**Claims**

1. An automated method for managing electronic textbook (e-textbook) content generation, distribution, and usage by way of a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving inputs corresponding to first e-textbook content from at least one e-textbook author by way of an author interface in communication with a content authoring engine;

automatically associating the first e-textbook content with an e-textbook taxonomy;

automatically generating a first e-textbook corresponding to the first e-textbook content in accordance with the e-textbook taxonomy;

communicating portions of the first e-textbook to at least one of an instructor study course device and a student study course device;

automatically monitoring (a) instructor access to or usage of first e-textbook content, (b) student access to or usage of first e-textbook content, and (c) student access to or usage of instructional materials corresponding to first e-textbook content; and

automatically generating statistics corresponding to the automatically monitored (a) instructor access to or usage of first e-textbook content, (b) student access to or usage of first e-textbook content, and (c) student access to or usage of the instructional materials corresponding to first e-textbook content.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the e-textbook taxonomy comprises hierarchical classifications corresponding to an e-textbook summary, a unit summary, a chapter summary, chapter details, and author questions.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically generating instructional materials corresponding to portions of the first e-textbook in accordance with an instructional materials taxonomy.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the instructional materials taxonomy is one of a default instructional materials taxonomy and an instructor specified instructional materials taxonomy corresponding to instructor inputs received by way of an instructional material management engine.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the instructional materials taxonomy comprises hierarchical classifications corresponding to instructor information, course information, a course plan, lecture materials, a publishing plan, and instructor questions.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating at least one of first e-textbook content and instructional materials to at least one e-learning application.

7. The method of claim 6, where communicating at least one of first e-textbook content and instructional materials to at least one e-learning application comprises selectively communicating at least one of first e-textbook content and instructional materials corresponding thereto to a set of student study course devices in accordance with a publishing plan that forms a portion of the instructional materials taxonomy.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving feedback corresponding to at least one of the first e-textbook and the instructional materials corresponding thereto by way of a feedback engine; and

providing feedback to at least one of at least one author of the first e-textbook and at least one instructor,

wherein the feedback corresponds to at least one of (a) how instructional materials are utilized by at least one instructor, (b) how instructional materials or first e-textbook content are utilized by students, and (c) a recommendation for revising first e-textbook content in a subsequent edition of the first e-textbook.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving inputs corresponding to second e-textbook content from at least one e-textbook author by way of the author interface;

automatically associating the second e-textbook content with the e-textbook taxonomy;

automatically generating a second e-textbook corresponding to the second e-textbook content in accordance with the e-textbook taxonomy; and

automatically generating instructional materials corresponding to portions of the first e-textbook and portions of the second e-textbook in accordance with the instructional materials taxonomy.

~~10. An automated system for managing electronic textbook (e-textbook) content generation, distribution, and usage by way of a computer network, the system comprising an e-textbook~~

~~management system having a processing unit, a memory coupled to the processing unit, and a set of engines stored in the memory and executable by the processing unit, the set of engines comprising:~~

~~a content authoring engine communicable with the computer network and configured for receiving inputs from least one author interface system to control contents of a first e-textbook and configured for automatically generating the first e-textbook in accordance with an e-textbook taxonomy;~~

~~an instructional materials management engine communicable with the computer network and configured receiving instructor inputs from an instructor study course device, the instructor inputs selectively identifying instructional materials content corresponding to portions of the first e-textbook, the instructional materials management engine further configured for automatically generating instructional materials in accordance with an instructional materials taxonomy;~~

~~a coursework management engine communicable with the computer network and configured for communicating at least one of first e-textbook content and instructional materials corresponding thereto to at least one student study course device; and~~

~~a feedback management engine communicable with the computer network and configured for receiving feedback from at least one of an instructor study course device and at least one student study course device, wherein the feedback corresponds to at least one of (a) how instructional materials are utilized by an instructor corresponding to the instructor study course device, (b) how instructional materials or first e-textbook content are utilized by a student corresponding to a student study course device, and (c) an instructor or a student recommendation for revising first e-textbook content in a subsequent edition of the first e-textbook.~~

~~11. The system of claim 10, wherein the instructor study course device comprises one of a desktop computing device, a laptop computing device, a tablet computing device, and a mobile telephone, and wherein the student study course device comprises one of a desktop computing device, a laptop computing device, a tablet computing device, a mobile telephone, and a set top box.~~

~~12. The system of claim 10, wherein the coursework management engine is configured for communicating at least one of first e-textbook content and instructional materials corresponding~~

~~thereto in accordance with a publishing schedule that forms a portion of the instructional materials taxonomy.~~

~~13. The system of claim 10, wherein the instructor study course device includes a processing unit, a memory, and instructor-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions that reside within the memory and which are executable by the processing unit, the instructor-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions configured for monitoring or analyzing instructor use or presentation of first e-textbook content or instructional materials corresponding thereto.~~

~~14. The system of claim 13, wherein the instructor-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions are configured for tracking at least one of whether, when, and how often an instructor study course device accesses particular first e-textbook content or instructional material corresponding thereto, and how much time is spent presenting first e-textbook content or instructional material thereto.~~

~~15. The system of claim 13, wherein the instructor-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions comprise one of (a) a built-in or packaged-in portion of the instructor study course device, and (b) downloadable or retrievable software.~~

~~16. The system of claim 10, wherein the student study course device includes a processing unit, a memory, and student-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions that reside within the memory and which are executable by the processing unit, the student-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions configured for monitoring or analyzing student access to and use of first e-textbook content and instructional materials corresponding thereto.~~

~~17. The system of claim 16, wherein the student-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions are configured for tracking at least one of (a) what first e-textbook content or instructional material corresponding thereto a student accesses, highlights, or annotates, (b) an amount of time student accessed first e-textbook content or instructional material corresponding thereto is displayed, (c) whether student accessed first e-textbook content or instructional material corresponding thereto is accessed during a study group session involving information sharing between multiple student study course devices, and (d) whether first e-textbook content or instructional material corresponding thereto is accessed during a student quiz.~~

~~18. The system of claim 16, wherein the student side course monitoring / analysis program instructions comprise one of (a) a built-in or packaged-in portion of the student study course device, and (b) downloadable or retrievable software.~~

~~19. The system of claim 10, wherein the content authoring engine is configured for receiving inputs from a plurality of author interface systems to control contents of a plurality of distinct e-textbooks, and configured for generating a plurality of distinct e-textbooks in accordance with the e-textbook taxonomy, and wherein the instructional materials management is configured receiving instructor inputs from a plurality of instructor study course devices, the instructor inputs received from any given instructor study course device selectively identifying instructional materials corresponding to portions of at least one e-textbook, the instructional materials management engine further configured for automatically generating instructional materials corresponding to the at least one e-textbook in accordance with the instructional materials taxonomy.~~

~~20. An automated system for managing electronic textbook (e-textbook) content generation, distribution, and usage by way of a computer network, the system comprising:~~

~~an e-textbook management system communicable with the computer network, the e-textbook management system having a processing unit, a memory coupled to the processing unit, and a set of engines stored in the memory and executable by the processing unit, the set of engines comprising a content authoring engine communicable with the computer network and configured for receiving inputs from least one author interface system to manage contents of a first e-textbook and configured for automatically generating the first e-textbook in accordance with an e-textbook taxonomy; and~~

~~at least one of:~~

~~an instructor study course device communicable with the computer network, the instructor study course device comprising a processing unit, a memory, and instructor-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions that reside within the instructor study course device memory and which are executable by the instructor study course device processing unit, the instructor-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions configured for monitoring or analyzing instructor use or presentation of first e-textbook content or instructional materials corresponding thereto; and~~

a set of student study course devices communicable with the computer network, each student study course device comprising a processing unit, a memory, and student-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions that reside within the student study course device memory and which are executable by the student study course device processing unit, the student-side course monitoring / analysis program instructions configured for monitoring or analyzing student access to and use of first e-textbook content or instructional materials corresponding thereto;

wherein the set of engines further comprises a feedback management engine configured for communicating with at least one of the instructor study course device and the set of student study course devices to receive feedback corresponding to at least one of (a) instructor use or presentation of first e-textbook content or instructional materials corresponding thereto, and (b) student access to or use of first e-textbook content or instructional materials corresponding thereto.