

The server of the Observatoire de Paris-Meudon-Nançay

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The server (<http://www.obspm.fr>) should give to astronomers and general public information about the Observatory, providing:

- a general description of the Observatory and of the available facilities.
- a description of the scientific activities of the Observatory, the available domains of expertise, the seminars and colloquia organised at the Observatory.
- anchors to servers of several Departments or Groups.
- information about the formation of students at the Observatory.
- the way to participate to the regular visits of the sites of the Observatory. A summary of the history of the sites is also provided.
- a reliable internal list of the location/phone/fax/e-mail of all the members of the Observatory.
- a routine for the selection of preprints among those received at the library.

The Observatory is obviously responsible for the informations published in the pages included in the server, as well as in the servers of the Departments. Opinions about personal pages are different among the members of the editorial committee, and a compromise will be tried, asking to put a clear disclaimer, denying any responsibility¹ of the Observatory in the content of such pages. The installation of this server² was an excellent opportunity to have some reflection about subjects such as security against unauthorised accesses to the Observatory network, such as privacy: the members of the Observatory may, if they want, keep the informations concerning them unaccessible from outside. The installation of the server was an incentive to the building of a uniform system of e-mail addresses for the members of the Observatory, etc.

Although the server is still under construction, a surprisingly high number of connections to the server have been registered for 3 months, about 70 connections/day from about 3 000 different hosts.

¹ although the juridical value of such disclaimers is not clear.

² The editorial committee is indebted to Christophe Morrisset, who generously provided help and guidance about HTML, and Laurent Wacrenier who has drawn the logo for the Observatory and has made the preprint server.