



**THE EME
5250 GROUP**

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS & LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Script for How to Find OERs for Special Education

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March 24, 2023

SCRIPT

DESCRIPTION

This video is a tutorial on how to find Open Education Resources for special education students. OERs can supplement the general education curriculum but can also be used to accommodate individual learners.

INTRODUCTION

Hello, and welcome to this presentation on finding OERs for special education. This presentation will walk you through the process of where to start your search, special search terms or filters you can apply, and a review of a couple of OER repositories.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

By the end of this presentation, learners will be able to to:

- Search for OERs and OER repositories with the use of keywords and filtering
- Understand how to find differentiated curriculum materials for special education students

WHAT ARE OERs AND HOW CAN THEY HELP ME?

“Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse at no cost, and without needing to ask permission.”

Retrieved from <https://www.oercommons.org/about>; Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommerical-ShareAlike 4.0 License

OERs are a valuable resource to special educators who are looking for supplemental materials to the general education curriculum or specific activities for those with disabilities. OERs can be found based upon subject matter, grade level, reading level, differentiated content, etc.

TERMS AND STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER WHEN SEARCHING FOR OERs FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

When searching for OERs to supplement general education material or to find content that is differentiated for a specific learner, keep in mind that you can narrow down your search results with using special terms like,

“Fractions for 3rd Grade”, “low level, high interest texts about George Washington”, “visual schedule for students with Autism.” Sometimes just adding the words “special education” in front of a search term can lead to more specific results.

GOOGLE

Now, let’s take a look at some specific sites for OERs and how to utilize them for special education. When searching for OERs on Google it is important to make sure you go to the settings option after the search has been completed. In the settings option you’ll see an area for advanced settings. After clicking on advanced settings you’ll see at the bottom a drop down selection entitled ‘usage rights’. Choose free to use, share, and modify. This will limit your search results down to usable OERs that meet your search terms. Try searching for special education ‘buzz’ words, like curriculum based measures, IEP goals, accommodations and modifications

OER COMMONS

Next, we will look at OER Commons. Oer Commons is an OER repository that helps individuals locate, create and share OER. It currently houses over 30,000 resources.

Let’s take a look at how to search in the OER commons. I’m going to pretend I have a 6th grade student working at a 3rd grade level in math. I’m going to assume the 5th grader needs more practice working with fractions based upon his IEP goals.

Within the basic search for OER Commons I can type in fractions and even add a grade level to the search term. This simple search provided 61 items. Now, I know I want to find something that will provide extra practice and review. So I will add more filters such as material type- I’ll use homework/assignment, activity/lab, and simulation. My search terms have narrowed down the search to 27 items. Each item has a title, it might have a user rating and a brief description. When I open one I am interested in, it takes me to a page that gives more information about the OER itself. I’m given a more in-depth description, authorship, the CC license attribution. I can save this resource into a folder or click directly on “view resource” to take me to the OER. And here’s a great simulation for reviewing basic fraction identification.

THE LEARNER VARIABILITY NAVIGATOR-DIGITAL PROMISE.ORG

I’d like to show you one more resource that can benefit anyone who is working with special education students. This website was created by Digital Promise. Org and The Learner Variability Navigator is a fascinating

source I found through a Google Search. It is a website that has used massive amount of research to connect learner needs (beyond just academic) to strategies in math, reading and adult education. The website describes there project in their own words,

“Learner variability is the recognition that each learner is a unique constellation of strengths and challenges that are interconnected across the whole child. Understanding these connections and how they vary according to context is essential for meeting the needs of each learner.

It disrupts the notion of a one-size-fits all education. Understanding learner variability helps educators embrace both students’ struggles and strengths as we connect practice to uplifting the whole learner.

Throughout the site, we talk about "factors" and "strategies." Factors are concepts research suggests have an impact on how people learn. Strategies are the approaches to teaching and learning that can be used to support people in how they learn best.”

This site is a valuable asset to those who work in special education as we know our learners come in with unique strengths and weaknesses.

I’d like to take a moment to walk you through how this all works. I’m going to choose Literacy Pre-K-3, and choose 4 learning factors: socioeconomic status, sense of belonging, attention and decoding.

Once chosen, I’m given a list of several strategies that can help the learner in all of those categories.

When I choose Literacy Centers the site shows me an overview, classroom example with a video, how to design it into projects (such as Instructional Designers might create), and additional resources and factors that are supported. It even has a ‘work space’ so you can save your work as you begin to tailor creating individualized instruction.