tracking of parts, tracking of consumables, tracking of work-in-process, documentation of processes and part production, and all of the issues described above with respect to instrumentation are difficulties. In addition, the present application provides solutions to areas of consumer needs for organization, prioritization, and improvement in workflow in, e.g., business, office, home, travel, and leisure situations. Other examples exist and the solutions disclosed herein are not limited to the problems discussed above.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0006a] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method executed by at least one processor for navigating a path of hierarchical menu levels adapted for output to a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:

providing, by at least one processor, a first command for a first menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on a first portion of a user interface (UI) display; and

providing, by the at least one processor, a second command for a second menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on the first portion of the UI display and a third command for a third menu of one or more user-selectable items to be displayed on a second portion of the UI display, in response to a user's selection,

wherein each of the one or more user-selectable menu items from the second menu are associated with at least one of the menu items displayed in the second portion of the UI display.

[0007] In some embodiments, a method and system of interactively navigating a user through a path of menu choices on a user interface to lead the user through a computer application may be provided. Such method being performed automatically by at least one hardware processor. The method, in an embodiment, may include displaying a current menu of choices on a first portion of a user interface display.

[0008] The method may also include allowing a user to select a menu item from the current menu of choices displayed on the first portion of the user interface display and to drill down through levels of menu choices based on selecting a menu item from a prior level of menu choices. The method may further include displaying on a second portion of the user interface display, past selected and past unselected menu items of the drilled-down levels, wherein the past unselected menu items are displayed as selectable options. The method may also include allowing the user to jump to a different path of menu choices by allowing the user to select a past unselected menu item from a previously navigated menu level displayed on the second portion of the user interface

display. In an embodiment, the first portion and the second portion are viewable concurrently on the user interface display.

[0009] In another embodiment, a method of interactively navigating a user through a path of menu choices on a user interface in leading the user through a computer application may include displaying a current menu of choices on a first portion of a user interface display. The method may also include allowing a user to select a menu item from the current menu of choices displayed on the first portion of the user interface display and to drill down through levels of menu choices based on selecting a menu item from a prior level of menu choices. The method may further include displaying on a second portion of the user interface display, past selected and past unselected menu items of the drilled-down levels, wherein the past unselected menu items are displayed as selectable options. In an embodiment, the first portion and the second portion are viewable concurrently on the user interface display. In an embodiment, the graphical user interface

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method executed by at least one processor for navigating a path of hierarchical menu levels adapted for output to a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:

providing, by at least one processor, a first command for a first menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on a first portion of a user interface (UI) display; and

providing, by the at least one processor, a second command for a second menu of one or more user-selectable menu items to be displayed on the first portion of the UI display and a third command for a third menu of one or more user-selectable items to be displayed on a second portion of the UI display, in response to a user's selection,

wherein each of the one or more user-selectable menu items from the second menu are associated with at least one of the menu items displayed in the second portion of the UI display.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first menu of user-selectable menu items includes one or more of the following choices:

username;

email address;

experiment identifier; and

date of an experiment associated with the experiment identifier.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion includes two or more sub-sections of user-selectable menu items selected from among the first menu, wherein the two or more sub-sections includes a first sub-section and a second sub-section.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing, by at least one processor, a filter command in response to a selection of the one or more user-selectable menu items from the first menu, wherein the filter command is adapted to display a filter field for accepting inputs to filter menu items adapted to be displayed on the UI display.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein in response to a selection of an experiment identifier

from among the first menu of user-selectable menu items, the second portion is adapted to display one or more of the following first set of user-selectable menu items:

Start;

Collect;

Prepare; and

Confirm.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein in response to a selection of Start, the UI display is adapted to display a confirmation screen, further wherein the confirmation screen is adapted to display user-selectable menu items that includes Yes and No.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein in response to a selection of Yes, providing a command, by the at least one processor, to remove previously displayed items from the UI display, further wherein, in response to a selection of Yes, the first portion is adapted to display one or more menu items selected from among the choices of claim 102, and the second portion is adapted to display the Start choice.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein in response to a selection of an experiment identifier from among the first menu of user-selectable menu items, the second portion is adapted to display one or more of the following second set of user-selectable menu items:

-80 C;

-20 C;

4 C; and

Room Temperature.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting -80 C, -20 C, 4 C, or Room Temperature by default.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein in response to a selection of one or more of -80 C, -20 C, and 4 C, the first portion is adapted to display the name of at least one kit associated with the selected experiment identifier.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one kit and/or one or more components associated the at least one kit are adapted to be displayed in the first sub-section and one or more of an image, a description, and a barcode field are adapted to be displayed in the second sub-section.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one kit can include one or more of the following choices: V-PLEX Proinflammatory Panel (human); PQ Multiplex Test Kit; PQ Biotinylated IgG Test Kit; Direct Sandwich Immunoassay with Coating; and Immunogenicity (Q-Plate).

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting -20 C in response to a selection of one or more items associated with the -80 C choice.

14. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting 4 C in response to a selection of one or more items associated with the -20 C choice.

15. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting Room Temperature in response to a selection of one or more items associated with the 4 C choice.

16. The method of claim 8, wherein in response to a selection of one or more items associated with Room Temperature, the UI display is adapted to display a confirmation screen, further wherein the confirmation screen is adapted to display user-selectable menu items that includes Yes and No.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting Prepare in response to a selection of Yes associated with the confirmation screen.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the image includes a visual representation of a component of the kit.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the description includes a narrative for describing the component represented by the image.

20. The method of claim 11, wherein the barcode field is adapted to receive a barcode identifier input from one or more of a keyboard, a virtual keyboard, and a barcode reader.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the barcode identifier is adapted to associate a unique identifier with a component of the kit.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein in the barcode field further includes an image associated with the component of the kit.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the second sub-section is adapted to display one or more of images and/or descriptions concurrently, wherein the one or more images and/or descriptions are adapted to be displayed in one or more rows and or columns.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the description can include one or more of the following: Decal, Reagent Rack, V-PLEX; Proinflammatory Panel (mouse); Proinflammatory Panel (human); and Human IL-8DA.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein in response to a selection of Room Temperature, the first sub-section is adapted to display one or more of the following choices: Blocker Trough; Calibrator 1; Capture Antibody; Capture Antibody Blend Tube; Capture Species Diluent Trough Lid; Control 3; Deep Well Plate; Detection Species Diluent Trough; Diluent Trough; Diluent Plate Lid; Dilution Plate Lid; Maintenance Solution; Blocker A; Read Buffer T; Reagent Rack; Read Buffer Trough; Sample Carrier; Sample Incubation Plate Lid; Streptavidin Plate High Control 1; Test Plate Lid; Tips 1000 ul; Tips 350 ul; Trough Carrier; and Wash Fluid.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for selecting Collect by default in response to a selection of the experiment identifier.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein in response to a selection of Prepare, the first sub-section includes one or more instructive steps for carrying out a selected kit and the second sub-section includes one or more of an image and an instruction associated with the one or more instructive steps.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the one or more instructive steps for carrying out the kit include one or more of the following steps: Prepare Shuttle; Thaw Diluents; Label Labware; Reconstitute Calibrator; Reconstitute Controls; Spin Detection Antibodies; Load Detection Antibodies; Place Lid on Assay Plate; Place Assay Plate on Shuttle; Place Lid on Dilution Plate; Place Dilution Plate on Shuttle; Prepare Tube Carrier 1; Place Tube Carrier 1 on Shuttle; Transfer Assay Diluent To Trough; Transfer Read Buffer To Trough; Place Trough Carrier on Shuttle; Mix Calibrator; Load Calibrator; Mix Controls; Load Controls; and Place Reagent Rack on Shuttle.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the image includes a visual representation of a component of the kit that is associated with one or more of the instructive steps.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the instruction includes a narrative for describing an instructive step to perform relating to the component represented by the image.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein the first sub-section includes a Select All choice, further wherein in response to a selection of the Select All choice, providing, by the at least one processor, a command for selecting all remaining items available in the first sub-section.

32. The method of claim 5, wherein response to a selection of Confirm, the UI display is adapted to display a confirmation screen, further wherein the confirmation screen is adapted to

display a Confirm choice.

33. The method of claim 5, wherein response to selecting Confirm, the UI display is adapted to display user-selectable menu items that includes Yes and No.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein in response to a selection of Yes, providing a command, by the at least one processor, to remove previously displayed items from the UI display, further wherein, in response to a selection of Yes, the first portion is adapted to display one or more menu items selected from among the choices of claim 102, and the second portion is adapted to display the Start choice.

35. The method of claim 5, wherein the first sub-section includes a Select All choice, further wherein in response to a selection of the Select All choice, providing, by the at least one processor, a command for selecting all remaining items available in the first sub-section.

36. The method of claim 11 wherein one or more of a description, component, or kit is associated with a selection indicator for visually indicating whether a selection of the description, component, or kit has been made.

37. The method of claim 27 wherein the one or more instructive steps is associated with a selection indicator for visually indicating whether a selection of one or more of the instructive steps has been made.

38. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a command, by the at least one processor, for traversing one or more items available among the first sub-section in response to receiving a selection of one of the one or more items.

39. The method of claim 5, wherein the UI display further includes an advanced selector, wherein in response to a first selection of the advanced selector, the UI display is adapted to display an advanced context menu that includes advanced menu choices.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein advanced menu choices includes one or more advanced collect and prepare options, including one or more of Show Sample Plate Layout and Export Steps while the Collect choice is currently selected.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein in response to a selection of Show Sample Plate Layout, the UI display is adapted to display a sample plate layout.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein response to a second selection of the advanced selector, the advanced collect and prepare options include one or more of the following:

Export layout image;

Copy layout to clipboard;

Export as CSV; and

Exit sample input plate layout.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein in response to a selection of Export Steps, one or more steps associated a kit that is associated with the selected experiment identifier is adapted to be exported to a file.

44. The method of claim 39, wherein advanced menu choices includes one or more advanced collect and prepare options, including one or more of Show Sample Plate Layout, Show Reagent Rack Layout, and Export Steps while the Prepare choice is currently selected.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein in response to a selection of Show Sample Plate Layout, the UI display is adapted to display a sample plate layout.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein in response to a selection of Show Reagent Rack Layout, the UI display is adapted to display a sample reagent rack layout.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein response to a second selection of the advanced selector, the advanced collect and prepare options choices include one or more of the following:

Export layout image;

Copy layout to clipboard;

Export as CSV; and

Exit reagent rack layout.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein response to a second selection of the advanced selector, the advanced collect and prepare options includes an Exit reagent rack layout choice.

49. The method of claim 47, wherein response to a selection of the Exit sample input plate layout choice, the UI is adapted to no longer display the sample reagent rack layout.

50. The method of claim 40, wherein in response to a selection of Export Steps, one or more steps associated a kit that is associated with the selected experiment identifier is adapted to be exported to a file.