

## Legal Research Methodology: A Practical Approach to Research Report Writing

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### Abstract

*A research report is the end product of a successful research. It contains the procedure a researcher followed in the investigation of a research problem; the techniques he adopted in collecting, analyzing and interpreting data; the findings; the recommendations and the conclusion; and, in the case of higher degree research, the contributions to knowledge and the suggested areas for further research. This paper presents a practical approach to research report writing. It adopts the doctrinal research methodology. It examines the major parts of a research report under preliminary part, main part and terminal part. It demonstrates the various parts of a research report with practical examples that cut across disciplinary boundaries. It found that there is dearth of standard journal articles and textbooks on research methodology based on the NALT Guide. It suggests that institutions of higher learning and research funding organizations should fund the production of standard journal articles and textbooks on research methodology based on the NALT Guide.*

**Keywords:** Abstract, Appendix, Bibliography, Table of Cases, Research Report

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### 1.0 Introduction

A **research report** is a formal document embodying the processes, analyses and findings of a research. It is a written presentation of the procedure a researcher followed in the investigation of a research problem, the techniques he adopted in collecting, analyzing and interpreting the data, the resultant findings, recommendations and conclusion. In other words, a research report is the end product of a successful research. However, there is dearth of standard journal articles and textbooks that detail the prescribed stages and chapter contents of the various methodologies in legal research based on the NALT Guide.<sup>1</sup>

This paper presents a practical approach to research report writing. It adopts the doctrinal research methodology. It relies on secondary sources of data. It examines the nature and objectives of a research report. It also examines the format that a research report may take in practice. Finally, it examines the parts of a research report in three stages: the preliminary part, the main part and the terminal part. The paper discusses each part of a research report with practical examples based on the NALT Guide.

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<sup>1</sup> Nigerian Association of Law Teachers, *NALT Uniform Format and Citation Guide* (NALT 2021) (hereinafter simply referred to as “the NALT Guide”).

## 2.0 Objectives of Research Report

The ultimate purpose of a research report is to communicate the findings and recommendations of a research study on an area of interest to an identified audience. In higher degree research, the primary audience would be the supervisor, the postgraduate committee and the university community. The secondary audience could be scholars, employers, policy-makers, government and its agencies and sponsoring institutions.<sup>2</sup>

However, the specific objectives of a research report may be examined under the following headings:

- (1) It is a medium for transmitting the new knowledge obtained through the research to interested persons and to those who need the new knowledge for a better understanding of societal problems.
- (2) The findings and recommendations in the research report may be utilized by policy-makers, government agencies and sponsoring institutions to bring about changes that may benefit the society or any particular section of it.
- (3) It makes the findings and generalizations available for scrutiny, criticism and confirmation by subsequent researchers in the field of study.
- (4) It may inspire others to undertake similar or further research in the same field or other related fields of study.<sup>3</sup>

## 3.0 Format of Research Report

A research report may be presented in different forms. Firstly, it may take the form of a **letter**.<sup>4</sup> A good example is legal opinion addressed to a client or to a third party at the instance of a client. Secondly, a research report may take the form of a **memorandum**. A good example is legal memorandum from a junior counsel to a senior colleague in a law firm, ministry, company or non-governmental organization.

Finally, a research report may take the form of a **manuscript**. Examples include books, articles, seminar papers and projects or theses or dissertations written by students in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a degree or certificate. The examples in this paper are based especially on projects, theses or dissertations by students,

## 4.0 Parts of Research Report

The research report can be structured into three parts. These are:

- (1) Preliminary Part;
- (2) Main Part; and
- (3) Terminal Part.

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<sup>2</sup> Jessica L Wherry and Kristen E Murray, *Scholarly Writing: Ideas, Examples and Execution* (3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Carolina Academic Press 2019) 10-11.

<sup>3</sup> See generally Ngozi Anigbogu and Chinwe Ahumareze, 'Report Writing' in Queen U Njemanze and others (eds), *Essentials of Communication Skills and Technical Writing for Higher Education* (Jil Publishers Global Ltd 2017) 3, 13; Arvind Kumar, 'Business Research Methodology: Report Writing' <<http://www.academia.ed>> accessed 12 July 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Ngozi Anigbogu and Chinwe Ahumareze, 'Report Writing' in Queen U Njemanze and others (eds), *Essentials of Communication Skills and Technical Writing for Higher Education* (Jil Publishers Global Ltd 2017) 3, 4.

#### 4.1 Preliminary Part

Apart from the cover page and the blank page following it, which are not numbered, the preliminary part is numbered in Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, etc). The usual items that would appear in the preliminary part of a project, thesis or dissertation include the following:

- 4.1.1 Cover Page;
- 4.1.2 Title Page;
- 4.1.3 Declaration;
- 4.1.4 Certification
- 4.1.5 Dedication
- 4.1.6 Acknowledgements
- 4.1.7 Table of Contents
- 4.1.8 Table of Cases
- 4.1.9 Table of Statutes
- 4.1.10 List of Abbreviations
- 4.1.11 Abstract

##### 4.1.1 Cover Page

The cover page shall have the title of the project, thesis or dissertation as well as the name and matriculation number of the student and the month and year of submission. In PhD thesis or dissertation, the name of the student is normally printed in gold.

THE LIMITS OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE IN NIGERIA:  
INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE  
PERSPECTIVES

By

OTUTURU, Gogo George  
PGS/15/PhD/FT/011

April, 2019

##### 4.1.2 Title Page

The title page contains the title of the project, thesis or dissertation, the full name of the student beginning with the surname followed by the forenames with the student's previous qualifications and matriculation number. It also contains the institution to which it is to be submitted<sup>5</sup> and the month and year of submission. In some institutions, it also contains the name of the supervisor<sup>6</sup> before the month and year of submission. The words used to express the title page may vary from one institution to another. The appropriate variation of the following words comes after the student's particulars:

<sup>5</sup> AB Mohammed, *Research and Engagement: A Functional Approach* (Ahmadu Bello University Press 2021) 32.

<sup>6</sup> M Anjali, 'Preparation and Presentation of Legal Research Report' 9 <<http://ssrn.com/abstract=4098388>> accessed 27 July 2023.

THE LIMITS OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE IN NIGERIA:  
INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE  
PERSPECTIVES

By

OTUTURU, Gogo George  
LL.B (RSU 1991); B.L. (NLS, Lagos 1992); LL.M. (RSU 2014)  
PGS/15/PhD/FT/011

A Thesis submitted to the Post Graduate School  
Rivers State University of Science and Technology  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Award of the Doctor of Laws (PhD) degree  
In Business and Industrial Law

April, 2019

#### 4.1.3 Declaration

The declaration is to the effect that the research was undertaken by the student under the supervision of a named academic staff and that it had not been presented elsewhere for the award of a degree or certificate. It also contains a statement that all the sources consulted have been duly distinguished and appropriately acknowledged. The student's full name, as contained on the cover and title pages, comes under the signature.<sup>7</sup>

The declaration page comes immediately after the title page and shall be duly signed by the student. It may read as follows:

---

<sup>7</sup> NALT Guide (n 1) 22-23.

## DECLARATION

I, Gogo George Otuturu (Matriculation No PGS/97/LLM/FT/0212), hereby declare that the work in this dissertation entitled 'Acquisition of Land for Petroleum Operations in Nigeria: Implications of the Land Use Act 1978' is my research efforts; undertaken under the supervision of Mr. Fenine J. Fekumo and has not been presented elsewhere for the award of a degree or certificate. All sources have been duly distinguished and appropriately acknowledged.

Signature: .....

Date:

.....

OTUTURU, Gogo George

### 4.1.4 Certification

The certification page bears the names and signatures of the Supervisor, Head of Department, Dean of Faculty and the External Examiner as confirmation that the work is the original work of the student and has been found to have met the requirements of the University for the Award of the specified degree or certificate.<sup>8</sup> Some universities use "Approval" instead of Certification.<sup>9</sup>

In higher degree research, it also contains the name and signature of the Dean of Postgraduate Studies after the Dean of the Faculty and before the name and signature of the External Examiner. Finally, it contains a recommendation to the University that the specified degree or certificate be awarded to the student.

Students are prevented from knowing the external examiner before the viva voce examination. In practice, the students are given signed copies of the certification page only after the viva. The certification page may read as follows:

<sup>8</sup> Ibid 23. See also Faculty of Law, *Post Graduate Manual for Research Writing* (Rivers State University 2019) 26-27.

<sup>9</sup> OC Nwankwo, *A Practical Guide to Research Writing* (6<sup>th</sup> edn, University of Port Harcourt Printing Press 2026) xvi.

### **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this dissertation entitled ‘Acquisition of Land for Petroleum Operations in Nigeria: Implications of the Land Use Act’ by Gogo George Otuturu (Matriculation No PGS/97/LLM/FT/0212) carried out under our supervision has been found to have met the requirements of the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. We therefore recommend the work for the award of the Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Property Law.

..... Signature .....  
Supervisor Date: .....

..... Signature .....  
Head of Department Date: .....

..... Signature .....  
Dean of Faculty Date: .....

..... Signature .....  
Dean, PG School Date: .....

..... Signature .....  
External Examiner Date: .....

### **4.1.5 Dedication**

The dedication is optional and left entirely at the discretion of the student. The student may decide not to include dedication in his/her study. The student may decide to dedicate the work to God or his/her parents dead or alive. For example:

### **DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to my late father, Rev. Edison George Otuturu, who encouraged me to enroll for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Business and Industrial Law but did not live to attend my convocation ceremony.

### **4.1.6 Acknowledgements**

The researcher uses the acknowledgement page to express gratitude to those who helped to facilitate the completion of the work.<sup>10</sup> The order of acknowledgement should be: God; the dean

<sup>10</sup> TO Oyetunde, *Writing Research Projects, Journal Articles, Conference Papers and Documenting References Accurately* (University of Jos 2002) 13.

of the faculty; the supervisor and other lecturers; colleagues and friends; and family members.<sup>11</sup> This page shall follow immediately after the certification page. The acknowledgements may look like this:

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am grateful to God almighty for His provision for health and financial sustenance throughout the period of my studies. I must also express my sincere gratitude to an innumerable company of people who contributed in one way or the other to the completion of this research work.

I am grateful to Professor OVC Okene, the Dean of Law, who also doubled as my major supervisor; and Dr LO Nwauzi, who replaced Professor INE Worugji as my second supervisor. I am also grateful to all the lecturers and non-academic staff of the Faculty of Law, Rivers State University especially Professor CC Wigwe and Dr. Grace Akolokwu for their cooperation and advice throughout the course of my studies.

I am further grateful to my friends and colleagues who stood by me throughout the programme. Although the list is endless, I cannot fail to mention Chinwo and Ogbonna who not only defended on the same day with me but also proved to be more than friends to me.

Finally, I am grateful to my wife, Florence, and our children, Joseph, Solomon, Benjamin and Grace, for their support and encouragement during the sleepless nights I spent in writing, typesetting, editing and proofreading the manuscript of this research report.

#### **4.1.7 Table of Contents**

The table of contents is the characterization of the entire project, thesis or dissertation and must be consistent with the body format. It shows the preliminary pages in Roman numerals (e.g. i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii, etc.) and the main chapters, headings and subheadings with the corresponding page numbers in Arabic numerals (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, etc.).<sup>12</sup> For example:

<sup>11</sup> Adapted from Faculty of Law, *Post Graduate Manual for Research Writing* (Rivers State University 2019) 28.

<sup>12</sup> Nwankwo (n 9) xix. See also Arvind Kumar, 'Business Research Methodology: Report Writing' <<http://www.academia.edu>> accessed 12 July 2023.

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### 4.1.8 Table of Cases

The table of cases is a list of all the cases referred to in the body of the work and footnotes. This list comes immediately after the table of contents.<sup>13</sup> Some institutions may require the student to add the pages where the cases appear in the body of the work. All the cases are arranged alphabetically.<sup>14</sup>

Only titles of cases are italicized. The word pronounced as ‘versus’ or ‘and’ or ‘against’ which is abbreviated as v in the title of the case, which separates the names of the parties, is always written in small letter and in italics without a full stop. For example:

<sup>13</sup> Anjali (n 6) 10.

<sup>14</sup> NALT Guide (n 1) 25.



## TABLE OF CASES

### A

- Abacha v. Fawehinmi* [2000] 6 NWLR (Pt. 660) 228  
*Abdul-Raheem & Ors v Oloruntoba-Ojo* [2006] 15 NWLR (Pt. 1003) 581  
*Abdulraheem & Ors v Olufeagba & Ors* [2006] 17 NWLR (Pt. 1008) 280  
*Adams Oshiomole & Anor v Federal Government of Nigeria & Anor* [2005] 1 NWLR (Pt. 907) 414  
*Adeiran v Interland Transport Ltd* [1991] 9 NWLR (Pt. 217) 155  
*African Continental Bank v. Nwodika* [1996] 4 NWLR (Pt. 443) 470  
*Anene v J. Allen & Co. Ltd* [1975] 5 UILR 404  
*Apena v National Union of Printing Publishing and Paper Products* [2003] 8 NWLR (Pt. 822) 426  
*Attorney-General of Oyo State v Nigerian Labour Congress & Ors* [2003] 8 NWLR (Pt. 82) 1

### B

- Bonsor v Musicians' Union* [1956] A.C. 104  
*Bredom Dunne Ltd v Fitzpatrick* [1958] IR 29  
*Breen v Amalgamated Engineering Union* [1971] 1 All ER 1148  
*Bureau of Public Enterprises v National Union of Electricity Employees* [2003] 13 NWLR (Pt. 837) 382

### C

- Calabar Cement Co. Ltd v Daniels* [1991] 4 NWLR (Pt. 188) 750  
*Carmichael v National Power Plc* [1999] 1 Cr. 1226  
*Carr v Mercantile Produce Co. Ltd* [1949] 2 KB 601  
*Cassidy v Minister of Health* [1951] 1 ALL ER 574  
*Chukwumah v SPDC* (2003) 4 NWLR (Pt. 289) 512  
*Candler v Crane, Christmas & Co.* [1921] 2 KB 164  
*Clouston & Co. Ltd v Corry* (1909) AC 122  
*Collier v Sunday Referee Publishing Co. Ltd* [1940] 2 KB 647  
*Coop. & Comm. Bank v Okonkwo* [2001] 2 NWLR (Pt. 735) 114

#### 4.1.9 Table of Statutes

The table of statutes is a list of all the statutes referred to in the body of the work and in the footnotes. All the statutes are arranged alphabetically.<sup>15</sup> This list comes immediately after the table of cases. In some institutions, the student is required to add the pages where the statutes appear in the work. The following is an example of a typical table of statutes:

<sup>15</sup> Ibid 25.

#### TABLE OF STATUTES

Banking Act, Cap. B-1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004  
Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020  
Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 (England)  
Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875 (England)  
Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999  
Criminal Code (Southern States of Nigeria)  
Labour Act, Cap. L-1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004  
Labour-Management Act 1947 (United States of America)  
Labour Relations Act, 1995 (South Africa)  
Molestation of Workmen Act 1859 (England)  
National Industrial Court Act 2006

#### 4.1.10 List of Abbreviations

The list of abbreviations is a list of all the abbreviations and acronyms used in the work and footnotes arranged alphabetically with their corresponding meanings.<sup>16</sup> It will look like this:

#### ABBREVIATIONS

ACHPR	-	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
All ER	-	All England Reports
All NLR	-	All Nigeria Law Reports
CFRN	-	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
NWLR	-	Nigerian Weekly Law Reports
FWLR	-	Federation Weekly Law Reports
SCNLR	-	Supreme Court of Nigeria Law Reports
UDHR	-	Universal Declaration of Human Rights

#### 4.1.11 Abstract

The **abstract** is a written summary of a research report stating what was investigated, the methodology adopted, the findings, the recommendations and conclusion. In simple terms, an abstract is a succinct and complete summary of a research manuscript.<sup>17</sup> It must be a single paragraph and must comply with the word limits established by the institution. It usually comprises between 250 and 300 words.<sup>18</sup>

The abstract may be part of an article, project, thesis or dissertation, or chapter contribution in a book or a paper for presentation at a conference. It serves at least a threefold **purpose**. It may serve as a standalone overview of the research work. It may also serve as the basis for screening whether the research work is interesting and relevant and should be included for publication in a journal or

<sup>16</sup> Ibid 25.

<sup>17</sup> SB Bavdekar and NJ Gogtay, 'Writing an Abstract for a Research Manuscript: Providing an Honest, Succinct and Complete Summary' [2015] 63 *Journal of the Association of Physicians of India* 64.

<sup>18</sup> Sarah Cuschieri, Victor Grech and Charles Savona-Ventura, 'WASP (Write a Scientific Paper): Structuring a Scientific Paper' [2019] 128 *Early Human Development* 114.

presentation at a conference. It may further assist the reader to decide quickly whether to read the full research work or not.<sup>19</sup>

The abstract is usually the first part of the research that will be read by anybody including the external examiner. However, as it is a summary of the whole study, it is better written at the end of the research.<sup>20</sup> This helps the researcher to link the abstract to the title and the introduction.<sup>21</sup>

The abstract is also the only part of the research that may be included in abstracts of research studies, annotations and electronic databases before gaining access to the full paper. For this reason, the abstract should be written clearly and succinctly. It should also accurately reflect the contents of the paper and should make the greatest impact on the reader.<sup>22</sup>

Thus, **abstracts may be required** in the following circumstances:

- (1) For submission of articles to journals;
- (2) For application for research grants;
- (3) For completion and submission of theses or dissertations;
- (4) For submission of proposals for conference papers.<sup>23</sup>

There are two main **types of abstract**. The first is **descriptive abstract**. This type of abstract describes the main points in the research. It is usually short and focuses on the key elements in the research such as the background, the aim of the study, the research methodology, the findings, the recommendations and the conclusion. It merely portrays what the research contains without giving the details. It does not include results or discussion of results.<sup>24</sup> It is not written in structured paragraphs but in one blocked paragraph. It is suitable for doctrinal research and is rarely used in empirical research.<sup>25</sup>

The second is **informative abstract**. This type of abstract includes details of the research in distinct sections. The usual sections are represented with the acronym IMRAD, which stands for introduction or background, materials and methods, results and discussion.<sup>26</sup> Thus, informative abstract is usually structured and is suitable for empirical research especially science and engineering research.<sup>27</sup>

A good abstract should present a brief background of the study, the aim of the study, the research methodology, including the type of data collected and the method of analysis of the data, the findings, the recommendations, or suggestions for reform, and the conclusion.<sup>28</sup> For example, the

<sup>19</sup> Anna Harvey and others, 'Anatomy of an Abstract: A Guide to Writing a Scientific Abstract' [2018] 1(2) *Journal of the National Student Association of Medical Research* 54.

<sup>20</sup> Sarah Cuschieri, Victor Grech and Charles Savona-Ventura, 'WASP (Write a Scientific Paper): Structuring a Scientific Paper' [2019] 128 *Early Human Development* 115.

<sup>21</sup> SB Bavdekar and NJ Gogtay, 'Writing an Abstract for a Research Manuscript: Providing an Honest, Succinct and Complete Summary' [2015] 63 *Journal of the Association of Physicians of India* 64.

<sup>22</sup> HJM Vrijhoef and LMG Steuten, 'How to Write an Abstract' [2007] 4(3) *EDN* 124.

<sup>23</sup> Indrajeet P Shah, 'How to Write a Research Article' [2019] 7(2) *International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biological Science Archive* 1.

<sup>24</sup> Anna Harvey and others, 'Anatomy of an Abstract: A Guide to Writing a Scientific Abstract' [2018] 1(2) *Journal of the National Student Association of Medical Research* 57.

<sup>25</sup> SB Bavdekar and NJ Gogtay, 'Writing an Abstract for a Research Manuscript: Providing an Honest, Succinct and Complete Summary' [2015] 63 *Journal of the Association of Physicians of India* 64.

<sup>26</sup> Anna Harvey and others, 'Anatomy of an Abstract: A Guide to Writing a Scientific Abstract' [2018] 1(2) *Journal of the National Student Association of Medical Research* 54.

<sup>27</sup> Indrajeet P Shah, 'How to Write a Research Article' [2019] 7(2) *International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biological Science Archive* 2.

<sup>28</sup> Caroline JH Martin and Valerie Fleming, 'A 15-Step Model for Writing a Research Proposal' [2010] 18(12) *British Journal of Midwifery* 791.

following is an abstract from a doctrinal research paper titled ‘Legal Research Methodology: The Nuts and Bolts of Research Proposal’<sup>29</sup>:

#### **ABSTRACT**

Research proposal is an important segment of research methodology. It is the first step in writing a thesis or dissertation in a doctorate degree programme in institutions of higher learning. It is also an important requirement for research funding by donor organizations. The aim of this paper is to examine the nuts and bolts of research proposal. It identifies the sources of a research problem and highlights the characteristics of a good research topic. It also identifies the parts of a research proposal and discusses them with practical examples that cut across disciplinary boundaries. It adopts the doctrinal methodology. It relies on secondary sources of data. It found that the art of writing research proposal is almost forgotten in institutions of higher learning apparently due to lack of appropriate manpower and dearth of adequate teaching material on the subject matter. It suggests, amongst other things, that there should be training and retraining in research methodology in every field of study with a view to fixing the loose nuts and bolts of research proposal.

#### **4.2 Main Part**

The main part of a research report is divided into five chapters for Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) and Master of Laws (LL.M) programmes; and six chapters for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme. In the undergraduate, postgraduate diploma and master of laws degree programmes, Chapter 1 is titled ‘Introduction’. This chapter examines introductory matters such as the background to the study, the statement of the research problem, the research questions, the aim and objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope of the study, the limitations of the study, the research methodology and the synopsis of the chapters.<sup>30</sup>

Chapter 2 reviews the existing literature on the subject matter under conceptual framework, theoretical framework and empirical framework or review of related literature.<sup>31</sup> It also examines the historical development of the subject matter and identifies the gap in knowledge.<sup>32</sup>

Chapter 3 examines the legal and institutional framework of the study. It examines the various international, regional and national laws regulating the subject matter and the institutions established for implementing the laws.<sup>33</sup> Chapter 4 discusses and analyzes the various legal issues surrounding the research problem.

<sup>29</sup> GG Otuturu, ‘Legal Research Methodology: The Nuts and Bolts of Research Proposal’ [2024] -----

<sup>30</sup> NALT Guide (n 1) 29 and 46.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid 30.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid 29 and 48.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid 31.

In postgraduate diploma and masters' degree programmes, chapter five contains the summary of findings, recommendations and conclusion.<sup>34</sup> In a doctorate degree programme, chapter 5 continues with the discussion and analysis of the issues that have been raised in the preceding chapters especially from comparative and international perspectives. Chapter 6 contains the summary of findings, recommendations, contributions to knowledge, suggested areas for further study, and conclusion.<sup>35</sup>

For example, in a doctrinal research, the following will be the contents of each chapter in an undergraduate, postgraduate diploma and master's degree research study:

**CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Background of the Study
- 1.2 Statement of the Research Problem
- 1.3 Research Questions
- 1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study
- 1.5 Scope of the Study
- 1.6 Limitations of the Study
- 1.7 Significance of the Study
- 1.8 Research Methodology
- 1.9 Synopsis of Chapters

**CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

- 2.1 Conceptual Framework
- 2.2 Theoretical Framework
- 2.3 Historical Development of the Subject Matter
- 2.4 Review of Related Literature
- 2.5 Gap in Knowledge

**CHAPTER THREE: LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 Legal Framework
- 3.2 Institutional Framework

**CHAPTER FOUR: DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

This chapter will be devoted to the discussion and analysis of the entire work with appropriate headings and subheadings addressing the problems and challenges associated with the research topic.

**CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Summary of Findings
- 5.2 Recommendations
- 5.3 Conclusion**

In a PhD dissertation, Chapter 3 may have two or three layers of legal framework such as international legal framework, regional legal framework and national legal framework.<sup>36</sup> There may also be three layers of institutional framework such as international institutional framework,

<sup>34</sup> Ibid 32 and 43.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid 33 and 43.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid 42.

regional institutional framework and national institutional framework.<sup>37</sup> Again, Chapter 4, which deals with the analysis of the entire work, will be bifurcated into Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, while the 'Conclusion' will become Chapter 6.

Chapter 4 will be devoted to the discussion and analysis of the entire work, while Chapter 5 will be devoted to further discussion and analysis of the issues raised in the previous chapters including some comparative analysis in terms of international, regional and/or transnational perspectives as they relate to the research topic.<sup>38</sup> In Chapter 6, which is the concluding chapter, the PhD candidate is expected to include 'Contributions to Knowledge' and 'Areas for Further Study' between the 'Recommendations' and the 'Conclusion'.<sup>39</sup> These matters are, however, optional in chapter five of the LLB project and the LLM thesis.<sup>40</sup> Thus, Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the PhD dissertation will take the following structure:

### **CHAPTER THREE: LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Legal Framework**

##### **3.1.1 International Legal Framework**

##### **3.1.2 Regional Legal Framework**

##### **3.1.3 National Legal Framework**

#### **3.2 Institutional Framework**

##### **3.2.1 International Institutional Framework**

##### **3.2.2 Regional Institutional Framework**

##### **3.2.3 National Institutional Framework**

### **CHAPTER FOUR: DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

(Discussion and analysis of the entire work with appropriate chapter heading and subheadings addressing the problems and challenges associated with the research topic)

### **CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

(In-depth discussion and analysis of the issues raised in the previous chapters with appropriate chapter heading and subheadings. This will include some comparative analysis in terms of international, regional and/or transnational perspectives as they relate to the research topic).

### **CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION**

#### **6.1 Summary of Findings**

#### **6.2 Recommendations**

#### **6.3 Contributions to Knowledge**

#### **6.4 Suggested Areas for Further Research**

#### **6.5 Conclusion**

<sup>37</sup> Niger Delta University, 'Research Guide' (Faculty of Law 2023) 3 (hereinafter simply referred to as "NDU Research Guide").

<sup>38</sup> Ibid 3.

<sup>39</sup> NALT Guide (n 1) 44; NDU Research Guide (n 34) 4.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid 34-35.

In empirical research, Chapter 3 is replaced with ‘Research Methodology’ and Chapter 4 is replaced with ‘Results and Discussion’.<sup>41</sup> Other chapters will remain the same. The usual items in Chapters 3 and 4 in an empirical research are as follows:

### **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Research Design
- 3.2 Area of the Study
- 3.3 Population of the Study
- 3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique
- 3.5 Instrument for the Study
- 3.6 Validation of the Instrument
- 3.7 Reliability of the Instrument
- 3.8 Description of the Instrument
- 3.9 Administration of the Instrument
- 3.10 Method of Data Collection
- 3.11 Methods of Data Analysis

### **CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 Data Presentation
- 4.2 Interpretation of Data
- 4.3 Summary of Results
- 4.4 Discussion of Results

## **4.3 Terminal Part**

The terminal part may contain two important subsidiary matters depending on the research methodology adopted in carrying out the study. These are

- 4.3.1 Bibliography
- 4.3.2 Appendices

### **4.3.1 Bibliography**

The **bibliography** is a list of the books, journal articles, periodicals, internet materials and unpublished works that were actually consulted in the course of the research whether expressly cited in the body of the work or not.<sup>42</sup> The sources are arranged in alphabetical order beginning with the surnames of the authors followed by their initials and the publication details.<sup>43</sup> It may be divided into parts with headings such as Books, Articles in Journals, Articles in Magazines and Newspapers, Internet Materials, etc.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Niger Delta University, *Research Guide: Guide for Preparation of PGD Project, Thesis and Dissertation* (Niger Delta University 2021) 14.

<sup>42</sup> NALT Guide (n 1) 26.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid 84.

<sup>44</sup> Anjali (n 6) 8.



The bibliography indicates to the supervisor the caliber of the sources consulted and provides the supervisor with an indication of the depth of research undertaken on the topic. Only sources actually consulted by the researcher in the course of the study are listed in the bibliography. A typical bibliography will look like this:

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Books**

- Dutton WH and Jeffrey PW (eds), *World Wide Research: Reshaping the Sciences and Humanities in the Century of Information* (MIT Press 2010)
- Okene OVC and Otuturu GG, *Nigerian Company Law and Practice* (Zubic Infinity Concepts 2021)

### **Articles in Journals**

- Abraham JG, 'The Common Law and the Nigerian Constitution' [2001] 17(2) *Modern Practice Journal of Finance and Investment Law* 42
- Otuturu GG, 'Categories of Contract of Employment: A Note on *Union Bank of Nigeria Plc v Ogbah*' [2005] 9 (1-2) *Modern Practice Journal of Finance and Investment Law* 201

### **Articles in Newspapers**

- Croft J, 'Supreme Court Warns on Quality' *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010) 3

### **Internet Materials**

- Green L, 'Legal Positivism', *The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 2009)  
<<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2009/entries/legal-positivism>> accessed 20 November 2009
- Greenleaf G, 'The Global Development of Free Access to Legal Information' [2010] 1(1) *EJLT* 210 <<http://ejlt.org/article/view/17>> accessed 27 July 2010



### 4.3.2 Appendix

An appendix is some form of data or additional information such as tables, charts, etc, which are removed from the body of the work and placed at the end as an appendix.<sup>45</sup> In higher degree research, bibliographies and appendices are not included in the word count.<sup>46</sup>

In empirical research, where questionnaire or test is administered, it is appended to the work as an appendix. Some complex statistical formulae, statistical tables, pictures, computations and analyses that may disrupt the flow of information in the main body of the report may also be removed from the body of the work and appended as an appendix.<sup>47</sup> In such a case, the two appendices are numbered as "Appendix 1" and "Appendix 2" respectively and placed immediately after the Bibliography.

### 5.0 Conclusion and Suggestion

A research report is the end product of a research. It presents the procedure a researcher followed in the investigation of a research problem, the techniques he adopted in collecting, analyzing and interpreting the data, the summary of the findings, the recommendations and conclusion. In higher degree research, the report includes contributions to knowledge and suggested areas for further research.

The components of research report will depend on the purpose of the report. In higher degree research, the report will take the form of a manuscript such as a thesis or dissertation. It will also depend on the methodology adopted by the researcher in conducting the research. The methodology may be doctrinal or empirical or mixed methodology. In each methodology, the researcher must follow the prescribed stages and chapter contents.<sup>48</sup>

There is, however, a dearth of standard journal articles and textbooks that detail the prescribed stages and chapter contents of the various methodologies in legal research based on the NALT Guide. It is, therefore, suggested that institutions of higher learning and research funding organizations should fund the production of standard journal articles and textbooks on research methodology with emphasis on research report writing based on the NALT Guide.

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid 26.

<sup>46</sup> Arvind Kumar, 'Business Research Methodology: Report Writing' <<http://www.academia.ed>> accessed 12 July 2023.

<sup>47</sup> Anjali (n 6) 15.

<sup>48</sup> See generally NALT Guide (n 1) 27-56.