**1) Presentation format:**
Presentation

**2) Presentation Title:** Rethinking Distance Education in North America: Canadian &
Mexican perspectives on Open Access & Online Learning

**3) Brief description of our presentation:** This paper will review the current situation on
Open Access in North America and its impact on distance education and online learning.
Open access to academic publications for research purposes is strongly interrelated with
instructional design (ID), online learning (OL) and educational technology (ET). As
North American universities increase their outreach capacity via online teaching, access
to freely-available, online resource materials is becoming problematic to the point that it
is seriously impeding online course design and delivery. Students demand accessibility to
higher education and online materials, faculty demand quality in the design and delivery
of higher education and administrators demand cost-effectiveness in course and program
delivery. Meeting all of these needs require major rethinking on the part of all partners in
education. Open Access proponents, such as the PKP Project, wish to "improve both the
scholarly quality and public accessibility and coherence of this body of knowledge
(academic research) in a sustainable and globally accessible form". This paper, bringing
together researchers from Canada and Mexico, will explore ways and means of lowering
barriers to knowledge accessibility and promoting cooperative communities of practice in
which knowledge creation and sharing can flourish.

**4) Presenter Number 1:** Dr Renée Fountain
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**Brief biography :**

Dr. Renée Fountain is a Full Time Professor of technology and technoscience at the Department of Studies on Teaching and Learning, Faculty of Education, Laval University, Canada. Problematics in which she is interested tend to entail the politicalization and complexification of: 1) digital equity and the Free Software Movement (FSM); 2) critical and creative engagement with technoscientific controversies (via Actor Network Theory and Foucault's power/knowledge & normalization concepts); and 3) performativities of agency (in light of increasing neoliberalist strongholds). Her work endeavours to reflect the philosophy of the Free Software Movement and is enacted in the extensive use of interactive webs sites and wikis in her courses (undergraduate and graduate) and in several research projects. Recent presentations include the 2nd International Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies- IAACS, Tampere, Finland (May 2006); Université féministe (June 2006); Society for Social Studies Research (November 2006).

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