

OER Commons: Advanced Search Tutorial

The advanced search function of OER Commons is one of the most efficient and effective ways to conduct a very precise search. The downside to that is you might end up excluding results that are useful that you didn't realize you'd get because you are conducting such a precise search.

To use the advanced search, simply click on the link "Use Advanced Search," and that will take you to the advanced search page. What I like about OER Commons is its advanced search page—it's very clean and very basic.

I'm going to go ahead and type in "calculus," and specifically let's look up "derivatives." We're going to limit to just Mathematics and Statistics, and the grade level we'll focus on is Lower Division Community College.

One of the really neat functions that's unique to OER Commons is the resource evaluation criteria. This function has been recently added and is still evolving, but the idea is that there will be rubrics to help you determine the degree to which the OER you're finding aligns with the standards or aspects you are looking for, such as interactivity, quality assessment, and content. Right now, I'm going to hold off selecting anything specific for resource evaluation criteria and focus on material type. Again, we're looking for games, interactive resources, as well as simulations.

I'm going to go ahead and click the search button. Notice you can also filter by accessibility, media format, primary user (if you're specifically looking for something for a teacher or a student), as well as conditions of use.

Let's go ahead and search "calculus derivatives." Notice we got 26 results, and all of these results default to the summary view. The summary gives a really brief description you can go through. Here's "Derivative Relationships." I'm going to go ahead and click on that, but first, before I do that, I want to point out the selected filters. That specifically shows you what criteria we've used to narrow down and get a very precise search.

I'm going to click on "Derivative Relationships," and again, this will give you a brief description. This one doesn't have as much as some others, but to view the resource, I'm just going to click on "View Resource."

To learn more about the advanced search function and to find out about unique and effective ways to use the advanced search function most effectively and efficiently, check out my book *Interactive Open Educational Resources*.