Growing up in Nigeria, I witnessed diverse cultural performances that shaped my understanding of my indigenous language, culture and traditions. Being a multilingual country, Nigeria boasts of over 500 languages. My language, Yoruba, is one of the three dominant languages in Nigeria. As a child, I would listen to my mother teach me basic things about my language and narrate stories about my ancestors. These narratives prepared me for the task of propagating my language and teaching my culture to people.

In 2009, my first voyage through the world of the Internet happened. I was preparing for my undergraduate study when my mother gifted me a phone. Enchanted by the world of Waptrick and other game sites on the phone, I started experimenting with downloading games. It wasn’t long when I joined 2go where I was able to chat and meet poets in 2go rooms.

As an undergraduate student at the University of Ibadan, I took a course titled “Literature and the New Media”. Taught by Prof. Remi Raji, this course availed me the opportunity to understand the essence of digital platforms and how literary works can be propagated through these platforms. Being a poet, I have spent more than a decade posting my poems on digital platforms and more than six years submitting to online journals. My passion for digital publications culminated in my research into the digital exploration of contemporary Nigerian poets. In recent times, there is a proliferation of contemporary Nigerian poets on digital platforms. The digital immediacy and interaction provided by online platforms has enhanced the visibility and readability of these poets and their poems.

In 2017, my interest in the digital documentation of indigenous literary works started with the creation of the first indigenous online journal named Atelewo (www.atelewo.org) in Nigeria. I co-founded Atelewo with a friend whose passion for the propagation of works written in Yoruba matches mine, and whose ideas and thoughts about digital literature are inspiring. Before starting Atelewo, we discovered that there was a radical retrogression concerning the speaking of Yoruba language among the native speakers. It was extremely hard to see children speak Yoruba language, and this is the peak of illiteracy. For me, I believe that as a native speaker of a language, there must be a natural inclination to speak the language. The language should be the pride.  Language is the salt of our existence as people. Thus, the digital publication of indigenous literary works started with Atelewo. Since 2017, we have published a lot of literary pieces on the platform.

As someone whose interest in digital humanities reflects across my past and current activities and projects, I believe my experiences will help in building a satellite project for One More Voice. I am excited about the project and my passion for the preservation of indigenous culture and language at Atelewo would help me as I delve into building a satellite project for One More Voice. I also look forward to learning from everyone.