

Maite Fernández

I'm a bilingual online strategist and editorial project manager with a passion for coding.

Work experience:

June 2014 – Present: Communications Director for ICFJ, a non-profit committed to shaping the future of global journalism.

- I am responsible for redefining the digital strategy of the organization. I provided training to staffers on social media best practices, created a social media and digital outreach campaign celebrating ICFJ's 30-year anniversary, and oversaw the creation of a new design identity for the organization.
- Increased ICFJ's profile by establishing content partnerships with The Huffington Post, Columbia Journalism Review and PBS MediaShift. ICFJ.org also reached its highest web traffic in the organization's history, which I achieved by improving content workflow, revamping our social media strategy and overhauling our quarterly newsletter.
- Successfully implemented new digital projects such as a mobile app and social media screens during our Awards Dinner, ICFJ's annual fundraising gala, which gathers more than 500 guests from major news organizations and tech companies. Coordinated internal coverage, media relations and our social media coverage during the event, using new platforms like Periscope for the first time. Coordinated the design of all printed materials for the gala as well as visual elements (slides and videos broadcast during the event).
- Led internal projects as part of a committee of staff and board members in charge of promoting innovation within the organization. We implemented the adoption of tools like Slack, aiming to make staff more efficient and to reduce email overload, among other initiatives.

Sept. 2012– May 2014: Managing Editor for IJNet.org, a website produced in seven languages by ICFJ that helps professional and aspiring journalists find training and improve their skills.

- I coordinated the work of a 12-person team, among them six foreign language editors; I prepared grant proposals and reports; edited and translated content from Spanish to English and vice versa; blogged about tech tools for journalists, mobile and data journalism.
- During this period, I increased the number of unique users by 71 percent and the number of sessions by more than 30 percent.
- Improved ICFJ's technology capacity by overseeing the migration of its three websites. I researched vendors, prepared RFPs, evaluated proposals and coordinated the server migration.
- Led IJNet's website redesign, upgrading the CMS to Drupal 7 and implementing a responsive, user-friendly design.

June 2011 – Sept. 2012: IJNet Spanish Editor

- Translated, edited, and published stories from English to Spanish; prepared and edited a weekly newsletter and oversaw its social media accounts.

2006 – 2010: Reporter at Observa.com.uy and El Observador newspaper based in Uruguay

- As a correspondent for El Observador newspaper, Uruguay's second largest national daily newspaper in readership, I covered news from the United States, including President Obama's first inauguration and the visit of the Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez to the U.S. Before that, I covered Montevideo's mayor and worked at El Observador's website as a reporter and web producer.

Education:

- **Front-End Web Development course – General Assembly.** July – Sept. 2015.
- **Master of Journalism – Multimedia Journalism.** Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park. **Recipient of the Merrill Fellowship, 2010 – 2011.**
- **Bachelor's degree in Journalism - ORT University, Uruguay.** Wrote research thesis on multimedia journalism: "News in Bits: Journalism's New Paradigm."

Volunteering:

- **June 2014 – present:** Co-organizer of Hacks/Hackers DC, a volunteer group that brings together journalists and technologists.
- **May 2013 - present:** Community manager - Kidz and Go, a startup that aims to teach children the value of money.
- **Oct. 2013 – Nov. 2013** - Helped translate the Panda Project from Spanish to English. Panda is an open-source data library developed by journalists for newsrooms. <http://pandaproject.net/>.

Skills:

- Languages: Bilingual in English and Spanish. Basic knowledge of Portuguese and Italian.
- Programming: HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, JavaScript, Bootstrap, Python. Familiar with design-thinking methodologies. Experience with Drupal and WordPress.

Speaking and Media Training Experience:

- Participated on a panel on data journalism at the World Bank's Open Impact Day, a one-day conference that emphasizes the impact of open data initiatives. June 2015.
- Taught an intro to Python class for women as part of the group Hear Me Code. Also volunteered as a teaching assistant on numerous occasions. Aug. 2014 - Jan. 2015.
- Collaborated on the "Manual de Periodismo de Datos Iberoamericano," writing a chapter about data journalism in Uruguay. The handbook was published online in August 2014. <http://manual.periodismodedatos.org/>
- Facilitated a design-thinking training camp organized by the Online News Association on ways to improve digital security for journalists. Aug. 2014.
- Led an introductory session on data journalism. Professional Fellows Congress. Oct. 2013.

Member of TechLadyMafia and Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE).