan Publications 2009), the first case has no additional information. The

2nd has additional information, like, 2nd edn, | publisher |year). For example, Akper Peter, *The Law of Petroleum in Nigeria: A critique* (2nd edn, Sweet & Maxwell 2012)

For two authors, insert 'and' between their names as in the following example: MT Ladan and Y Babanle, *International Humanitarian Law: cases and Materials* (2nd edn, Spectrum Publication 2010).

For more than three authors, give the details of the first author and add 'and others', in the following format: **CA Omaka, and others**, *Municipal and International Environmental Law*. (LUC Publishers 2012) while citation under bibliography would be: Omaka C and others.

d. If a book has a title and a subtitle not separated by punctuation, add a colon. For example: Example; A book written by Professor M.O.U. Gasiokwu with sub-title: Human Rights, History, Ideology and Law; will be cited under footnote as: MOU Gasiokwu, *Human Rights: History, Ideology and Law* (Mono Expression Ltd. 2001) while citation under bibliography would be: Gasiokwu, MOU....

In footnotes, the author's first name or initial precedes their surname (E.g. Tolulope Ogboru). In bibliographies, the surname comes first, then the initial, followed by a comma. E.g. Ogboru TO, Titles of books and similar publications are italicised. The first letter of all major words in a title should be in capitals, minor words such as 'an' 'a' and 'of' do not need to be capitalised unless they begin the title or subtitle. (E.g. Dominic Asada, *Law of Taxation in Nigeria*).

If there is no individual author, but an organisation or institution, cite them as the author. E.g., Faculty of Law, Vista book of Reading... If there is no author or organisation/ institution, start the citation with the title. E.g., Vista book of Reading in Law...

II. Monograph, Lecture notes, Conference papers/proceedings

i. Monograph is cited like text book. (See 'a' above)

ii. For lecture notes, the name of the author and the title of the material would be in the same format as the one for a book. The

remaining information will describe the nature of the document and, possibly, the date it was issued.

Example: Patrick Ndubisi Oche, *A Critique of the Petroleum Industry Bill* (A Lecture Note prepared for graduate students and final year undergraduate students of the Faculty of Law, University of Jos 2015).

iii. Conference paper, is cited thus: the first name or initial(s), the surname, followed by the title of the paper in single quotation marks; then in brackets, indicate the occasion, place and date of presentation; then outside the brackets, you may indicate the page number or range, in that order:

v **Example1:** Alphonsus O Alubo and others, 'Plea Bargain Mechanism in the Judicial Determination of Corruption Cases: A Critical Inter-Jurisdictional Assessment' (A conference proceedings of the 46th annual conference of the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers, held at the Auditorium and Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin from 22nd to 26th April 2013)235-271.

Example2: UM Shu'aib and J Badamasuiy, 'Gender Equality or Gender Equity? A Critique of Cedaw from Sharia Perspective' (Proceedings of the 6th Uum International Legal Conference (llc2011) Held at Bayview Bwach Resort, Penang-Malasia November 19–20 2011)429–437

Chapter in a Book by one Author: Chapter in a book is cited like a journal. However, the name of the editor(s) to be included.

Examples: Akper, P.T. "Nigeria and Her Neighbors: The Contribution of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to Sub- Regional Security and Stability" In Taiwo Kupolati (ed) **Nigeria Justice**

8 <https://www.lib.sfu.ca/find/journals-articles/what-peer-reviewed-journal>

9 Simon Fraser University, <https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/research-assistance/format-type/what-journal-article>

10 <https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/research-assistance/format-type/scholarly-journals#scholarly-academic-and-peer-reviewed-journals>

Economy Confident Or Convulsive. Essays in Honour of Asiwaju Adegboyega Solomon Awomolo, SAN, FCI Arb, FNIALS,

Renaissance Law Publishers Limited, Lagos, 2017

- v Two Authors or more up to three Authors Example: **Akper, P.T & Laura Ani** “ Public Private Partnerships and the Development of Road Infrastructure in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects” in Adedeji Adekunle & Paul Idornigie (eds) **Public - Private Partnership in Infrastructure Delivery**, NIALS, 2019
- v Ogwo B, The Concept of Natural Law: A reality or Myth Suleman Abdullahi(Ed.) **Corpus of topical Legal Issues: Collections of Legal Essays [2008] 244**

III. Articles in Journals

A. Hard Copy Journals

Author's name as it appears in the publication |followed by a comma, |then the title of the article, within single quotation marks; the name of the journal or abbreviation thereof, *italicised*;|year of publication, in round or square brackets;| the volume in brackets if any, including issue number (if provided) in brackets after the volume number;| and then lastly, the page number or page range (where necessary). It should be in the form provided below: **author's Name | 'title of the article' |journal name or abbreviation italicised, [year]volume/issue /number/ |first page of article or the range of pages where necessary.** For examples:

- i. Aminu AA, 'Jurisprudence Analysis of the Alternative of Codification in the Documentation of Nigerian Customary Law' *Okada Law Journal* (2023) (3) (1) 40
- ii. Madak AJ, 'Constitutional Democracy in Kenya and the Emerging Culture of Impunity' (2014) (6) *Journal of Public and Constitutional Practice* 201
- iii. EI Alemika, 'Criminal Justice System and Respect for Human Rights: Problems and Imperative for Reform'. *Human Rights Review: An International Human Rights Journal* (2011)

(12)(2) 25.

- iv. Cletus Ojumu, 'The Doctrine of Inconsistency Rule in our Adjudicatory Jurisprudence: The Journey So Far' *Kogi State University Law Journal* (2017) (9-11) 60
- v. Cletus Ojumu, Abiodun Oluwakorede Akande & Patrick Okeke Nwaja, 'An Examination of the Exceptions to Consent as a Requirement for Medical Treatment and Procedure' *Unizik Law Journal* (2023) (19) 17
- vi. A Okoh Alubo and Dominic Asada, 'A Critical Examination of Offences Antecedent to and in the Course of Winding up of Companies under Nigerian Law' *Current Jos Law Journal* [1999] 5 (5) 210
- vii. Ali Ahmad, 'Educating Lawyers for Transnational Challenges', *Journal of Legal Education*, [20005] 55(4) 475-478.
- viii. Osatohanmwun Eruaga, 'Seeking the Golden Fleece through Lampedusa: Situating Municipal Action in International Law' *Groningen Journal of International Law* (2019) 7(1) 21-36
- ix. Sharifa Shunanah and Syed Ahmad, 'Introduction to the Sources of Law in Malaysia' [2012] (40) (1-2) *International Journal of Legal Information*. 174.

Note: All titles of articles in journal, newspapers, magazines, chapters in books (etc.) should be in single quotation marks (' ') and the first letter of all major words in a title should be in the upper case (i.e. capitals). Minor words such as, 'an', 'a', 'and' and 'of' need not be capitalised unless they begin the title or subtitle. The names of journals, newspapers, etc., should be italicised.

Examples:

- i. **Timothy Yerima**, 'The Costs of Reproduction: History and the Legal Construction of Sex Equality' *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* [2011] (46) (2) 415-495;
- ii. TO Oyelami, 'A Comparative Appraisal of the Realisation of some Aspects of Human Rights under Generals Buhari and Babangida Administrations' *Current Jos Law Journal* [1999] 5 (5) 153-172.

- iii. Lilian Uche , ' From Apartheid to Xenophobia in South Africa: A Call for Concerted African Union Structured Intervention' *IMSU Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence(IJIL)*, (2019) 14 163-184

B. Statute Review, Case Review and Book Review Contained in a Journal

Cite statute reviews, case reviews and book reviews contained in journals the same way you would cite journal articles. **Examples:**

- i. Adebambo Adewopo, 'Statute Review: A Review of the Failed Banks (Recovery of Debts and Financial Malpractice in Banks Decree No. 18 of 1994' [1995] 1(1) *CJLJ* 142
- ii. Dakas CJ Dakas, 'Rasulu Oladipupo v The State: Rethinking the Defence of Provocation in Homicide Cases' [1991-94] (4) *UJLJ* 170-174
- iii. Olugbenga A Shoyele, 'Case Review: Attorney General (Federation) & 4 Ors v Mrs. I Dawodu & 7 Ors.: Contemporary Implications of the Rule in Smith v. Selwyn on the Audi Alteram Partem Principle in Nigeria' [1995] 1(1) *CJLJ* 155-157;
- iv. Madaki Adamu Izang, 'Case Review: Usman Kaza v. State (2008) 7 NWLR (Pt. 1088) 125 (2014) 6 *Journal of Public Law and Constitutional Practice* 148-156;
- v. Suleiman Ismaila Nchi, 'Book Review: Odinkalu AC, (ed): 'Justice Denied: The Area Court System in the Northern States of Nigeria' [1991-94] Kraft Books (4) *UJLJ* 175.
- vi. Shu'aib UM, Administration of Islamic Criminal Law in Nigeria: A Review of Some Decided Cases; *Bayero Journal of Islamic Law*; Vol. 1 (1) (2014) 147

C. Online Journals

If article is published electronically,

Provide publication details as you would for a hard copy article in a journal

The citation should be followed by the **web address in angle brackets (<>)** The format for online articles should be: **Author, | 'title' | journal name or abbreviation| [year] | volume/issue |<web**

address>|optional | date accessed.

Example: CJ Dakas, 'The Right of Franchise and the Imperative of a Credible Electoral System in Nigeria' *EJLT* (2010)1(1) <<http://ejlt.org/article/view/17>> accessed 27 July 2010.

IV. Periodicals/Dailies Newspapers/Magazines

The author, | title of the article, |name of the newspaper in italics; | the city of publication in brackets,| followed by a comma; |the date in following order: day, month and year of publication); also insert the page number or page number range where necessary. Some newspapers have 'The' in the title while others don't. Include it if it is there. Provide **the number of the page** on which the article was published, after the brackets. **Examples:**

- i. JN Aduba, 'Constitutionalism and Citizenship: What is the Way Forward'? *New Era Magazine* (Lagos, 13 October 2012)10;
- ii. Olukotun Ibukun, 'Rape' *International Federation of women Lawyers* (Kogi Branch June 2017)6
- iii. Richard P Ngbokai, 'Man Arraigned over Condom Theft' *Daily Trust* (Abuja, 19 August 2016) 22.

If the reference is an editorial, cite 'Editorial' as the author.

Examples:

- i. Editorial, 'Sad Return of Polio' *Sunday Standard* (Jos, 21 August 2016) 2;
- ii. Editorial, 'A Commendable Refusal' *The Nation* (Lagos, 11 August 2016) 15;
- iii. Editorial, 'PDP Crises: NJC must Call Judges to Order' *Daily Trust* (Abuja, 21 August 2016) 3.

If the item is sourced from the web and there is no page number, provide the web address and date of access. **For example:**

- i. Martin Gasiokwu, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010)3 followed by web site address and date of last access;
- ii. Ladi Kigbu, 'The Great Victim of this Get Tough Hyperactivity is Labour' *The Guardian* (London, 19 June 2008)

<<http://guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/jun19/justice.ukerime>> accessed 19 November 2009.

V. Projects, Masters' Dissertations and PhD Theses

In terms of author's name and title, cite it as you would cite a book.

- i. Matthias Zechariah, *Genocide under International Criminal Law: Past, Present and Future Concerns in Africa* (LLM Dissertation Faculty of Law University of Jos 2011)
- ii. Olisa Cornelius Adekoya, *Understanding the Nature and Dynamics of Domestic Violence in Nigeria* Master Dissertation, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos 2018
- iii. Oluwabunmi Lar, *International Humanitarian Law: The Changing Character of Contemporary Armed Conflict* (PhD thesis Faculty of Law University of Jos 2012);
- iv. Salome Konkat Kigbu, *An Appraisal of the Nigerian Legal Framework for Prevention and Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons* (PhD thesis of the Faculty of Law University of Jos 2013).

VI. Inaugural Lectures and Distinguished Lecture Series

The title should be italicised as in books, then the other bits of information (all in brackets) should state the occasion, place and date of presentation respectively:

- i. JN Aduba, *Inquiries on Human Rights Practice in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future* (An Inaugural Lecture Series 54 presented at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the University of Jos on 29th June, 2012);
- ii. Dakas CJ *From Constitutions to Constitutionalism: A Constitutional Imperative in Nigeria* (Being the Ben Nwabueze Distinguished Professor of Law Lecture presented in Abuja, Nigeria on 18th November 2013).

4.3 Citation Signals

a. Superscript Number and Footnote Marker

Whenever information is quoted directly or paraphrased, or a postulated idea, the reference is to be cited in a footnote. A citation

signal informs of a number that appears in the text (called a superscript number or citation indicator), is inserted just after the information quoted or after the name of the author who has expressed the idea. But footnote is not only used for reference purposes; it can also be used to clarify a point or to give additional information on a word, a phrase, an idea, a person, etc. The superscript number is replicated at the foot of the page where the information appears. Note that word documents e.g. Microsoft Word is already programmed to automatically generate the superscript number.

b. Use of 'ibid' and of '(n...)'

The abbreviation *ibid.* stands for the Latin word 'ibidem', literally meaning, 'in the same place'. It is used to repeat a citation that has been made in the immediately preceding footnote; that is where there is no intervening footnote. However, where the footnote immediately preceding the current one contains more than one cited source material, in order to avoid ambiguity, it is safer to indicate, the surname of the author or the source material, etc. to which the 'ibid' relates. In any case, do not italicize or capitalize the word 'ibid'.

Some other expressions used in referencing include, 'see', confer (meaning 'compare'); etc. Researchers are permitted to use these expressions where necessary. However, the following Latin expressions have been abolished or jettisoned in NALT citation style: *supra, infra, ante, contra, id, op cit, loc cit, passim, et seq*, etc. But 'ibid' has survived this policy. In place of these erstwhile widely used terms, you can now cross references. This is symbolised by '(n...)' in brackets; where the 'n' stands for 'note' (meaning 'footnote') while the remaining space is for the footnote number where the information cited first appeared. **Once there is an intervening source in a footnote, 'ibid' will not be used in the next footnote; you may only use '(n)' where necessary, which then takes you back to the footnote where that source of information was first cited.** Note that each time you cite that particular source, you should go back to the same footnote number where you first cited it and indicate the footnote number in the '(n...)' brackets. This is called cross reference

4.4 Guides on Quotations

There are various ways of presenting quotations. In quoting verbatim, there is a need to use the exact words of the original. If there is a mistake in the original, show this by using the (Latin) word 'sic' in brackets just after the error- a word derived from Latin.

Examples: i. '...the provisions for arbitration in the Trade Disputes Act, Cap. T8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 have first been copies (sic) with...'. Taken from section 31 (6) (d) of the Trade Unions Act, Cap T14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, as updated to 31st December 2010.

While writing or presentation of research document, there is short and long quotation.

a. Short Quotation

Whenever a quotation is not more than three lines of the researcher's work, the quotation should be part of the normal lines of the researcher's work and enclosed into single quotation marks. **For example:** Justice Oduyemi of the Court of Appeal Abuja Division remarked, in the lead judgment that 'To my mind, if court directs parties to a suit to prepare the issues for settlement as required by rule 2, it becomes mandatory for the court to settle the issues...'³. **Then footnote 3 will appear as follows:** *3 Int'l Merchant Bank PLC v Samba Petroleum Ltd* [2000] FWLR (Pt 19) 472, 483.

b. Long Quotation

Where a quotation is longer than three lines, it is indented on both sides. Without quotation marks

A single-line space must be provided before and after the long quotation. For example, a long quotation would be indented thus:

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Act or in any other law, the Prosecutor may:
 - (a) receive and consider a plea bargain from a defendant charged with an offence either directly from that defendant or on his behalf;
 - (b) offer a plea bargain to a defendant charged with an offence.
- (2) The prosecutor may enter plea bargaining with the defendant,

with the consent of the victim or his representative during or after the presentation of the evidence of the prosecution, but before the presentation of the evidence of the defence, provided that all the following conditions are present:

Where a quotation begins at the start of a sentence in the text, the first letter should be capitalised with square brackets around it if it was not capitalised in the original text. Alternatively and where necessary, inject ellipses to show that an expression from the original has not been included; **for instance**, 'A court of competent jurisdiction with definite powers, either under the slip rule or under the inherent jurisdiction of the court, to rectify or correct its judgment or orders within the framework of the law...' were the words of Justice Iguh of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, in the case of *J Cornelius Ltd v Ezenwa* (1996) 1 RMLR (Pt 2) 42, 70. In the above quotation, the first word 'a' as it appears in the law report, is in the lower case (small letter); but it has been changed to upper case (capital letter) because it begins the statement or sentence. The alternative is to insert ellipses (dots) to show that a word or some words are missing; and then use lower case 'a' after it, thus: '...a court of competent jurisdiction...'. The omitted words are: 'In the present case, the trial Federal High Court is [a court of competent jurisdiction...]'.

Ø **When a quotation comes in the middle of a sentence, quote it exactly as it appears in the original text, regardless of whether or not it begins with a capital letter. For example:** The Court remarked that, 'The issues raised in the averments are, in my view (sic: a comma should be inserted after the word, 'view') fundamental and ought to have been reacted to by the applicant.' *Kwara State v Eyitayo & Ors* (1996) 1 RMLR (Pt 2) 153, 163 (Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad JSC).

Ø **When text is omitted from the quotation**, or if it ends mid-sentence in the original text, use an ellipsis (...) to indicate that some of the original text is missing. Leave a space between an ellipsis and any text or punctuation, except quotation marks, so that it will not appear as if the ellipses are part of the quotation: e.g. 'The issues raised in the averments are... fundamental and ought to have been reacted to by the applicant.' *Kwara State v*

Eyitayo & Ors (1996) 1 RMLR (Pt 2) 153, 163.

- Ø **If a quotation is incorporated in to the text**, then no more than a comma, at least, is needed to introduce it:

For example: Alubo raises the question, 'What is the point of dissent? After all, at least on the highest court of jurisdiction, is the law simply whatever the majority in that court says it is?'

- Ø **If you add your own emphasis in a quotation to strengthen your argument**, put (**emphasis added**).

4.5 Bibliography

Bibliography is the systematic listing of published works consulted - books, journals, magazines, newspapers, theses, dissertations, etc. by the researcher, arranged in a specific or alphabetical order containing information such as author, title, volume/edition, publisher and year of publication. There are some variations between footnote and Bibliography. In footnotes all citations are recorded the way it is written in the articles. Examples:

- a. John-Okeke Rita, 'Preparedness of academic libraries in Nigeria for the implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA). *Library Research Journal* (2018) 2(2)
- b. Ali, H, Challenges and opportunities of in the management of collection development policy in libraries. *Middle-belt Journal of Library*. (2020).
- c. Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu and Ijeoma Anozie, 'Water Scarcity and Underground Water Pollution in Africa' *Nigerian Law Teachers Journal* (2018)
- d. Shankyula Tersoo S and Lerkwagh Kwaghkehe, 'Global perspective in Tax Evasion and Avoidance: The Legal quagmire in Nigeria. *NIALS Journal of Business Law* (2012) 1. 158-177.

All items under bibliography are re-ordered in terms of first name and surname. The author's surname precedes his or her initial(s), with no comma separating them, but a comma after the final initial. For examples: Under footnote a typical citation appears as below in items 1-3

1. Adejoke O. Adediran 'Liability of Airlines for Cancellation of Flights in Nigeria' *Nigerian Journal of Contemporary Law* , [2018] 19(1) 71-95
2. J. A. Arewa, "Nigeria's National Security Challenges and the Imperative for an Interagency Horizontal Cooperation Mechanism," 2 NIALS Journal of Law and Public Policy, passim, (2012)
3. Jane Ezirigwe, 'Making The Law Work for Men and Women: Advancing Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination in Nigeria's Anti-Open Grazing Laws' *Journal for Sustainable Development Law and Policy* (2020) 11 (2) 362-381

The above items 1-3 is presented the way they appear in journals. However, under bibliography, surname comes first, followed by the initials.

In number 1 above it becomes: **Adediran, AO,**

In number 2 above it becomes: **Arewa, JA,**

In number 3 above it becomes: **Ezirigwe, J,**

Items in bibliography take the same format with the footnote citations, **except in the following cases:**

- a. For journal articles where page numbers may be provided in footnote, generally, page numbers are not provided in bibliography. Example: Maduekwe NC, 'Ensuring Energy Security in Nigerian Petroleum Sector: Is Environmental Mediation a Viable Tool?' *Journal of International and Comparative Law* (2017) 1
- b) The author's surname should precede his or her initial(s), with no comma separating them, but a comma after the final initial. For examples:
 - i. **Olowu K, 'Everyday like 9/11: terrorism timeline in Nigeria' *Journal of law, policy and globalization* (2014) 20(2)**
 - ii. **Dakas CJ, 'Prejudice and Stigmatization in Judicial Attitude to Homosexuality in Nigeria: A Critique of**
- c)

Mogaji v Nigerian Army from the Prism of International and Comparative Human Rights Jurisprudence' [2010] (1) (3) *The Appellate Review* 1. Note hyphenated surnames:

- d) Only initials of forenames should be used and not full forenames: Alemika EI,...; Afolayan AF and Okorie PC,...
- e) Titles of unattributed works should be preceded by a double em-dash (--). **Example (hypothetical):** ----*World Encyclopaedia* (Century Publishers 2016).
- f) Works should be presented in alphabetical order of author surname, with unattributed works being listed at the beginning of the bibliography in alphabetical order of first major word of the title. **Examples:**

--Armed Conflicts in Africa....

--Legal Philosophy in World History...

Alubo AO, 'Justice Denied?: The Concept of Locus Standi in Nigerian Law' *UJLJ* [1991-94] 4

--, Criminal Procedure Law in Nigeria...(.... 2012).

--, 'Law Practice and Delivery of Justice in Modern Nigeria' *CJLJ* [2013] 6(1).

Obaje E and Nasir JM, 'Problem of Refugee: An African Viewpoint' [1995] 1(1) *CJLJ*.

Amupitan J, 'Admissibility of Documents in Nigerian Legal System' *UJLJ* [1991-94] 4.

--, *Corporate Governance*... (... 2008).

Dakas CJ, 'Rasulu Oladipupo v. The State....'[1991-94]...

--, 'Prejudice and Stigmatization...' [2010]...

Nasir JM Shaakaa AS and Alubo AO (eds), *Beyond the Shenanigans*... (...2015)

Kigbu SK, *An Appraisal of the Nigerian Legal Framework for the Prevention and Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons*...

Akpe P, *International Humanitarian Law: The Changing Character of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*...

Nasir JM, 'Women under Nigerian Criminal Law' *UJLJ* [1991-94] 4.
Abikan I, 'Ownership of Land in Nigeria (An Analysis of Section 1 of the Land Use Act 1978)' *UJLJ* [1991-94] 4.

When citing several works by the same author, list the author's works in chronological order, beginning with the oldest, and in alphabetical order of the first major word of the title within a single year. After the full citation of the first work, replace the author's name with a double em-dash (--). **Examples:**

Alubo AO, 'Justice Denied: The Concept of Locus Standi in Nigerian Law' *UJLJ* [1991-94] 4

--, *Criminal Procedure Law in Nigeria...* (...2012).

--, 'Law Practice and Delivery of Justice in Modern Nigeria' *CJLJ* [2013] 6(1).

Dakas CJD, 'Rasulu Oladipupo v. The State....' [1991-94]...

--, 'Prejudice and Stigmatization...' [2010]...

--, 'Hindsight, Insight, Foresight: Reflections on my Academic Odyssey and Legal Scholarship at and through the Instrumentality of University of Jos' in Shaakaa AS and Alubo AO (eds), *Beyond the Shenanigans...* (...2015).

Works by more than one author should be presented in alphabetical order under the first author's name, but place them after any titles by that author as a sole author. **Example:**

Alubo AO, 'Justice Denied?: The Concept of Locus Standi in Nigerian Law' [1991-94] (4) *UJLJ* 143.

--, *Criminal Procedure Law in Nigeria...* (...2012).

--, 'Law Practice and Delivery of Justice in Modern Nigeria' [2013] (6) (1) *CJLJ* 1.

Alubo AO and Nasir JM, 'Problem of Refugee: An African Viewpoint' [1995] (1) (1) *CJLJ* 109.

If the first author in a co-authored work has more than one co-authored work, arrange the co-authored works in alphabetical order of co-author surname. **Example**

Alemika EI, Oche PN and A John, *Fundamentals of Legal Research* (Sweet & Maxwell 2011).

Amin J and Oche PN, 'Standard Form Contracts in a Globalized

World' [2012] (3) (1) *IJCL* 64

Oche PN, Alemika EI and Zechariah M, *The Nigeria Legal System* (2nd sup, 3rd edn, Global Press 2015).

Oche PN and others, *Protection of Pipelines in Oil Bearing States in Nigeria* (Orbit Publishers 2016).

CHAPTER FIVE

FORMAT FOR ARTICLES IN JOURNAL FOR PUBLICATION

5 INTRODUCTION

Articles in journal are written about very specific topics. They are usually shorter than book. They are usually written by researchers or scholars and for department or at faculty level; with some of the following features:

- Use of scholarly or technical language
- Articles tend to be long and detailed,
- Article is about research in a particular academic discipline
- Include full citations for sources
- Are often refereed or peer reviewed
- Include information about the authors and
- Are mostly published by academic organisations

On the other hand, a scholarly journal is a collection of articles (like a magazine) that are published regularly throughout the year. Journals present the most recent research, and journal articles are written by experts, for experts. They may be published in print or online formats, or both. They are generally referred to as Scholarly, academic or peer-reviewed journals. Scholarly journals usually have simple covers, clearly stating basic information like title, volume/issue numbers, and the name of the organisation or university responsible for their publication.

Note: book reviews and editorials are *not* considered scholarly articles, even when found in scholarly journals

5.1 Format for Structuring Articles for Journal Publication

Body of the topic for articles should be divided into sections of sub-main titles and sub-sub-titles. These should not be more than six (6) main parts and be assigned with Arabic numeral. This is followed by

sub-titles and sub-sub-titles if any, following logical order.

Examples:

If the main topic is:

**AN EXAMINATION OF ELEMENTS OF
TRANSPORTATION, ENSLAVEMENT AND
EXPLOITATION IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNDER
INTERNATIONAL AND NIGERIA ANTI-TRAFFICKING
LAWS**

i. We can create up to 6 sub-Main titles from the above topic. These are presented in capital letters to distinguish it from the sub-sub titles and be assigned Arabic numeral 1,2,3, as indicated below;

1. INTRODUCTION
2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS;
3. THEORETICAL FOUNDATION AND CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
4. CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
5. IMPACTS OF TRAFFIC IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB)
6. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: The above are the sub-main titles which are to be flushed to the left side margin.

ii. Sub-sub-titles (if any)

All sub-sub titles are usually typed in small letters with each word starting with a capital letter with exception of words such as: 'or', 'and', of, the', etc. **Example of sub-main titles are as illustrated below:**

3. **Theoretical Foundation and Conceptual Clarification Of Trafficking In Human Beings**
 - 3.1 Theoretical Foundation
 - 3.2 Conceptual Clarifications

Also note that there is no limit to the numbers of sub-sub titles that can

be created here, it all depends on the nature of each or individuals' topic. For example: we have created a minimum of 2 sub-sub titles from item no 3 above.

{Sub-subtitles may be further created and numbered in Roman figure i ii, iii etc or in alphabetical order as; a,b,c,d,e,

5.2 Notes on NALT Guide to Contributors on Articles for Journal Publications

There are basic guides required of contributors to articles for publication. This also depends on the source for call for articles in NALT, in order to ensure for uniform approach to writing articles for publication across law faculties in Nigeria universities, below are some of the guidelines.

5.2.1 Requirements

- i. All citations shall follow the NALT's format structures and Citation guide (Note NALT adapted to OSCOLA principles as a guide.
- ii. All articles to be well researched into and critically analysed.
- iii. Research topic must have a concise title of not more than 13-18 words, typed in capital letters and centralised
- iv. Followed by names of author(s), then this symbol * and generate information about author(s) at the footnotes such as: degrees held, post (if any) Department/faculty addresses, areas of interest, email address and mobile phone which should be presented as footnotes at the end of the page that could be viewed at a glance
- v. An abstract of not more than 200-250 words should accompany all articles. It shall be titled 'ABSTRACT' and flushed left margin. The body should be single space but not in Italic.
- vi. Followed by Keywords of not more than 5 words listed

alphabetically, underneath the abstract, with the word "Keyword" on the left side followed with column before the selected keywords are listed.

- vii. After a well-presented body of the article, which usually require a short summary of findings, researchers must provide practicable suggestions by way of recommendations which clearly address the problems identified in the research and followed by a short conclusion
- viii. There must also be a succinct conclusion to be drawn base on some identified findings It is preferable that researchers should use the word findings
- ix. Pages of articles not more than 15-20 maximum; including abstract and footnotes.
- x. Book review should not be more than 3000 words while short notes/commentaries should not be more than 5000 words.
- xi. Font and size: Time New Roman font 12 and, 1.5 spacing; formatted on A4 paper with 2.5cm margins
- xii. Article should be presented in indented paragraph not block
- xiii. Quotation less than 3 lines or 40 words should be placed within the text with single- quotation marks to identify that it is a quotation, while quotation more than 3 lines/40 words, single space and should be indented in block from both sides not more than two 'tabs' pushes (or the 'increased-decreased' icons) from both sides.
- xiv. It is also advisable to leave gap between the sentences preceding the quotation and immediately after the quotation. No need for quotation marks for long quotations
- xv. Spelling of words shall be in British English

xvi. Citation of sources shall be in footnotes with auto-format which is usually indicated in-text by superscript Arabic numerals serially, (in 10 font size, Times New Roman).

xvii. Articles that do not meet the above house style would not be considered.

5.3 Specimens for Footnotes Citation for Textbooks, Articles in Journal and other References and Bibliographic citations:

a. **Book:-** Give the author's name exactly as it appears in the publication, omitting prefix or titles, such as: Mr., Mrs., Dr, Imam, Chief, Professor, Hon., Justice, Rev., Bishop, SAN.

Examples: A book written by Professor (Imam) Usman. M. Shu'aib (2018); *Legal Issues and Shari'ah Governance on Islamic Banking in Nigeria*; Lagos, Benchmark Publishers Limited:

The book will be cited under footnote as: Usman. M. Shu'aib *Legal Issues and Shari'ah Governance on Islamic Banking in Nigeria* (Benchmark Publishers 2018)

Under Bibliographic citation, it will be cited as: Shu'aib UM,

i. **For up to three authors**, insert 'and' between their names as in the following example: D Chalmers and G Davies and G Monti, *European Union Law: Text and Materials* (2nd edn, CU Publication 2010) 5

ii. **For more than three authors**, give the details of the first author and add '**and others**', in the following format: CA Omaka and others, *Municipal and International Environmental Law*. (LUC Publishers Lagos. 2012)

iii. **To cite a chapter in a book** Example, David Jangkam, 'The Value of Authorship in the Digital Environment' in Clement Francis Kwede and Karen Shaakaa (eds), *World Wide Research: Reshaping the Sciences and Humanities in the Century of Information* Abuja:(MIT, 2010), 62-80

b. Journal: -

Examples:

- i. Friday Nwoke, 'International Labour Law: An Appraisal' *Journal of Public Law and Constitutional Practice*, (2005) 3(1) 40-51
- ii. Ebele Ogwuda, 'The whistle blowing Regime in Nigeria: Toward a Pragmatic Approach in the Fight against Corruption' *NPJL* (2020) 2 (II)
- iii. Akobela Joshua, 'The Scope of the Investigatory Powers of the National Assembly: Need for Safeguards against Abuses' *Benson Idahosa University Law Journal*. (2019) 5
- iv. NJ Udombana, 'Public Interest Consideration in Legislative Representation in Nigeria: Perspective on the National Assembly' *Nigerian Journal of Public Law* (2016) 3. 1-33
- v. Benjamin Popoola, 'The practice of commercial Surrogacy in Nigeria: The imperatives of Legal and Institutional Reforms' *NIALS Journal of Public Law* (2020) 2 (11) 280-309

Conference Proceedings

AO Mmakwe, and I Ifeakandu, 'Towards Effective AML/CFT Regional Regime in West Africa: An examination of the Role of GIABA in Law and Economy' *Nigerian Law Teachers (NALT) Conference Proceedings* (2016) 812-820

Newspapers and Magazines: Example:

Ogbonna, Ejikeme. 'Economic Growth in Nigeria' *This Day Weekly Magazine* 5 Feb 3.2015;

Lai Mohammed 'N500bn Fund will lift many out of Poverty' *Daily Trust* Thursday 31 March, 2016.

Case Review:

Okike Ajanwachukwu, 'Passing Off in Cases of Image Rights and false Merchandising in Nigeria: Fenty v Arcama' *Nigerian Current*

Legal Problems (NIALS Journal) (2016-2017) 9&10;
Ridwan Lanre Ajetunmobi. 'Locus Standi in Copyright Collective Management in Nigeria: A Review of Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria v Adeokin Records and Anor.' *Law Review of Business and Property Law* (2020) 11(1) 19-30

Online Journals If the article is only published electronically, the format for online articles should be: **author, | 'title of the article' | journal name or abbreviation italicised| [year] volume/issue /number/ |first page of article or the range of pages where necessary <web address> | last date accessed.**

Example: Clement Dakas, 'The Right of Franchise and the Imperative of a Credible Electoral System in Nigeria' *EJLT*(2010) 1(1) <<http://ejlt.org/article/view/17>> accessed 27 July 2010

5.4 Citation of Cases:

Name of parties in italics. [year reported, in brackets], volume/number/ (part number, in brackets) page(s), or range of pages, as appropriate. **Where a law report does not have the style of citation shown above, use the citation as provided in that law report.**

Use italics for the name of the case, with an unpunctuated italic 'v' to separate the names of the adverse parties. **Examples:**

- i. *Okoye v Lagos State Govt.* [1990] 3 NWLR (Pt 136) 115;
- ii. *IGP v Adedeji* [1957] WRNLR 178.

It is better to cite the law report the way it is recorded in the law report itself. Note that after a full citation of a case has been made, for subsequent citations or reference to that case, the short form of citation may be adopted by the researcher, and this has to be maintained consistently where the case is cited three or more times. For instance, the case *Ekoebor v Police Council* (2003) LRCN 107 may be subsequently cited in a shorter form such as, in '*Ekoebor's case*', or simply, '*Ekeobor*'.

Note: only the names of the case will appear in the body of the essay while the case citations go to the footnotes. Example: A typical case is recorded thus; *Okoye v Lagos State Govt.* [1990] 3 NWLR (Pt 136) 115; however, while the names of parties remain in the body of the article, the footnote shall carry the citation thus;
[1990] 3 NWLR (Pt 136) 115

CHAPTER SIX

WRITING A PhD PROPOSAL: THE COMPONENTIAL PARTS AND TIPS ON DEFENCE FOR PhD THESIS

6 INTRODUCTION

Research writing in law is governed by three key principles. The principles include Knowing and finding the law, Reading the law, and applying the law to solve societal problems. Hence, the qualities of a good research topic include but not limited to; having sufficient depth of coverage of the content, topics must be researchable, timely, relevant, clear, concise and not sentimental. In all, students must demonstrate competency to follow some technical rules and sets of uniformed procedures to achieve the best result.

Legal research writing covers a spectrum of works. Among these are writing for scholarly publication, teaching of the basics of research writing to students and the writing of school project. The writing of school projects remain our focus here, most especially, the writing of Master dissertation and PhD thesis.

6.1 Componential Parts of PhD Research Proposal

Proposal simply put is the ground root/work of a thesis which entails having the grasps knowledge of the following:

- ' The Background topic of the PhD thesis-to study
- ' Statement of the problem of the chosen topic (which is backed up by research questions – standard is 5-6 related questions constructed in logical order)
- ' Aim and objectives of the study (where research questions are well constructed, they are turned rhetorically into the objectives of the study)
- ' Significance of the study
- ' Research methodology
- ' Chapter analysis and
- ' Abstract

NOTE: Chapter Two of this Manual explains in detail the above

listed items except for the abstract of which the details are included below

6.2 Abstract

Abstract is a concise snapshot or summary of the entire research work, establishing the foundation for the application, therefore, should peak readers' interest to want to know more about your project writing and presentation. Abstract is a one-page briefly stating the following:

- Introducing the research topic;
- What the study seeks to do and rationale for the study;
- Methodologies (What approaches used -doctrinal or Non-doctrinal for data collection, mechanism and data analysis, what types of research methods or types of research-whether it is historical analysis, analytical, comparative studies, descriptive, survey and so on),
- research findings,
- Recommendations and
- Conclusion.

6.2.1 Typical Example of Abstract:

TOPIC: LAW AND THE RIGHTS OF SUSPECTS IN NIGERIA: AN ANALYSIS

This study examines the law and the rights of suspects in Nigeria. **(The one sentence above is the introduction)**. It aimed at analysing the constitutional and statutory provisions on the rights of suspects in the country. **(This is the main aim of your research. I is stated in just one sentence; while the objective can be many as stated below)** The specific objectives among others were to: (a) examine the rights of suspects as guaranteed in selected international, African and Nigerian human rights laws; (b) examine the extent and patterns of the violation of rights of suspects by the law enforcement agencies (especially the police) in Nigeria; (c) identify and analyse the rights of suspects that are frequently violated; (d) identify and analyse the economic, political and institutional factors responsible for the violation of the rights

of suspects by the law enforcement agencies, and (e) make recommendations for more effective protection of the rights of criminal suspects in Nigeria. Adopting the doctrinal approach with the combination of analytical and historical research methodologies, **(the approach/methodology are as stated above)** the main sources of information gathered for this study were critically examined and presented. A critical review of the various legal sources, the Nigerian Constitution, statutory laws and other relevant secondary materials inclusive; revealed that there are several provisions aimed at protecting the rights of suspects in the country. Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 guarantees the fundamental human rights, many of which pertain to the rights of suspects and accused. In particular, it guarantees rights to human dignity, personal liberty and fair hearing. The Constitution primarily contained the rights of suspects that are contained in the human rights instruments of the United Nations Organization and African Union. We also discovered that there are several provisions in the Criminal Procedure Act and Criminal Procedure Code that govern the conduct of police officers in respect of arrest, searches and interrogation. Many judicial decisions have also interpreted the conduct of law enforcement officers against the constitutional and legal guarantee of the rights of suspects. Analyses of the relevant provisions of the Constitution and laws in Nigeria showed that the rights of suspects are substantially guaranteed. However there was often significantly a gap between the formal guarantee of human rights and respect for such rights by law enforcement officials. Our critical analysis of information obtained for this study showed a very wide gap between formally guaranteed rights and the extent to which the rights of suspects are respected by the law enforcement agencies. We also found that violation of the rights of suspects by law enforcement agencies is widespread. There were evidence of brutality, extra-judicial execution, unlawful arrest and torture by the police as well as inappropriate denial of bail by the courts,

resulting in long pre-trial detention and overcrowding in urban prisons within the country. It was also found that violation of the rights of suspects and accused persons were caused by several factors, this include but not limited to, the orientation of the law enforcement agencies; tolerance of such violations by the government, widespread ignorance and poverty that undermine suspects' ability to seek redress in court. **(Above are the main findings as the outcome of the research)** Based on our findings, we made several recommendations that: Existing laws need to be reviewed to strengthen the rights of suspects; the mandates of the Legal Aid Council and National Human Rights Commission need to be expanded to include representation of victims of human rights abuse; each state of the Federation should establish Citizens Rights Department in the Ministry of Justice as has been done in Lagos State; law enforcement officials need to be better trained to make them appreciate and respect the rights of citizens; law enforcement officials who violate the rights of suspects and accused persons should be subjected to appropriate discipline and when necessary, prosecution. Judges at all levels should be trained or re-oriented to cautiously and rationally use pre-trial custodial remand orders.

(recommendations also follow)

6.3 Some more tips on PhD research Proposal

- ' Researcher must adhere to rules and regulations in the following:
- ' Which chapter should contain which topic
- ' How many chapters
- ' What is minimum and maximum pages
- ' Font face and size
- ' Obey the rule on Merging
- ' Quotation format
- ' Styles of referencing and proper citation to avoid plagiarism
- ' Use simple grammar and short sentences

- Avoid embellishment/designing your writing and presentation
- Be critical of your presentation (not just running and providing lists of quotations or itemising without critical analysis.
- Note Remember that whenever doctrinal approach is adopted to your research writing you must provide critical analysis of your studies
- Use statistical tables to buttress your points it makes the study more empirical and authentic

6.4 Some Tips on defense of thesis/dissertations

There are no strict rules or regulations guiding the defense of Thesis save in the following:

- Compose yourself very well and don't be intimidated by your examiner or group of examiners. Some could be very hostile but be calm and confident
- Do not argue but take note of whatever they have to say down. Some of them will be useful
- You will not be given more than 10-15 minutes, Work within the time frame given and make sure you give allowance of 2minutes to stop before your allotted time is over
- Reading through your project work severally in order to be familiar with the entire work will be of added advantage
- Make a short summary of the work
- Focus on your abstract that contain the summary of your work

APENDICES

Appendix A:

REPORT ON NALT'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM FORMAT FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND CITATION GUIDE FOR SCHOLARLY WRITING. (2013-2015)

1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to establish and give overview of the reasons behind why the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers decided to embark on this project of a uniform approach to legal research writing in Nigerian universities.

Based on the aspirations and the popular demands by the members of the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers that there should be a uniform format for legal research across faculties of law in Nigeria, at its 46th Annual Conference held at the University of Ilorin (2013), the former proposal was resuscitated. This led to the setting up of a national committee at the AGM of the Association under the distinguished Leadership of Dr. S. I. Abikan, (being the Dean of Law and the President of the NALT Conference, 2013).

The Committee (comprising of seven-man mostly professors with many years of teaching and research experiences in legal field, some of whom were also teaching research methodology in the various Law Faculties nationwide). The Committee was constituted and named, the **NALT'S National Committee on Uniform Format for Legal Research and Citation Guide for Scholarly Writing in Nigeria.**

2. The Mandates of the Committee

The Committee was given three main terms of references:

- i. Formulate formats for legal research writing in law, for under

graduate and post graduate research projects, for the purpose of achieving a standard and uniform approach to research writing in law;

- ii. Propose and recommend a style of referencing and citation guide that would be most appropriate and user friendly in legal academic and scholarly writing.
- iii. Provide guidelines for preparation of articles for publications in academic faculty journals across campuses.
- iv. The draft to be submitted within to be presented at the next available NALT Annual Conference.

With these mandates, the Committee with zeal and passionate commitment, was able to submit its first draft to the Chairman of the Committee of Deans and Directors (Professor Chris A. Omaka of Ebony State University being the Faculty Dean and the hosting NALT's President 2014) within six months preceding the Annual Conference which was to be held at Ebony State University in June, 2014.

The three main terms of references were followed by carrying out a short survey on the types of style of references across the various campuses-by dividing the Faculties of law in the country into six zones as follow; South-South-coordinated by Prof Allswell Muzan of Kogi State; South West- Prof. Chris Ohuruogu assisted by Prof Yemisi Bamgbose; South East-Prof Chris Amaka Omari and Prof MOU Gasiokwu; North Central and Abuja, coordinated by Dr. A. Kana of Nasarawa State University, supported by Prof Jummai Audi, Prof Jemima Nasir, Prof Emily Alemika of University of Jos and Dr. Bethel Ihugba; The core Northern Zone-was Coordinated by Prof Y. Aboki.

The main thrust of the survey was divided into three major parts:

- (a). To find out and come up with suitable formats for structuring research topics and determine the Number of chapters that would be uniformly applicable across campuses.
- (b). To determine what should be the research

- approach/methodologies to legal research writing.
- (c). To determine what should be the style of referencing to be adopted as legal citation guide with focus on making choice from among the ones already in uses at the various campuses for research writing and the scholarly publication in journals.

From the various information gathered from campuses, and the critical analysis, the Committee was able to present the summary in three major parts as presented below:

a. Format for Structuring Dissertations and PhD Theses:

The Committee having sampled some data from the various campuses for analysis, some of the findings revealed as follows that:

- i. There is no uniform approach to legal research writing, and although every faculty has an in-house format, they were neither coherent nor standardised or structurally documented format to support whatever format each faculty had chosen or adopted for legal research writing in most of the campuses.
- ii. The survey revealed an absence of any dedicated legal research uniform format for legal research writing in law. At postgraduate level, most faculties are highly influenced by what the Post Graduate Schools set as standard/patterns for structuring dissertation and PhD thesis research topics; that means borrowing from Social Sciences and Art or Humanity that already have standard formats such as MLA, APA. The lack of standard formats raises concerns since PG research projects often attract external Examiners for moderations by academic colleagues from the law faculties of other universities.
- iii. No generally acceptable uniform format for the number of chapters to be adopted, especially, at PG level; hence, the number of chapters dependent mostly on the numbers agreed upon by the students and their supervisors, depending on the nature of the chosen topic by respective students. This also means that in the same faculty PhD candidates can present different number of chapters with differences in contents
- iv. No uniform approach as regard what should be the content of

- each chapter, and how the chapters should be structured.
- v. The scholarly journals are characterised by all manners of styles and different citation signals and poor presentation of articles for publication.

b. **Citation Guide**

In the course of the campus survey during our sittings in 2013/2014, the Committee reliably gathered information which revealed that various law faculties are identified with different styles of referencing which are applied indiscriminately. Some adopt MLA, for some, it is the American Psychological Association (APA); others stick to Chicago School, or Harvard Styles. Some faculties also adopted OSCOLA being the most recent among others, which capture the citation reference in legal authorities. The Committee found that although, some of the above and a host of others might have one way or the other been able to address some of our challenges in legal research; however, none have been able to holistically meet the peculiarities of legal research writing in Nigeria.

The Committee also found that most of the foreign documents relied on for citation guides and legal research format writings are inadequate to address our contents in legal research writing. For example, one of the oldest styles of writing-the Modern Language Association (MLA founded in 1883, by the Association of teachers and scholars for the teaching of English and Literature), although flexible and amenable to legal research with footnote style of referencing. However, as the name implies it was originally developed by its Association for an in-house format and reference style mainly for research writing in English and Literature. The same thing goes for the APA-it is an association-based style of referencing developed with an end-note for the American Psychological Association; which is now widely used among the social sciences for research writing.

The Committee also discovered that the Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) was developed by **Oxford University** in 2000 for use within Oxford University for referencing

legal materials in UK. It was also developed as an in-house citation guide for citing all legal authorities within the Oxford University in UK. OSCOLA is now widely used internationally. It has now become a house hold authority for citing legal materials in most faculties of law across the nation. Yet, it is worth noting, that although Nigeria is a member of the British Commonwealth nations, however, there are remarkable differences in the operational system of their statutory provisions. Remarkably, the OSCOLA has limitation in its application; it is designed only for the citation of legal authorities. Hence, it has not solved the problems of how legal research writing such as structuring the undergraduate and the PG projects writing or the legal journals. Therefore, there is the need for NALT's customised format that addresses the whole issues holistically.

c. Recommendations

Based on the above findings on research writing and presentation in law across campuses; especially, for master dissertations and PhD Theses; the Committee recommended as follow:

- i. There should be uniform approach to legal research and scholarly writing
- ii. There should be specified number of chapters for the three categories; that the undergraduate long essay should not be more than five chapters; the Masters dissertation should also be five chapters while PhD should not be more than six chapters;
- iii. There should be uniform format specifying numbers of chapters and each chapter should be structured in a way to indicate what each chapter should contain or address;
- iv. Specified number of pages and where page numbering should be placed-whether up or bottom, left, right or centre. The bottom centre was recommended as has been indicated in the body of the Manual;
- v. Determining the font and font sizes-whether Arial font-12 or 14, Romans font 12 or 13; What should be the space-whether single or double-space; What should be the specified margins for left, right, top and bottom. These and many other signals were identified as indices to attract uniform format in our legal research project and other scholarly academic writings on our

campuses; for user friendliness. For this, 'Times New Roman' font size 12 was recommended. The pagination to be at the bottom centre

- vi. Two main approaches were identified with legal research- the Doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches; the Committee recommended accordingly that students are enjoined to stick to the one that best suit legal research; depending on the ability and exposure as to which of the approaches and the nature of the topic. **However, Doctrinal approach was recommended by the Committee because of its flexibilities to legal research.** Hence, students are encouraged to engage in **non-doctrinal approach** only if they possess all the necessary skills to embark on it. Students should also note that different research methods abound; (such as, historical analysis, narrative/descriptive, comparative analysis, and analytical methods) from which students are supposed to be exposed to know which method(s) are most appropriate for their research topics.
- vii. The committee also recommended that there should be NALT Manual to be published both online and into a hard copy book form to serve as reference to researchers and scholarly writing especially among the academic legal writers across campuses
- viii. Also based on the available information on the part 'b' above, the NALT's Committee views that, because of its strength in citation of legal authorities and flexibility to adaptation; recommended to the Committee of Deans and Directors that instead of creating a new style, it is better to adapt the OSCOLA style with variation as follow:

Retain the OSCOLA principles with all its features and technicalities;

- a) Replace all foreign names with local names of Academicians who by one way or the other would have written articles in peer reviewed journals and have written and publish books or is capable of writing books in the future;
- b) All foreign cases, the statutes, rules and regulations, used as illustration in the OSCOLA have substantially been replaced with the local ones where possible; for user friendliness.

By this, it means that it is not the intention that NALT's format should be an affiliation of both the MLA and OSCOLA. However, the NALT's Committee found their principles, features and approaches worth emulating. Hence, the NALT's structures are constructed in such a way to reflect and identify with the two styles in terms of structure and citation signals. Some of these recommendations were approved as recommended after reviewed, discussed and updated by the Committee of Deans (that met at Ebonyi in January 2015 for pre-NALT's Conference meeting at Ebonyi); that all the foreign names, cases and statutes, etc.; be replaced with the local ones where possible and that the process be gradual, especially to have sufficient time to attract and reflect names of law lecturers across campuses nationwide; to give NALT Uniform Format and Citation Guide its own unique identity.

Finally, as at the 2013/14 that the Committee was collecting data for this report, there was strong evidence to show that not all faculties of law are engaged in the compulsory teaching of legal research methodology, as obtained in the Social Sciences and other faculties such as, Arts and Education; to enhance uniformity in research writing. The Committee therefore, recommended to the Committee of Deans and Directors to impress upon the Continuing Legal Education that Legal Research Methodology should remain part of the core courses of law and be thought as compulsory or a requisite course for the final year students' research project for undergraduate and serve as refresh course at post graduate level in all law campuses.

Appendix B:
**MEMBERS OF THE NALT UNIFORM FORMAT AND
CITATION GUIDES NATIONAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE
2013-2015**

1. Prof (Mrs.) Emily.I Alemika University of Jos (The Chairperson for both the establishment and implementation committees of the NALT's Manual);
2. Prof Yusuf Aboki ABU Zaria
3. Prof. Chris A. Omari (SAN) Former NALT's President and

- Dean of Law Ebonyi State University.
4. Late Professor MOU Gasiokwu Pioneer Teacher of Legal Research Methodology in Nigeria
 5. Professor Allswell Muzan (fmr. Dean KSU & NALT President 2012
 6. Professor Ibrahim Abikan (fmr. Dean of Law Unilorin & NALT President 2013 and presently the DG of NIALS)
 7. Professor Popoola, Ademola. (SAN) OAU Chairman of NALT's BOT. He acted in advisory capacity)

Appendix C:

UPDATES FROM THE NALT FORMAT AND CITATION GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING COMMITTEE (NIMOC):

The main aim and objectives of the Implementation standing Committee is to ensure that this document is monitored for the purpose of implementation across the faculties of Law nationwide. The Committee on the other hand is to serve as conduit to receive complaints and useful suggestions arising from the operation of this Manual, to enable us to build a formidable uniform format and reference style for our esteem Association, worth emulating within Nigeria, Africa and globally.

As of today, the Law Teachers Association has attained height in achieving the goal and objectives of the Association, especially in the areas of utilising the Manual for NALT's Conference proceedings. The use of the manual for writing master dissertation and the PhD thesis is gaining ground momentarily across the various campuses. Especially, among the privately owned universities across the country.

The Implementation Committee is happy to inform the House that as at last year June 2024, the Manual has gained international recognition. A Nigerian registered online for master program with

Quantic School of Business and Technology Washinton DC. He was given opportunity to choose any reference style for his dissertation, and the student happened to adopt the NALT's guide. The school noticed recording the lowest incidence of plagiarism. Therefore, he was invited to share his source of reference style, from there on the school had developed interest in adopting the Manual for their institution research writing. I reported this at the Ilorin NALT's Conference AGM last year. Since the NALT Executive warmly received the news the Implementation Committee has given them the go ahead for adaptation of the Manual as one of their reference guides.

Apart from the above recorded success story, the Implementation Committee has steadily received requests from different universities about the manual. For instance, over 2000 copies printed last years had been exhausted. Some were sold out rightly while some copies were donated as part of creating awareness about the manual. We are hoping to have the 4th edition soon. We are also considering making the Manual online to further promote its usages internationally. The Committee has also received commendations and good feedback from users. We also receive few comments and inputs from colleagues that had had opportunity to use the Manual. University of Benin, Ben Idahosa University, Bingham, Nasarawa State University, Baze University, BUK, ABU, Uni-Maid and Kogi State University, so also NIALS and NILDS; are among others, that have ardently stuck to the manual with very commendable feedback.

Good as the reports may sound, we still have most first and second-generation campuses that are yet to key into this NALT's Uniform Citation Guide especially, for handling the PG master dissertations and PhD theses, and the locally published articles in Journals of our respective Law Faculties nationwide. For instance, University of Ibadan, OAU Ife, Unilag, and UN Nsukka are among those campuses that are yet to subscribe fully to the use of the NALT's Citation Guide. Report also reaching the Committee is that University of Jos the pioneer member of this noble course has suspended the use of the Manual for whatever reason which is not Known to the Association.

The implementation Committee had tried to reach to various campuses to find out why some campuses are yet to subscribe to the manual. Some of the information reliably gathered so far include:

- Ø Insufficient information from the Association EXCO to the faculty members as regards their role to promote the manual.
- Ø Some of the challenges are also borne out individual's personal views about the Uniform Approach
- Ø Lack of understanding of what the NALT Guide stands for, especially, what the various campuses stand to gain from the uniform approach to Legal research.
- Ø Communication gap between the respective Law Faculties and the University Management
- Ø Committee also note the lack of fund to create enough awareness amongst Faculty members

It is pertinent to note that most of the aspirations of the Association and ideas for uniform format for legal research writing have been translated into very useful documentation of the NALT's Manual, and fully developed in a user-friendly manner through its Committee, it is incumbent upon all of us in legal teaching profession to stop borrowing styles for our legal research both for students' projects and law teachers research writing and journal publications. It is hoped that very soon, all campuses shall fully accept the uniform approach to legal research writing in Nigeria. It cannot be over emphasised that we need the cooperation of the Committee of the Deans and Directors to intensify efforts to make members of this great Association to proudly identify with our very own unique uniform approach to the legal research manual.

Now that there is a properly constituted EXCO of the Association, the new EXCO is enjoined to see the needs that Implementation and Monitoring Standing Committee is made an integral part of the Association to promote and take this Manual to reach its desired goal and objectives.

As part of the sensitisation drive, it necessary for the EXCO to mandate Deans and directors to make conscious efforts to liaise with the respective university management teams and especially the Postgraduate Schools of their respective universities across the nation for full adoption and implementation of this NALT 's format. The task is very simple; under normal circumstances, the postgraduate school does not impose styles of writing and referencing on any faculty, save in whatever is presented by each faculty.to the post graduate schools. Hence, the implementation Committee has proposed in the past and we are still reiterating that each faculty should be mandated to have an ad hoc committee to examine the Manual for the purposes of adopting and make recommendations to the respective postgraduate schools for adoption; for the obvious advantages.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee did a thorough job by making some enquiries at the various campuses to know what references styles were available. By our findings, three styles of reference appeared mostly adopted across faculties of law as follows:

1. Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA)
2. Modern Language Association (MLA)
3. America Psychological Association (APA)
4. We also noticed Harvard's Style, Chicago and the UK Blue Book. There are those in-house styles too found on some campuses with no identified names.

From our findings above, two ideas readily came to mind here, first we realised that to solve this problem we need to create a uniform approach entirely or we need to harmonise the available styles to generate a locally acceptable indivisible style.

To achieve this goal, Committee then decided to choose the first two styles -OSCOLA and MLA above. Therefore, OSCOLA style was adapted with varying degrees, for referencing all citation of all legal authorities in Nigeria, since many faculties of law are already use to

it, while the structuring of the research topics into chapters makes use of the Modern Language Association (MLA) principles. Therefore, the Committee is appealing to all individual members and the faculties to work collectively with both the Implementation Committee and the new EXCO to make the NALT's uniform format a workable document. Both the various faculties and individual members of the Association are free to reach us and drop comments and suggestions for both improvement and way forward, on the information of contacts as provided below:

Email Address: naltsguide2015@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +2348067009160, +2348036091656

Call: +2349028079240; +2349037074135

Below are the original Members of the NALT Guide Committee:

1. Prof (Mrs.) Emily. I Alemika Nigerian Institute of advanced Legal Studies (The Chairperson and Committee Coordinator of the Implementation and Monitoring Committee. Presently the Pioneer Dean of Law Federal University Lokoja)
2. Prof Yemisi Bamgbose. UI. Ibadan (Fmr. Dean of Law and Deputy Vice Chancellor University of Ibadan)
3. Prof. (Mrs) Jummai Audi (former Chairperson) Law Reform Commission. Abuja
4. Late Prof. Chris C. Ohuruogu fmr Lecturer ABUAD. Ado-Ekiti/ fmr. Dean of Law Baze University Abuja.
5. Prof. Chris A. Omaka (SAN) Former Dean Ebonyi State University and the NALT's President 2014 Now A commissioner for Education in his State
6. Abdulkarim Kana Fmr Dean & NALT President 2016, AG & Commissioner for Ministry of Justice Nasarawa State (now a Legal Adviser to APC Party)
7. Dr. Bethel U. Ihugba NILDS (Secretary)

From the Desk of the Implementation Committee 2025 Edition

