Open Source research can significantly enhance, verify, and provide more context for primary research findings. Our open source research requirement was to understand all aspects of the Jordan Property Regime. We relied on both secondary grey literature and primary research for this effort. One of our challenges was finding the best way to integrate the secondary grey literature with our primary research in order to create a more enriched grey literature product.

The Jordan Property Regime project is part of the Bowman Expedition series sponsored by the American Geographical Association. It is a global concept in which geographers, scholars, and researchers go to foreign countries to establish or enhance a mutual understanding and appreciation of the legal basis of land ownership, how it is used, mapped, registered, and taxed. We examined the accuracy, comprehensiveness, and transparency of the Jordanian system. Our research focused on the overall property regime as well as special topics, including a special topic on women’s issues in land ownership.

The IIa Team’s methodology was based on a multi-method form of investigative inquiry that included archival and open source research, selection of six study areas for a pilot study, survey of student opinion, comprehensive household survey, monitoring of four daily newspapers, focus groups, assessment of Geographic Information System (GIS) status and surveying practices, and assessment of legal systems for land.

The three questionnaire surveys which had 2,600 respondents were distributed among various groups of the Jordanian population and in various localities. The four focus groups consisted of surveyors, real estate lawyers, women, and realtors. These were a diverse group of experts whose daily work was linked in one way or another with the issues related to real estate in broader terms.

Secondary open source research verified many of our conclusions from our primary research. For example, grey literature verified our primary research conclusions indicating that the property regime in Jordan generally meets the demands of its citizens and society as a whole. As for Jordanian women’s issues concerning land ownership, open source information verified our conclusions that women in Jordan have more rights in theory than in practice. We also used grey open source research to verify our conclusions about the Jordanian government transparency concerning land ownership.