NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

JLS 842

Introduction to web Publishing

Module 3

JLS 842 (Introduction to Web Publishing) Module 3

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Unit 1 Understanding the Meaning of Law

1.0 Introduction

This unit focuses on the legal issues to keep in mind when publishing for Web sites. The key is to remember that all the laws, policies and social rules that apply in real life also apply on the Internet.

2.0 Objectives

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of law
- discuss the classification of law
- explain the characteristics of law.

3.0Main Content

3.1 Conceptualization of Law

The definition of law, much as it is important, has always been a subject of controversy among jurists and scholars. This means that there is no generally acceptable definition of law because, it is variable in nature and does not give room for uniform definition. As a result, its definition differs from society to society.

Thus, what may be considered law in one society may not be considered so in another society. The definitions of law that are in existence today are formulated by authorities of diverse backgrounds and orientations. Thinking along the same line, Jacdonmi (2008:1) says that many jurists, scholars, philosophers and legal practitioners have tried to come up with a unified definition of law and all efforts have proved fruitless.

Law according to Jacdonmi is not static in nature; it is constantly changing. It is because of this dynamic nature of law that Jurists and legal practitioners have defined law as a code of behaviour laid down by the people.

Going by the above, law can be described as a body of rules designed or formulated to guide human conducts or actions which is imposed upon and enforced among the members of a given state. In other words, it means a set of rules or principles created or approved by the state government authority in a society for the guidance or regulation of human conducts, the violation of which attracts a sanction or punishment. Okoye (2007:4) sees law as the set of rules established by nature or human authorities to regulate natural phenomenon or human behaviours within a given community or country.

It is crystal clear from the above definitions that law can either be natural or manmade. The natural laws are the laws of nature. For example, we have the law of natural science. We have the law of gravitation discovered by Isaac Newton; we have the law of supply, demand and diminishing returns. For the fact that the earth rotates on its axis is a law which was imposed by nature. Man-made laws are those imposed by human authorities for the

regulation of human activities. In this book however, we are concerned with the man-made laws.

3.2 Classification of Law

There is two broad classification of law; namely: international and municipal law.

International Law

This can further be discussed under two categories:

Public International Law: This is the law that governs the mutual relationships between states or countries of the world. No country of the world can live in isolation. Countries of the world need to maintain mutual understanding as this is the only way that there can be global peace. To have this global peace, there is public international law.

Private International Law: It deals primarily with determining what system of state law should be properly applied by state courts in cases involving crisis between persons of different nationalities.

Municipal Law

This simply refers to the set of rules and regulations established by human authorities in a particular country or state. Such body of rules are only recognized and enforced in a particular country. Municipal law can be classified into:

Public and Private Law: Public law is primarily concerned with the state and with the rights and duties existing between the individuals and the state. A very good example is the constitutional law. Private law on the other hand, deals with the rights and duties of individuals. It is primarily concerned with matters affecting the rights and duties of individuals among themselves. For example, the laws of contract, torts, property, succession etc.

Criminal and Civil Law: Criminal law as a branch of law concerns itself with the regulation of offences committed by members of the society against the state. It deals with the trial and punishment of persons who commit offence against the state. It is the duty of the state to punish those who commit crime in the society. These offences are such that can seriously harm the community and based on that, it is considered an offence against the state.

Civil law on the other hand, protects the rights of the individuals towards each other. It can be classified into commercial law, media law, company law etc.

Substantive and Procedural Law: Substantive laws refer to the set of rules and regulations that govern people. That is, the text or substance of the law itself which guides the courts in making decision. Procedural laws on the other hand, are those which consist of rules that lay down the procedure for applying the law. In other words, they are rules which determine the course of an action or the rules which govern the machinery as opposed to the subject matter of litigation.

3.3 Characteristics of Law

- It is a body of rules.
- It is prescribed or designed by state or sovereign or governing authority.
- It is enforced by the state through the instruments or means of sanctions.
- It is given to a society (unless where it is repealed or modified).
- In their prescribed form, the rules of law are generally certain and predictable in character and in content.

3.4 Functions of Law in the Society

Eweluka cited in Okoye (2007:5) identifies five important contributions of law to the society. They include:

Regulation of Human Conduct: In a society where there is no law, people will choose to fight, kill and rob at will; anarchy will definitely prevail when there is no law to regulate the behaviours of the people. Laws exist in a society to ensure that the citizens conduct themselves in an orderly manner. When you have a society where everyone conducts himself in an orderly manner because he is guided by his conscience or religion, there would be no need for law. But because we do not have such a society, laws are made to regulate the behaviours of the people. This therefore brings about peace and tranquility in a given society.

Reconciliation of the Interest of Individual to that of the Community: Some people's interests may be different from that of the community. There is the need to ensure that the interests of the individuals correspond with the welfare or interests of the community at large, hence, laws are made. The essence is to ensure that every individual considers the good of all and the public good in particu1ar.

Pointing Out where Interest Exists: The court of law examines cases brought before it and identifies and protects where interest has been violated.

Man Owes His Dignity to Law: Law makes it possible for everyone to be subject to the law of the land. It is supreme and all men must obey the laws of the land. The law guarantees the inalienable rights of the individual in the constitution. Because we have the rule of law, the civil and political rights of the individual are recognised.

Change in Economic, Political, Social and Religious Structures are initiated by Laws: The only thing that is constant is change. The society as we know is dynamic, it changes with time and every society must move with changing times. When there is a change in the social, political and economic structures of a country, the only way the society can restructure itself to meet up with progress and continuity is through the initiation of laws.

From the foregoing, it is quite evident that without law in any given society, anarchy and lawlessness will be the order of the day thereby, leading to pandemonium in the society. The resultant effect will be economic, social and political stagnation with ultimate consequence of societal disintegration. Sambe and Ikoni (2004: 8) however say that the purposes of law in any given society among others include to:

- ensure and maintain order
- achieve justice and fairness
- protect the rights and the interests of the weak and the oppressed
- preserve the integrity and personality of an individual
- preserve the fundamental values or ethics of the society.

Self-Assessment Exercise

Is it possible to regulate Web publishing, just like traditional publishing?

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, we examined the meaning of law as a general concept and as it relate to Web publishing. We also examined the various classifications of law, functions and characteristics of law. Though as old as man and hence supposedly very familiar to everyone, Web publishing law requires elucidation and amplification to the clear understanding of all, especially potential online publishers.

5.0 Summary

This unit is an explanation of the meaning, classification, functions and characteristics of law. Law as it were, is the set of rules established by nature or human authorities to regulate natural phenomenon or human behaviours within a given community or country. Law is mainly classified into two in this unit; this includes international and municipal laws.

Law is important in the society for several reasons, these among others include: regulation of human conduct, reconciliation of the interest of individual to that of the community and pointing out where interest exists. The court of law examines cases brought before it and identifies and protects where interest has been violated.

6.0 Self-Assessment Exercise

1. What do you understand by the concept "law"?
2. Briefly discuss the classification of law.
3. Identify and discuss the functions and characteristics of law.

7.0 References/Further Reading

Eweluka, B. (2004). *Introduction to Nigerian Press Law.*Onitsha: Maranatha Press.

Jacdonmi, V. (2008). *Nigerian Media Law and Ethics.*Jos: Great Future Printing and Business Centre.

Okoye, I. (2007). *Nigerian Press Laws and Ethics.*Lagos: Malthouse Press Limited.

Sambe, J. &Ikoni, U. (2004). *Mass Media Laws and Ethics in Nigeria.*Ibadan: Caltop Publications Nigeria Limited.

Unit 2Various Web Publishing Laws

1.0 Introduction

Publishing laws equally apply to online publishers in general. As discussed in Unit 1 of this Module, law regulates human conducts; thus the conduct of Web publishers can also be regulated through various Web publishing laws. Thus, this unit is devoted to treating the various Web publishing laws.

2.0 Objective

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- identify and discuss the various Web publishing laws.

3.0 Main Content

3.1 Law of Defamation

Every human being whether rich or poor, highly placed or lowly placed, literate or illiterate has his integrity to protect. The law of defamation is the law which seeks to protect individuals from indignity, ridicule, disrepute and the social embarrassment which the persons may be disposed to through malicious publications. The chief ingredient of a reputation is a good name which is said to be among a man's priceless possessions and gives him the respect and love of his family, the honour, esteem and confidence of his family and community in general. It also measures the respect and goodwill he has earned among his peers.

Thus, any word spoken or written, that generates adverse, derogatory or even unpleasant feelings against a person is said to have injured his reputation for which he is entitled to seek redress. The law that provides redress for such injury is known as law of defamation (Asemah, 2011). Sambe and Ikoni (2004:47) stress that the law of defamation tries to strike a balance between individual's right to have his reputation protected and freedom of speech which does not imply the freedom to expose wrong doing at the expense of others' reputation.

The common interest in law of defamation therefore, is to protect the reputation of individuals from being unjustly messed up before the right thinking members of the society. The essence is to guide against unnecessary and avoidable character assassination. The law is aimed at protecting the reputation of the people in the society from being injured by the members of the society through the organs of mass media or interpersonal communication. The law of defamation falls under the law of torts.

3.1.1Meaning of Defamation

Many scholars have given their definitions of defamation. In the words of Fogam and AcquaDadzie (1987:65), defamation is any article or broadcast which exposes a person to hatred, ridicule or contempt, lowers him in the esteem of his fellows, causes him to be shunned or injures him in his business or calling. Defamation is also defined as an intentional false communication either published or publicly spoken, that injures another's reputation or good name.

Enemo (1998:1), cited in Asemah (2011) says that defamation is the publication of a statement concerning a person which is calculated to lower him in the estimation of right thinking persons or causes him to be shunned or avoided or expose him to hatred or ridicule or convey an imputation on him, disparaging or injurious to him in his office, profession, calling, trade or business. It is any publication or aired message which vilifies a person. It is writing or saying things that bring a person or organization into disrepute or public odium or generally injures the person's or organization's reputation before the public. The basic thing is that, an organization or a person is lowered or ridiculed in a manner injurious to him.

Defamatory statements may be made in numerous ways. This means that there are no comprehensive definitions of defamation. This has made the job of a journalist more onerous, more especially as the definitions so far proffered do not cover every case. Under the Nigerian Defamation Law of 1961 which is still in force, any spoken or written word is considered to be defamatory if it does any or a combination of the following:

- Has the tendency of lowering the estimation of a person in the eyes or minds of the right-thinking members of the society.
- Exposes a person to hatred, contempt, odium and public ridicule.
- Causes other people to shun or avoid a person.
- Injures a person in his or her trade, profession or office.

It should be noted that the defamatory words must not excite hatred, ridicule or contempt before it will be regarded as defamation.

3.1.2Types of Defamation

Technically, defamation, as noted by Asemah (2011), can be categorised into two:

Libel

It is simply described as a written communication that has defamatory content against a person, community, religion or an organisation; it is actionable per se. Libel is any defamatory statement that is made in any visual form which is permanent. This covers photographs, pictures, cartoons, books etc.

Thus, Eweluka (2004:212) sees libel as defamation by means of writing or by any other permanent form as video tapes, pictures, art work, effigy etc. Malami (1999:77) also says that libel is a defamatory statement made in a visible permanent form such as written or printed words or statements as in books, newspapers, magazines, notes, circular, letter or by way of effigy, caricature, painting, photograph, film, radio and television broadcasts, any recorded audio-visual material and so on.

From the foregoing, libel simply means any communication which is permanent and which tends to expose an individual or an organization to hatred. By the provision of Section 3 of

the Defamatory and Offensive Publication Acts, words contained in radio broadcasts as well as televisions are to be treated as libel because, they are recorded in permanent form. Libel can be classified into criminal and civil libel.

Criminal Libel: It can be grouped into blasphemy and obscenity. Blasphemy is a libelous statement that tends to annoy a particular faith or religion. Such statements or publications can bring about war in a society. Obscenity on the other hand is committed when a journalist or an individual tends to corrupt the morals of the people. Obscenity is any publication that causes immorality in the society.

Civil Libel: This is the type that has a bandwagon effect. For example, when you defame the leader of a particular religion or a particular tribe, his followers are bound to rise up to fight. It is worthy of mention here that libel is actionable by itself and this means that the aggrieved party need not prove any actual damage.

Thus, once there is a publication which has been proven to be libelous, the law presumes damage on the part of the affected party and damages will be awarded to him in form of general damages. However, where the affected person goes further to prove actual damage, the court will award him what is known as special damages in addition to general damages. This is simply because, libel is a written defamation which tends to injure a person's reputation or good name or that diminishes the esteem, respect or good will due a person.

Slander

It is defamation through spoken words or gestures. It is defamation in transitory form. Slander is a defamatory statement addressed to the ear, but as earlier stated, radio and television is classified under libel. The general position of the law is that, slander is not actionable per se thus, where the plaintiff complains that words uttered by the defendant are defamatory of him, no action will lie unless, in addition to the words uttered, the plaintiff further shows that he has suffered actual damage either by way of his business or by conduct of the people towards him or some other material or financial loss or disadvantage occasioned by the conduct of the defendant.

As we earlier noted, slander is the defamation of one's reputation or character by spoken words. The common ground open for a plaintiff to prove a case of slander is to convince the court beyond reasonable doubt that he or she really suffered some damages on account of what the defendant said. Slander can therefore, be proved by producing a witness to testify upon oath that he or she witnessed the occasion where the defendant actually used the words complained of against the plaintiff.

However, there are exceptional cases in which slander is actionable per se. The exceptions are the recognition of the fact that there are some words which are very harmful and injurious to a person when uttered, in which case, the injured person or party need not prove actual or special damage before he succeeds. This means that where these exceptions are obtained, slander becomes actionable per se and consequent upon that have the same effects as libel. Below are some of the exceptions:

Imputation of Crime: Publications which impute the commission of crime are actionable per se. For it to be qualified as actionable slander, the imputation of crime must be a direct assertion of guilt. This therefore means that mere allegation of suspicion will not be enough.

More so, the alleged crime must be punishable by imprisonment in the first instance. If punishable only by fine, then, actual damage would have to be proven. Also, the words complained of must be looked at in the context in which the imputation was made in order to discover what was imputed

Imputation of Disease: Where the slanderous statement contains words which impute that one has certain contagious diseases then, the slander is actionable per se. This is because, when you say that someone has such contagious ailment, there is the possibility of the person being shunned and avoided by the mentally sound members of the public. Here, we have disease like tuberculosis, HIV / AIDS, leprosy etc. Enemo (1998:5) says that it is a slander actionable parse to say that a person is infected with a contagious or repulsive disease likely to prevent others from associating with such a person. Enemo however said that there is uncertainty as to what diseases are included in this exception.

Imputation of Unchastity or Immorality against a Woman (Adultery): Where the imputation is against unchastity or lack of moral uprightness on the part of a woman or a girl, the slander is actionable per se. This is because, such statements are likely going to make people to shun her, including the husband (the married ones). To accuse a married woman of adultery is actionable per se. But the context in which the imputations were used will be taken into consideration. Thus, if the woman has actually committed adultery and the defendant can prove beyond reasonable doubt, it is not actionable per se.

Imputation affecting Office, Profession, Calling, Trade or Business: When words that are defamatory are used against someone and such defamatory words in turn affect the plaintiff in his business or office, such a slander is actionable per se. To therefore say that a lawyer is a quack is actionable per se, to say that a doctor is a quack is actionable per se.

Thus, Enemo says that imputation of unfitness, dishonesty or incompetence in respect to an office, profession, trade or business held or carried on by the plaintiff at the time of the publication will be actionable per se.

Elements of Defamation

The elements of defamation are the necessary ingredients that are common to libel and slander which must be proven (Asemah, 2011). Asemah identifies the elements thus:

Publication: Before the law recognises a statement or comment as defamatory, it must be published. In the eyes of the law, publication occurs when one person, in addition to the writer and the person who is defamed sees or hears the material. The defamatory statement must be communicated to at least, one person other than the plaintiff. Publication to the plaintiff alone is not actionable.

This is because; defamation has to do with the publication that tends to reduce the reputation of an individual before the right thinking members of the society and not from injury to his feelings about himself. The publication could be through radio, newspaper, magazines, cartoons, books, journals, etc. It is the publication that gives a cause of action. The material part of the cause of action in libel is not the writing but, the publication of the libel. Publication made innocently comes under innocent dissemination. So, when you destroy someone's reputation through online publication, it is defamatory.

Identification: The plaintiff must be able to prove that he or she is the one that is being referred to. The words must be seen to refer to the plaintiff. The injured party must show to the court that the alleged defamatory statement is, of and concerning him or her. Failing to do so, the plaintiff will lose the suit.

The Words must be Defamatory: Defamatory words are words which tend to expose an individual to hatred in the estimation of the right thinking members of the society. Sambe and Ikoni (2004:55) observe that the question of what standard to apply in determining whether the words used are defamatory has not been answered uniformly. The commonest text however, seems to be that the plaintiff must be able to prove that the words complained of are defamatory of him in the eyes of the right thinking members of the society generally and not merely a section of it.

Thus, where the injured party is able to satisfy this requirement, the words will be held defamatory. Usually, it is the court that decides whether the words used are capable of conveying a defamatory meaning. And in so doing, the court or Judge is guided by the text of reasonableness, taking into consideration what natural and ordinary meaning of those words would mean to or to be understood by those to whom they are published. Having known what defamatory matter means and how it can be determined, it becomes necessary to discuss the ancillaries of defamatory words:

The Intention of the Defamer: The law does not take into consideration the motive or the intention of the defendant in the court of law. The motive or intention of the defamer is immaterial in an action for defamation. The major concern of the law is the effect or consequence of what has been published on the plaintiff and not the intension of publishing the story. Whether the intension is good or bad does not really count.

In the court of law, it is assumed that everyone is of good character and based on this fact, the defamation of an individual is considered to be false until it is proven to be true. In this sense, malice is used in a technical sense to mean the same thing as intension which refers to wrong intension for doing an act without a just cause or excuse and this is presumed by the law from the fact of publication. Sambe and Ikom (2004:56) note that it must be borne in mind that this presumption is reputable.

Thus, when the defendant shows a just cause or excuse for the publication, the defense of qualified privilege avails him. Where that is the case, the onus of proof is shifted to the plaintiff to prove the existence of malice in the popular sense. This means that there is an indirect motive under the influence of which the defendant abused the privileged occasion. Journalists must therefore, base their reports or publications on complete identification of the individual possibly, his age. This is necessary because, it will save the reporter and the establishment the risk of describing a separate person bearing the same name.

Innuendo: In Okon v. Advocate, an innuendo was defined as defamatory imputation whose extrinsic facts known to the reader impart into the words as an addition to or alteration of their ordinary meaning. This connotes that an innuendo relies on a conjunction of the words used and some extrinsic facts; mere implication of the words complained of without any extrinsic support will not suffice. Innuendos in the law of defamation are of two types:

True or Legal Innuendo: This is a situation whereby the words in their ordinary and natural meanings do not have any defamatory tendencies, but, there exist a special situation where the words would convey to a person who is knowledgeable of those situations and

to whom the words were published to consider them defamatory. The plaintiff argues that even though the words are not defamatory on the face, they contain and convey a defamatory meaning to person to whom they are published because of special facts or circumstances not set out in the words themselves but known to those persons.

In other words, legal innuendo alleges that although, a statement may be innocuous on the surface, because of the special knowledge of those to whom they were published, it is defamatory. A case in which innuendo was established was that of Akintola v. Anyia. In that case, the defendant published a book titled "Among the Nigerian Celebrities". In the book, it was alleged that the plaintiff was the son of "Chief Sawe of Ilesha and Alice".

Meanwhile, it was revealed that the plaintiff does not come from Ilesha but, Ogbomosho and belong to a different family entirely. It was held that the words were defamatory of the plaintiff. Although, the words were innocent on their face, they were nevertheless held defamatory; this is because, if the people who know the plaintiff to be an Ilesha man read the story, they would think that he had been untruthful about his origin and parentage.

Also, if for example a journalist describes Miss. B. as always frequenting house number 20 Akara Street, Jos and the house is known to be the habitation of prostitutes, the statement may seem innocent on the surface, but, it is published to persons who know that house number 20, Akara Street is an abode for the prostitutes. Meaning that, the statement carries innuendo that Miss B is also a prostitute. However, the plaintiff must establish that persons having knowledge of special facts or circumstances might reasonably understand the words in a defamatory sense (Asemah, 2011).

False or Popular Innuendo: A defamatory meaning which derives no support from extrinsic facts but, which is said to be implied from the words which one used is said to be popular innuendo. This simply entails that the court can draw its own conclusion as to the meaning of the words and not necessarily accepting the meaning assigned to the words by witnesses.

Here, the plaintiff contends that the words are defamatory not because of any extrinsic facts or circumstances known to those to whom the words were published, but, because of some defamatory inferences which reasonable persons would generally draw from the words themselves. A false innuendo goes beyond the literal meaning of the words but is inherent in them (Asemah, 2011).

Defamation of a Group

A troublesome question regarding identification is group identification. Can a member of a group sue when the group as a whole is defamed? Sambe and Ikoni (2004:64) opine that the general position of the law is that an individual cannot successfully bring an action or complaint of a defamatory statement that refers to a group, class or body of persons.

Thus, where it is stated that all lecturers are rogues, no single lecturer can sue for defamation successfully. This general rule is grounded on the belief that a derogatory statement of a large and indeterminable number of persons described by general name can hardly reflect on a single member of the group. The plaintiff usually, has little problem in convincing the court that defamation has occurred. But where defamatory words are published of a group or class of persons, a member of the group can sue if the group is so small as to lead to the inference that what is said of the group is necessarily said of every member of that group or that the circumstance of the case shows that the plaintiff was clearly being referred to.

This was why the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the trial court in Dalumo V. Sketch and found that sufficient reference to the plaintiff being inferred from the publication even though it relates to all top officials of the Nigerian Airway Corporation, of which the plaintiff is the acting secretary since the group was so small and ascertainable. It is left for the court to decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence which the words complained of and that can be regarded as referring to the plaintiff. Where such evidence exists, it becomes a matter of fact (Asemah, 2011).

Defences for Defamation

There are so many defences available in an action for defamation. It is imperative for the Web publisher to know these defences, because when he knows them, he can use them to test the safety or otherwise of what he intends to publish. The defences are:

Truth: Before a Web publisher can use this as a defence, he must be able to prove beyond reasonable doubt that what he is saying is nothing but the truth. It means that the defendant is able to justify his derogatory statements. The Web publisher admits the publication of the defamatory words but, pleads that he is not liable to the plaintiff because, the words as they stand are true in substance and fact. Where the defendant can prove that the alleged defamatory words are true, it does not matter whether the publication was actuated by malice or ill-will.

Privileged: It is categorized into absolute and qualified privilege.

Absolute Privilege: It is a complete defence to an action for defamation however false or defamatory the statement may be and however maliciously it may have been made. Absolute privilege covers the following areas:

- Statement made in the course of and with reference to judicial proceedings by any judge, jury man, advocate, party or witness.
- Statements made in the proceedings of the legislature. For example, National Assembly and States House of Assembly.
- Commendations made by one officer of state to another in the course of his official duty.
- Reports of judicial proceedings.

Qualified Privilege: The main difference between the absolute privilege and qualified privilege is that a plea of qualified privilege will be defeated if the plaintiff is able to prove that the defendant in publishing the words complained of, was actuated by express malice, whereas in absolute privilege, the malice of the defendant is irrelevant. Qualified privilege covers the following occasions:

- Statements made in the performance of a legal moral or social duty.
- Statements made to the proper authorities in order to obtain redress for public grievances.
- Statements made in self defence.
- Statements made between parties having a common interest.
- Fair and accurate reports of proceedings in the legislature.
- Fair and accurate reports of judicial proceedings.

Fair Comments: The journalist is free to comment on issues of public interest. It is a defence to an action that the statement complained of was fair comment on a matter of public interest. It is very important to preserve the fundamental human rights to freedom of expression and the defence is available to all who comment fairly on all matters that may be said to be the legitimate concern of the public.

The constitution charges the press to make government accountable and uphold the fundamental objectives of the Nigerian state. It therefore follows that fair comments made in respect of any public officer or public figure or any matter of public interest can form a defence against an action for defamation. For a comment to be fair, it must satisfy the following conditions:

- The matter must be of public interest like affairs of government, administration of justice, management of public institutions, church matters etc.
- The statement must be an opinion, not an assertion of fact.
- The statement must be based on facts truly stated.
- The comment must be honestly made.
- The comment must not be actuated by express malice.

Consent to the Publication: He who agrees should not complain. If someone willingly invites an online journalist to cover his function or he grants the online journalist an interview based on his own decision, it becomes a defence if the interviewee turns round to institute an action of defamation. For this defence to be a successful one, there has to be written consent between the online journalist and the interviewee before publication. However, if the publication goes beyond the limit of the initial approval, there may be grounds for an action. This defence is known as *volentia non-fit-injuria.*

Death of the Plaintiff: Reputation is a personal possession and only the owner of the reputation can sue for it. If the owner of the reputation dies, it becomes difficult for an action to continue. An action for defamation is an action "inpersonam". That is, such actions are personal and only the person whose reputation has been injured can seek redress. The purpose of an action for defamation is to vindicate the character of the person defamed. Accordingly, the proper party to bring an action is the person defamed.

Thus, an action for defamation by the plaintiff cannot survive him or be continued by his heirs or successors in titles. That is, when the plaintiff dies, the action also dies with him. Also, when a defamatory statement is published concerning a dead person, the relations cannot maintain an action on behalf of the deceased.

Resjudicata: This means that a case cannot be treated in two courts of the same jurisdiction. If a case of defamation has been adjudged, whether lost or won, by law, the plaintiff or defendant is not allowed to file a fresh action on the same matter. Resjudicata is to say that the case has come to a logical conclusion and has died a natural death. Resjudicata is a proposition to the effect that the matter has been adjudicated upon before by a competent jurisdiction. To qualify as such, it must be shown to the satisfaction of the court that:

- The parties in the case at hand are the same as those in the case being pleaded as resjudicata.
- The alleged defamatory matter in the suits is the same jurisdiction.
- The said suit was decided by a court of competent of jurisdiction.

Thus, the court will not entertain a second action based on the same complaints against the same defendant by the same plaintiff. The defendant or plaintiff who is not satisfied with the judgements can only go to a court of higher authority.

Avoiding Libel Suits

A successful libel suit can cause an individual, or organization much harm and fortunes. The following are tips on how to avoid the troubled waters as supplied by Mencer (1996:402), cited in Asemah (2011):

- Confirm and verify all possible defamatory materials. The writer should double-check anything that questions a person's fitness to handle his or her job, alleges a person has committed a crime or performed some acts that constitute a crime and implies or directly states that a person is mentally ill or has a loathsome disease.
- Make sure that questionable materials can be proven.
- Be especially careful of arrest reports, damage suits and criminal court hearings. These stories cause more libel suits than all others and almost all the suits are the results of careless reporting or writing. Check names, addresses and make sure the defendants and plaintiffs are properly identified.
- Do not try to sneak in defamatory materials with such words as alleged or reported. These words are not protections against libel.
- When charges and accusations are made in privileged situation, it is a good idea to check with the person being defamed, this extra check demonstrates your fairness.
- Do not colour an article with opinions. Watch out for personal enthusiasms that cause you to lose control of the writing.
- Be careful of statements made by police or court officials outside court.
- Truth is a defence, but good intentions are not, you may not have meant to defame someone, but, when your well-meaning writing proves to be untrue, your intention is no longer a defence.
- A retraction of an error is not a defence. At most, it could lessen damages and eliminate punitive damages.

3.2 Law of Sedition

The seditious law is one of the first few enactments of the British Administration to put a check on the press. It was one of the laws fashioned to curtail the operations of the press. It was believed that the press could do and also undo any government, so, the colonial government enacted the Seditious Offence Ordinance of November 6, 1909 to restrict the press report of the railway scandal which was widely published by nationalists/journalists; one of whom was Herbert Macaulay (Asemah, 2011).

Momoh in Akinfeleye (1988:114) says that since the criminal code Act of 1916, this offence has been in our status book and has been very much involved since after independence. It constitutes one of the political offences against the state in criminal law. Sedition can be described as the statement or publication made with the intention to incite people against the federal or state government and make the people to call for a change of government through unlawful means. It is the communication of a message which could incite people to be restive, to riot or to rebel against the government of the day.

When the publication or aired message is seen to be an intention to encourage people to unlawfully oppose the government, it becomes a seditious publication or a seditious broadcast. Enactments on sedition are made by the government of a nation to ensure order among citizens. It is the duty of the court or Judge to determine whether the alleged publications by the accused are capable of bearing a seditious meaning and if so, whether written or oral. In doing that, the court or judge puts in several tests to determine whether a particular publication is serious or not. These include but, not limited to the following:

- Does it bring the government of the federation or state or the Head of State or Governor into hatred or contempt?
- Does it excite the citizens or inhabitants of this country to attempt alteration of any matter in Nigeria other than by law established?
- Does it engender discontent or disaffection among the citizens of Nigeria?
- Does it promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between classes of the population of Nigeria?

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that sedition is any publication which is likely to disturb the internal peace, security, tranquility and government of any given country.

3.2.1Statutory Provisions of the Offence

The penal code provides for the offence of sedition in Nigeria. Under the Section 50 (1) of the criminal code, seditious words and seditious publications are defined as words and publications having seditious intentions. Section 50 (2) further elaborates on the description of law of sedition by stating that a seditious intention is an intention:

- To bring into hatred or contempt or to excite disaffection against the person of a state or the government of the federation or of any state thereof, as by law established or against the administration of justice in Nigeria.
- To excite the citizens or other inhabitants of Nigeria to attempt to procure the alteration, otherwise than by lawful means of any other matter in Nigeria as by law established.
- To raise discontent or dissatisfaction among the citizens or other inhabitants of Nigeria.
- To promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of the population in Nigeria (Asemah, 2011).

Under the criminal code, the offence of sedition is also created in section 51 which provides that a person shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction, for first offence to imprisonment for two years or to a fine of one hundred pounds or to both such fine and imprisonment if he:

- Attempts to do or make any preparation to do or conspires with any person to do any act with a seditious intention.
- Utters any seditious words.
- Prints, publishes, sells, offers for sale, distributes or reproduces any seditious publication.
- Imports any seditious publication unless, he has no reason to believe that it is seditious.

Under the penal code, the offence of sedition is contained in section 416- 422 and the content of the provision is similar in all respects to the provisions of the offence under the criminal codes (Asemah, 2011).

3.2.2 Elements of Sedition

The elements of sedition, as noted by Asemah (2011) can be classified into two:

Intention: Whether the offence is in words or in writing, it must carry a seditious intention. That is, an intention to expose the government to hatred or to bring about disaffection against the government. Section 419 of the penal code in part is to the effect that:

> "Whoever has in his possession without lawful excuse the proof of which shall lie on him any book, pamphlet, newspaper, the publication or exhibition of which constitute an offence, shall be punished with imprisonment".

Section 50 (3) of the criminal code states: "every person shall be deemed to intend the natural and probable consequences which would naturally follow from his conduct at the time and under the circumstances in which he so conducted himself". This therefore means that the motive, reason or intention behind the publication, carries a great weight in qualifying a publication as sedition.

Publication: This is simply making known the alleged act to another person. Publication here stands for the writing of materials that contain seditious intentions. This includes all written and printed matter and any matter containing visible representation. Any writing or cartoon that has intentions enumerated under section 50 (2) of the criminal code is publication.

3.2.3 Defences for Sedition

As documented in section 50 (2) (i-iv) of the criminal code, a speech or publication will not be regarded or amount to sedition if it intends to:

- Show that the president or governor was misled or mistaken in any measure in the federation or state as the case maybe.
- To point out errors or defects in the government or constitution of Nigeria or of any region as by law established or in legislation or in the administration of justice with a view to remedying such errors.
- To persuade the citizens to procure by lawful means the alteration of any matter in Nigeria as by law established.
- To point out with a view to removing any matter that is producing or having the tendency to produce feeling of ill-will and enmity between different classes of people or the population of Nigeria.

The court is to take the overall view of the publication to determine seditious intention. Thus, once the article is seditious as a whole, the mere fact that it has certain redeeming parts such as contained in section 50 (2) (i- iv) will not absolve the accused person. The following may be regarded as the traditional defences for sedition:

Consent of Attorney General: Section 52 (2) of the criminal code says that someone cannot be prosecuted for a seditious offence without the consent of the Attorney General of the federation or State.

Lapse of Time: Any offence that is related to sedition should be handled within six months from the date the offence was committed. If the proceeding does not start within the time frame of six months, it will run contrary to the provision of the law.

Corroboration: If the seditious offence is committed by mouth (words of mouth), no person shall be convicted of the offence of altering seditious words if such words or testimonies of the witnesses are not corroborated.

Lack of Knowledge: Newspaper vendors can use this as a defence because, they innocently disseminate seditious materials.

They often do not know the seditious nature of materials. This becomes a very useful defence when the offender is an illiterate that cannot read nor write (Asemah, 2011).

3.3 Copyright Law

The digital transmission of text, graphics, audio and video on the Web make them highly susceptible to theft, also known as copyright infringement. Thus, it is always safe to get permission before using anything you find on the Web (Lieb, 1999). It is axiomatic that every labourer is entitled to reap the fruit of his labour. It therefore follows that where someone has published a work - book, journal article, etc.; it is his exclusive right to continue to enjoy the benefits and he also has the exclusive right to preserve such a work from invasion from others.

Copyright law is one of the legal issues a good Web publisher needs to know so as to save himself from problems. He needs to know it and apply it in his daily practice. Often times, people appear in court for reason of copyright infringement. The reason may be that, they have little knowledge of copyright law. It is viewed as the exclusive right of an author to prevent all other persons from printing or otherwise, multiplying copies of any work invented by him. The author's works (thoughts) as contained in the work are his own and so long as these thoughts are not voluntarily given to the public, he possesses a right of copyright.

In the words of Nwodu (2006: 176), cited in Asemah (2011) copyright law is the constitutional rather than, privileged rights of an author or originator of a creative work to reap the benefits accruing to his work by exercising maximum authority or control over the reproduction, distribution and commercial use of his work for a specific period. It is the right to prepare and distribute copies of an intellectual production. The Black Law Dictionary defines copyright as the right of literary property as recognised and sanctioned by positive law; an intangible, incorporeal right granted by statute to the author or originator of certain literary or artistic production whereby, he is invested for a limited period, with the sole and exclusive privilege of multiplying copies of the same and selling them.

Along this reasoning, Okoye (2006:109) says that copyright is the right which the law gives an author or other originator of an intellectual production whereby, he is invested with the sole and exclusive right of reproducing and selling copies of his work.

From the foregoing, it can easily be understood that copyright law is that law which covers the originality of every form of creative work; that is, work created based on the creative and imaginative ability of an individual. The originator of such creative and intellectual work is conferred with the right to continue to reproduce, broadcast and sell his work. The law controls any literary work, its communication to the public, broadcasting it and the reproduction of it in any form.

Copyright law protects all works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. This description includes writing, paintings, music, drama and other similar works. Ideas are protected by the law relating to plagiarism. Copyright does not protect ideas, but, the specific expression of those ideas It is usual to see warnings like the example below in books and other artistic works:

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced for storage in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical recording etc., without the prior permission of the author or publisher. Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or school system is prohibited.

The advancement in technology is making it difficult to really enforce copyright law. This is because, thousands of copies of books and materials of various kinds can now be easily reproduced by pirates and this has even been more facilitated by the different photocopying machine and audio/visual recording centers we have.

Piracy has assumed a worrisome dimension in the developing countries where poverty and the get – rich -quick syndrome, coupled with the poor law enforcement have combined to provide a very fertile ground for such vices. In schools and universities, indigent students photocopy whole books for their use, even where such materials are available and affordable.

Thus, Okoye (2007:109), cited in Asemah (2011) says that in Nigeria, the wide spread violation of copyright, especially in the music industry led to the enactment of the Copyright Act of 1990. This was to further strengthen the existing Copyright Act of 1970.

3.3.1Conditions for the Existence of Copyright

Statutory copyright in Nigeria is not automatic when a work of an author is published or copyrighted. There are some conditions that the work must meet before it is eligible for copyright. Below are some of the conditions that must be met:

1. The work must be original in character. This means that the work must not be a copied or an imitated one. There must be an element of originality in the supposed copyrighted work otherwise; the work will not be eligible for copyright. The word originality here means that the author has done his own work and that he has not copied another author. The true question is whether the same plan, arrangement and combination of materials have been used before for the same purpose.
2. The work must have been put in a particular medium of information dissemination. This means that the work must be in the form where or through which it can be used either directly or indirectly. This could be in tape, book, video etc.

3. 3. It must not be a work that is to be used as a raw material for a final work. Thus, itmust be in its final stage before it can be eligible for copyright. Works that are still in their skeletal or outline stages are not eligible for copyright.
4. For any work to be copyrighted in Nigeria, the author or authors must be either citizens of Nigeria or be staying in Nigeria. If the work is done by a corporate body, then, such a corporate body must have been registered under the law of Nigeria.
5. For a work to be eligible for copyright in Nigeria, it must in addition, be originated in Nigeria. Going by the law, all works apart from broadcast must first be published in Nigeria and incase of sound recording, be made in Nigeria.
6. There must be sufficient objective similarity between the infringing work and a substantial part of it, for the former to be properly described as a reproduction or adaptation of the latter, although not identical with it.

Section 14(1) provides for instances where copyright can be infringed upon indirectly. These include:

- Importing into the country an infringing material for use other than for private or domestic use.
- Exhibiting in public an infringement article.
- Distribution of a copyright article by way of trade, offer for sale, hire or otherwise.
- Having in possession, materials such as plates, master tapes, machines, equipment or devices used for the purpose of making infringing copies of the work.

It should be noted that the decree did not state the extent of infringement of a copyright work to make it actionable. However, it can be seen from the provisions of section 5 (2) that acts in respect of the whole or a substantial part of the work will be sufficient to constitute an infringement. It is therefore submitted that, the material copied need not be extensive or lengthy in order to constitute an infringement.

3.3.2 Copyright Infringement

This simply means using the work of a copyright owner without prior permission from him. An unauthorized use of a person's work is a breach of this law and it is what is referred to as copyright infringement. Infringement constitutes a violation of the right of the owner or author of a copyright work to his exclusive use. Copyright is infringed by any person who without the authorization of the owner of the copyright does or causes any other person to do an act, the doing of which is controlled by the copyright.

Thus, when a printing press decides to produce the book of an author without his consent, it constitutes infringement of copyright. Copyright is intellectual property; intellectual property is a product of man's ability and man should be able to enjoy the fruit of his labour. It is to this end that the law has made infringement of copyright actionable as civil suit and also a criminal offence (Asemah, 2011).

The Nigeria Copyright Council has been put in place to address the problem of infringement; Section 34 of the Copyright Act makes the provision. Copyright inspectors are empowered to inspect the premises suspected to be used in infringing copyright as well as to prosecute offenders. Any person found guilty of infringement is liable to a term of imprisonment or fine or both.

3.3.3 Exceptions

The exceptions of copyright law are the defences. To every law, there are exceptions. It is therefore mandatory for the journalist and every individual to know these exceptionswhen held liable for copyright infringement. Below are some of the exceptions:

Fair Dealing: This exception or defence is workable only when the violator did not use substantial part of the work. In schedule 2(a) of the copyright decree, it is stated that any fair dealing with literary, musical, artistic, cinematograph film for the purpose of research, private use, criticism or review and reports of current events is not an act constituting an infringement of copyright.

Academic Purpose: If the work was actually used for academic purpose, it becomes a defence.

Public Enlightenment: Where someone uses copyrighted work for public enlightenment it becomes a defence.

Acknowledgement of the Source: When you use someone else's work and you acknowledge him, it becomes an exception.

3.4 Shield Law

Shield law is most commonly used to protect journalistic integrity. In the context of online journalism, shield law protects journalistic sources. The idea is that, people might be afraid to approach journalists with confidential information if they know that journalists could be forced to reveal their sources and that this would compromise the integrity of the news. Shield law permits journalists to assure their sources that they will remain confidential, allowing journalists to get better stories.

Under the shield law, a journalist can decline to answer questions which could compromise his or her sources with the goal of getting information into the public eye while protecting the source of that information from repercussions (Asemah, 2011). Journalistic sources regularly risk losing their jobs or facing legal penalties to provide information and they rely on shield laws for protection. Some people argue that a story has more weight when the source is revealed, and journalists certainly prefer to use sources they can identify and quote, as it increases the integrity of the story.

However, there are situations in which an anonymous source might be necessary and such sources can be critical and invaluable, especially in the case of major breaking stories. By having the shield law for protection, journalists can access such sources with confidence. It is in line with this that Pember (2003:370), cited in Asemah (2011) notes that shield law provides thus:

No person engaged in, connected with or employed on any newspaper, radio broadcasting station or television station while engaged in newsgathering capacity shall be compelled to disclose, in any legal proceedings or trial, before any court or before a grand Jury of any court, or before the presiding officers of any tribunal or his agent or agents or before committee of the legislature, or elsewhere, the sources of any information procured or obtained by him and published in the newspaper for broadcast by any broadcasting station or televised by any television station on which he is engaged, connected with or employed.

The above assertion implies that the journalist, whether the online or traditional journalist, has the power and the right to refuse to disclose the source of his information even when

he or she is under pressure. When a journalist is given any information, facts, or ideas, in strict confidence, he is not permitted to divulge the source of that information. This implies that the source of information may prefer anonymity and the journalist is expected to maintain that anonymity otherwise, his chances of getting information from such a source next time will be jeopardised if he reveals his source of information.

Therefore, shield law is the law which empowers the journalists not to disclose their sources of information regardless of the situation they find themselves. Shield laws are those laws or the statues which give the journalists and the press the power not to disclose in legal proceedings, confidential information obtained by them in their professional capacities as press men or journalists. Under the shield law, the journalists and press men are empowered to resist any attempt by any court of law, parliament or enforcement agent to reveal their sources of information.

Eweluka (2004:132) describes shield law as it pertains to the press as a peculiar advantage, right, franchise, exemption, power or immunity enjoyed by the press and the journalists. Shield law is therefore guaranteed in section 39 of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria. Section 39 sub section 3 states that "nothing in this constitution shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society while subsection 9 states that "for the purpose of preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, maintaining the authority and independence of courts or regulating telephony, wireless broadcasting television or the exhibition of cinematograph films".

Based on the constitutional empowerment therefore, journalists are protected to probe the affairs of public government office holders so long as the issue being probed is of public importance. Government officials on their own are expected to be opened enough to journalists since withholding information runs counter to section 39 subsection 3(b) of the constitution.

Withholding information will not stop journalists from informing the public about activities in the public sector, instead, when the government officials withhold information from the press men, they would be more motivated to gather the same information using other legal means.

More so, that the journalists are protected under the shield law, nothing is wrong when legal and ethical means are used to get public information that is of public importance and is not meant to intentionally affect someone in his office, especially public office holders (Nwodu, 2006). Shield law is important in mass communication for the following reasons:

- Makes the source to reveal more vital information to the journalist especially, information that is of public interest. A source who feels highly protected will not be afraid to divulge vital information to the journalist.
- It makes investigation much easier. This is because, as the journalist goes from one source to another, he gets information from respondents easily since their protection is guaranteed by shield law. When a journalist discloses his source of information, it leads to drying up of investigative journalism, as no source with relevant information of public importance will like to reveal his source of information.
- It encourages free flow of news and information. When a journalist discloses his source of information in the course of his professional practice, he will be exposing the source to a serious danger. But, when there is maximum protection for news sources, there tend to be free flow of information in the society as more people will be more willing to divulge information in the society.

3.5 The Law of Privacy

The law simply seeks to prevent people from invading into other people's private lives. Every individual has the right to be left alone. The Black's Law Dictionary, cited in Asemah (2011) defines right of privacy as the right to be left alone; the right of a person to be free from unwarranted publicity. It also means the right of an individual or corporation to withhold himself and his property from public scrutiny if he so desires.

The right to be free from the unwarranted appropriation or exploitation of one's personality, the publicizing of one's private affairs with which the public has no legitimate concern or the wrongful intrusion into one's private activities in such manner as to outrage or cause mental suffering, shame or humiliation to a person of ordinary sensibilities.

Section 37 of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria guarantees the right to privacy. It states that "the privacy of citizens, their homes, correspondences, telephone conversations and telegraphic communication is hereby guaranteed and protected".

From the foregoing, it is evident that every citizen of Nigeria has the right to be left alone. However, it is worthy to state here that people who are newsworthy (prominent people) have less privacy while those who are not prominent have more privacy. The implication is that, the moment you become a public figure, you lose your right to privacy and this is because, you have followers who will always want to know about you. So, you cannot enjoy being a public figure and at the same time enjoy the right to private life.

3.5.1 Origin and Development of Privacy

Jacdonmi (2008:40) says that the law of privacy began to develop as a public issue at the end of 19th century in America. America was fast growing from rural to urban towns. With urbanization, big city dailies were becoming the order of the day. Editors had to device a scheme of selling their newspapers and keeping their customers. One of the most successful schemes was the use of sensational stories about the rich and the famous on the pages of newspapers (Asemah, 2011).

Sambe and Ikoni (2004: 116) say that the first case in which relief was granted because of an invasion of privacy is believed to have occurred in Michigan in 188. In that case, the US Supreme Court held that the 4th and 5th Amendments provide protection against all government invasions of the sanctity of a man's home and the privacies of life.

The origin and development of the rights of privacy can be found in the article of Warren and Brandeis who wrote about the public press prying into the lives of citizens and included the history and development of individual rights. In the words of the authors:

> That the individual shall have full protection in person and in property is a principle as old as the common law; but it has been found necessary from time to time to define anew the exact nature and extent of such protection.

Political, social and economic changes entail the recognition of new rights and the common law, in its eternal youth, grows to meet the demands of society. Thus, in very early times, the law gave a remedy only for physical interference with life and property, for trespasses. Then, the "right to life" served only to protect the subject from battery in various forms; liberty meant freedom from actual restraint; for the individual, his lands and his cattle.

Later, there came a recognition of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings and his intellect. Gradually, the scope of these legal rights broadened; and now, the right to life has come to mean the rights to enjoy life -man secures the exercise of extensive civil privileges, and the

term 'property' has grown to comprise every form of possession intangible, as well as tangible.

From the foregoing, it is gathered that the complexities of life, the need to retreat from the world and the refining influence of culture, have made people more sensitive to publicity, hence, the origin and development of the law of privacy.

3.5.2 Exceptions

Below are some of the defences for invasion of privacy, as identified by Asemah (2011):

Newsworthiness: It covers public interest, public figures and public records. Publications on newsworthy items do not attract action for invasion of privacy. If they however do, newsworthiness becomes the defence at the disposal of the defendant. Readers have broad ranges of tastes and interest and as long as the media stay within the range of these tastes and interest, it is usually safe.

More so, those that are prominent have less privacy. The fact that the subject matter is a public figure is a defence. This is because; public figures through their own conducts have become news. To some extent, public figures have given up their rights to be left alone. Those who attract public attention have sacrificed most of their private lives to the public.

Public Interest: This is closely related to newsworthiness. Public interest has to do with a story that is published based on its importance to the public. Especially when the story concerns public interest and welfare. Thus, if what has been published concerning a person is of public interest, an action for invasion of privacy will not succeed. The question however is, how does an online or traditional journalist know what issue is of public interest? The guidelines below will enable the online journalist to know what constitutes public interest:

- Free flow of information is in the public interest.
- Information about public affairs.
- Publication of newsworthy information.
- Communication diversity is in the public interest.
- Government regulations of certain communication activities affected with a public interest is in the public interest.
- Matters of public interest which affect the interest shared by citizens generally in affairs of local, state or national government even though it affects the privacy of an individual is privileged on the ground of public interest; it is therefore a defence.

Consent: He who volunteers or agrees cannot complain. One who willingly doles out information to a journalist and consents that the journalist should publicise such facts has no basis for taking action against the journalist for invasion of privacy.

Permanent Publication: The right to privacy can only be violated by permanent publication and not by hearsay or rumours.

4.0 Conclusion

This unit is devoted to the law of Web publishing. Thus, we treated law of defamation, law of sedition, copyright law, law of privacy and shield law. Most of the issues and problems

with Web publishers today occur because most Web publishers do not have a proper understanding of these various laws of Web publishing; it is therefore advisable that as a Web publisher, you understand the various laws of Web publishing so as to safe yourself some troubles.

5.0 Summary

In this unit, we examined the laws which Web publishers ought to take into consideration when publishing. These various laws serve various purposes; thus, the Web publisher must be able to distinguish among these various Web publishing laws.

6.0 Self-Assessment Exercise

1. What do you understand by defamation?
2. With clear examples, differentiate between libel and slander.
3. What are the defences available to a Web publisher who commit defamation?
4. Discuss what you understand by defamation.
5. Discuss law of privacy, copyright law and shield law.
6. Why should Web publishers be familiar with Web publishing laws?

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