

Find Your Fit

Introduction

In this activity, my goal was to identify OER resources related to Astronomy. I aimed to source resources in a variety of formats including audio, video, text, and games. My initial intent was to curate a set of Astronomy-related resources of interest to kids. As the Perseid meteor shower is just beginning, this will be my focus.

Methods

I began searching the OASIS and Mason referatories. In the course of my search, I found an initial preference for the Mason referatory, however the ability in Oasis to begin your search by content area won me over. While this module has emphasized the usage of Boolean search terms, the option to search by content area is powerful and saved me a lot of time initially. The Mason OER Metafinder may be a more exhaustive referatory, but Oasis is more user-friendly.

My OER search by subject (Astronomy) along with a simple search term (meteor) led me to an open source section on Openstax CNX offering an overview on meteor showers.

This resource also a comprehensive overview of what meteors are as well as listing the most common annual meteor showers.

Address: <https://cnx.org/contents/OZw6bV26@10/Meteors>

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This content supports learner understanding as the overview offered is brief and concise, proving text as well as relevant images. Additionally, it links out to other valuable resources.

Within this text section was a link to a YouTube video resource entitled [How to Observe a Meteor Shower](#). This video was brief, easy to understand, and informative. I'm an unaware of the licensing requirements for using this video as no information was provided in the description beyond the following:

Address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=EBF4wFhw2Kg>

Licence: [California Academy of Sciences](#)

Armed with the knowledge of what meteor showers are and how they can best be observed, I next searched for content specific to the Perseid meteor shower. Disappointingly, I was unable to find suitable content and so turned to Google using the search terms *meteor knowledge game and OER*.

The National Geographic Kids page has a game entitled [Quiz Whiz: Comets and Meteors](#). This interactive game could help test the knowledge of young learners. Unfortunately, this content is not OER.

Address: <https://www.natgeokids.com/au/play-and-win/games/comet-quiz/>

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Summary

This was a challenging exercise as the search engines and results were so diverse. I believe there is a lack of interactive OER content focused on kids learning. Overall, I enjoyed combining Booleans in referatories to identify suitable content but ended up going to Google. While I understand this was not ideal, it is practical and likely representative of common educator practices.