

All in a Day's Work

Seosamh Ó Murchú, Senior Editor, An Gúm

Seosamh Ó Murchú is Senior Editor with Irish language publishers, An Gúm, who are part of Foras na Gaeilge. An Gúm publish the Irish edition of *Nature's Web* under the title *Líon an Dúlra*.

www.angum.ie



Image courtesy of An Gúm

for a three-toed sloth is *spadán tríladrach* – check out www.tearma.ie !

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

We have a great editorial and administrative team of ten people at An Gúm, all the time developing new publications and looking after the several hundred titles on our back list. There isn't a day goes by that I don't learn something new from them. Our range of publications can be seen at www.angum.ie .

What is your main aim?

To produce top quality publications that will engage and inspire our readers.

What is the best thing about your job?

Watching a book take shape from the original author's idea to become a beautifully crafted work of art.

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

Bíodh d'aghaidh i gcónaí ar an trácht – always face the traffic!

Have you always been interested in what you do?

I have always been interested in working with the Irish language from the time my teacher, the late Tomás Ó Muirithe, rekindled the flame when I was a teenager. I attended Maynooth College where I gained a Master's degree in Modern Irish. My first real job was as editor of the Irish language monthly magazine, *Comhar*, and I have been involved in the work of

editing, of one sort or another, ever since.

What is a day in your life like?

An Gúm publishes mostly textbooks and educational aids for schools as well as reading material for children of all ages. It's my job to manage those projects from when they are just an idea right through until they reach the people who will get to use them. This involves lots of meetings and discussions with the team, ironing out challenges in terminology and language to make sure we get it just right for the reader. A publication gets written or translated, edited, re-edited, designed and laid out, illustrations and pictures get added, sometimes there's an index and a glossary. It's a long complicated process but a sign that our job is well done is when the reader doesn't notice the editor's hand. *Ní féidir leabhar maith a bhualadh* – there's nothing like a good book!

Do you have to come up with new Irish words from time to time?

I sit on the national terminology committee, An Coiste Téarmaíochta, and this often involves coming up with Irish names for species of animals and plants. Did you know that the Irish



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See page 2 for the link to *Líon an Dúlra*.

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