

Science and society, an everyday commitment



Tools for working and discovery for all.

SOLEIL is an interdisciplinary place and it wanted to meet the expectations of its shareholders and partners by becoming a center for the exchange and dissemination of scientific and technical information for all. SOLEIL has thus been open to the public every day since the project started in 2002 and develops scientific activities for schools and colleges as well as the general public. This activity is driven in partnership with the most committed players in the field: educational boards (especially that of Versailles and Orléans Tours), schools, associations, local authorities and media libraries... To demystify, de-compartmentalize, participate in the transmission of knowledge, this is another side to the daily work of SOLEIL groups who offer the opportunity to everyone to discover and take in the latest scientific thinking at their own pace.

Researchers and scientific mediators, united in purpose

At SOLEIL, high school or college classes, students, local residents and the general public are always present on site and now form part of everyday life of the research groups. The role of those who lead the research at SOLEIL is essential in transmitting knowledge and creating the dialogue around the research that SOLEIL has developed. Thus, the specifications for public understanding of science at SOLEIL aim to create a dynamic where the knowledge acquired or experienced and experimental practices become enriched. The researcher is not the custodian of absolute knowledge, but the resource provider: he or she gives life to the content by including it in practice and enabling a link to be made, for example, between what is learned in the classroom and what happens in a research center. In this

connection, a partnership established for the past 10 years with the Education Board of Versailles has been totally indispensable. Non-formal education such as this complements the work of teachers, who endorse this collaboration. For SOLEIL, respect for all forms of knowledge and all procedures, academic or self-taught, guide their everyday relationship. Its 10 years experience of science literacy contradicts the common misconception of public mistrust towards science and scientists.

SOLEIL, a research center open to the public every day.



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