

My experience here - Sion Bissessar

Hello! My name is Sion Bissessar! You may or may not have recognized my name somewhere in this blog site; I am/was the library's digital project's intern for the PEN & Inc. program for the Spring of 2023. This was my final semester as an undergraduate at FSU pursuing my degree in English EWM (Editing, Writing, and Media), and as such, I find myself preparing for the kind of work that I am bound to encounter in the future, both through this opportunity and through the classes I have been taking.

As I continued my time through the major, and subsequently through this internship, I understood more and more that the work that I am doing and plan on doing for the foreseeable future actually matters. Every blogpost that I have worked on was chock-full of research, passion and effort that works to invoke positive change. It was up to me and everyone that was a part of PEN & Inc. to give the participants the tools to showcase their work.

For example, Susana Frade Machado is a third-year doctoral student here at FSU and has worked hard to research and revive classical Cuban methods used to study and play the guitar. However, with English not being her first language and web design not being her area of expertise, Ms. Frade Machado expressed that she would have run into much trouble with her website and other multimedia items that she now calls her own. It fills me with a great sense of accomplishment to know that I have helped her on her journey by editing the blog posts on her website.

Something else that took me by surprise is the use of personality in these blog posts. As I'm sure many can relate to, much of the texts that I have written, read, and edited were expected to be 'perfect English'. Grammar rules were sacred, and the idea of word choice simply meant to choose the word with the most applicable definition. A professional, impartial tone was always necessary. But I have learned that this is not always the case, and that breaking these rules can prove to be useful and impactful.

Chris Omni's textbook on Black Joy is a prime example of using one's 'voice' to enhance the message. Omni