

Name: Dan Wormald

Age: 36



Background:

Dan grew up in London. After passing 3 A levels he studied Geography and Anthropology (human evolution) at Durham University. He then went travelling abroad for a year, before training to be a teacher. He worked for 10 years as a teacher in secondary schools. He now works as an education officer at The Natural History Museum in South Kensington, London.

What sort of work do you do?

My work in the education unit of the Museum is mostly project based. At any one time I will have 10 or 15 projects to work on. These vary from writing guides for the Museum's galleries, to designing workshops and educational activities, to acting as an education consultant for new exhibitions, to managing one of the Museum's hands on science centres.

My degree was important in moving into museum work, but my background in science communication (teaching in schools) is really what qualified me for this job. I have an academic background in geology and human evolution, but the projects on which I'm working could easily be about plants or insects. What is most important for my work is an understanding of the processes of science and scientific enquiry, as well as an understanding of how people learn.

What do you like about your work?

I'm very tempted to say that I enjoy everything about my job. In particular though the environment of the Museum is very stimulating. There is always something new to see and learn.

What's the worst bit?

Any job will always have its difficulties and frustrations, people you find hard to work with, problems that you can't seem to solve, simple tasks that seem to take forever. I'm very lucky that these are only minor annoyances compared to the excitement I feel everyday walking into the Museum. Managing other people is probably my worst thing because I'd rather be creating the activity or experience myself rather than organising for someone else to do it.

What do you want to do in the future?

My current job gives me huge variety in the type of work I do. I love working with people (school students or Museum visitors) and I would not want to do something that took me completely away from this.